

## **A LITANY ON THE TRAGEDY OF GUN VIOLENCE**

A great rabbi once said, "Blessed are the peacemakers" and bore witness to the power of nonviolence.

**We gather as peacemakers to challenge the evil of gun violence.**

Some 30,000 people are killed by guns each year in the United States;

**And we grieve.**

Eight American children and teens aged 19 and under are killed by guns every day;

**And our hearts break.**

An American child is twelve times more likely to die by a gun than are the children who live in twenty-five other industrialized nations combined;

**And we weep.**

More U.S. citizens have died in the last 50 years by guns in our homes, streets and schools than died in all U.S. wars since 1776;

**And we mourn.**

Guns lethargize depression: Nearly two-thirds of all gun deaths in the United States are suicides;

**And sorrow sweeps over us.**

60% of American gun owners say personal safety and protection is their top reason for owning one;

**We pray for freedom from fear and from idolatry.**

Faced with gun violence,

**We grieve for those who are killed and for families whose lives are forever changed.**

We seek to comfort those who have lost loved ones.

**We pray for those who resort to violence - may they be restored by God's love.**

Faced with gun violence, may we:

**Educate; Organize; Advocate;**

And in all the ways we can,

**Work for that day when weapons of destruction are transformed into instruments of healing.**

May it be so.

**May we so do.**

**AMEN**