***Prayer for victims of violence***

Merciful God we come before you with deep sorrow that once again there have been victims of gun violence in Orlando. Our hearts are saddened and burden with the knowledge that life has been ended. We pray for the victims and their families as they mourn their loss. We pray for those who have been injured knowing their lives will never be the same.

We pray for your mercy and compassion. We live in violent and troubled times. Send your Spirit to guide us as we seek solutions to the violence that surrounds us. Help us to be a non violent people.

We pray for our legislators that they may seek the welfare of their constituents over the pressure of the gun lobby. May they have the courage to ban assault weapons.

We pray for those who seek revenge or act on hatred to inflict such horror on others, May their hearts be converted.

We pray for those law enforcement officers and medical personal dealing with those affected by such carnage.

We pray for all those who have suffered and continue to suffer violence.

Send your Spirit upon us to give us courage and to strengthen our resolve to root violence, hate, fear, and racism. Replace it with your mercy, love and courage to stand against the violence of our dray: violence in ourselves, our homes, streets and communities.

Amen