

Litany of Remembrance and Hope



September 11, 2001 – 2011

A Litany of Remembrance, Penitence and Hope

- ✠ We light a candle in remembrance for all those who suffered and died on September 11, 2001, in New York, Pennsylvania and at the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.
- ✠ We light a candle to remember those who still live and who suffer because of the events of that day.
 - L: When we remember the stockbrokers, office workers, maintenance workers, bystanders, window-washers and all the others who worked together so valiantly to help each other, we can say together,
C: We remember great courage.
 - L: When we recall the firefighters who rushed upstairs as most everyone else was racing out, we can say together,
C: We remember selfless service.
 - L: When we recall the police officers who stood to protect and defend the people and performed their duties until the towers came crashing down on top of them, we can say together,
C: We remember selfless sacrifice for the safety of others.
 - L: When we recall the thousands of workers, women and men, old and young, single and married, American-born and those born in countries around the world who did not escape the buildings, as well as all those on the four airplanes, we can say together,
C: We remember the loss of human life.
 - L: When we recall those citizens who rushed to help, and did all they could to help, we can say together,
C: We remember and give thanks for dutiful commitment to those in distress.
 - L: When we recall the people who stood in line at the nation's blood banks to make living donations from their very bodies, we can say together,
C: We give thanks for those who live on to pass on life and love.

✠ We light a candle, in penitence, recognizing that we have not done enough to address the sources of anger, hate, dehumanization, rage and indignation that lead to acts of violence.

L: In the aftermath of the events of September 11th, 2001 we have been tempted to seek only our own good, hear only our own truth, acknowledge only our own suffering.

C: We know that peace will come to us and to our children only when the concerns of justice anywhere become the subject of political and social will everywhere, and that no justice leads to no peace.

L: In striving for national security and domestic peace we run the risk of confusing might for right and participating in the very behaviors we condemn.

C: Guard and guide our country that in our search for security we may not trample the rights of the innocent nor disregard the rule of law. Let us not confuse leadership within the global community as the voice for the whole community.

✠ We light a candle to light the way to a better world for our children and our children's children, and all the children of God.

L: We recall with joy the unity we felt in the outpouring of help, kindness, thoughtful words and deeds from at home and around the world.

C: We must hold firmly to our unity, borne forward now not of tragedy but of loving kindness.

L: We place fresh confidence in international organizations and conversations that bring the diverse gifts of the world to the problems of poverty, injustice, terror and strife.

C: We long for wise policies that forego short term gain for long term stability, justice and peace.

P: Gracious and Loving God – be near us in these moments of remembrance and in honoring all the ways your Holy Spirit has worked through so many people since this tragic event. Continue to bless the leaders of nations and all who are in positions of authority that they may act in ways which bring healing and reconciliation. Increase within us the gift of faith that our lives may reflect your glory through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

*Written by Rev. Eileen W. Lindner and Rev. Marcel A. Welty of the National Council of Churches.
Closing petition written by Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson*