



For Troubling Days: A Prayer

God calls all of us to accountability for the welfare of the people around us. God does not put any limits on this responsibility. Friends and enemies are included; and he reminds us frequently that looking out for the least among us

and the most in need among us is especially important. In times like these, it is essential that we do not forget this calling and fall into the depths of self-centeredness, divisiveness, and anger that is so much a part of current attitudes.

Lord, remind us again that you are a God of love not of vengeance. Jesus proved that on the cross when he offered forgiveness not a sword. Remind us that our responsibility for others starts with prayer but does not end there. Jesus did not say, 'agree to follow me, receive salvation, then sit back and enjoy life.' He said, 'feed my sheep, care for the needy, and always love your neighbor as yourself.' He said, 'be a servant, not a master and certainly not a tyrant!'

This week, start with your prayers:

- Lord, we call on you to be with **those who are facing violence or its aftermath**. 23 people have died and 39 have been injured in mass shootings in the U.S. this past week, including a shooting at a church wedding. Pray for those who suffered an attack on their synagogue in Germany. Help us find the ways our voices and actions can help stop such incidents.
- Be with **the Kurds**. Already too use to war; they are being bombed and invaded after those they helped as friends have abandoned them. International aid organizations say the Turkish attack on the Kurds has already caused 64,000 people to flee their homes. 300,000, 450,000, or more people could be displaced if the Turkish attack continues. Help us to speak out when violence is used or encouraged in our name, especially against civilians.
- Be with those who are **suffering because of decisions we have made** that make life harder for others.
- Remind us to be thankful for the **world you created**. Remind us that it is our responsibility to care for it, not use it up or destroy it. Help us take our role in both creating and stopping climate change problems seriously.



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