

A Litany in Remembrance of September 11, 2001
(From the National Religious Campaign Against Torture)

Remembering our Grief

P: At this time of remembering 9/11/2001, let us pray. We remember the shock, horror, and fear of that day.

C: We turn to you, O God, for security and strength.

P: We remember the anxiety over the loss of our sense of safety.

C: We seek your comfort and peace, O God.

P: We grieve for the victims of all the tragedies that day: those killed, injured, and lost... We entrust them to your presence, O God, for all eternity. We remember those whose hearts are heavy still with the loss of family, loved ones, and friends.

C: We ask you to surround them, comfort them, sustain them.

P: We remember the spirit of unity in our own nation, and the outpouring of support and compassion from around the world following the 9/11 attacks.

C: We ask for your guidance in helping us to rekindle that spirit.

P: We grieve the violence that followed from the violence of September 11th, and we pray for all victims: those killed, injured, damaged, and displaced by the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan...all those who now suffer from the withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan...we mourn last week's dead service personnel and civilians and grieve for their families...we ache for those who have been denied justice.

C: To you, God of justice and peace, we turn for guidance and strength to choose the path of life that you have set before us and to follow in the ways of compassion and love.

Prayer of Repentance

P: God, over and over you call your sons and daughters, and all the nations, to acknowledge wrongs. We confess and repent of these sinful thoughts and acts:

Acts of revenge instead of reconciliation...

Denying justice to members of the human family...

Failing to see the sacred in every human being, those from every country and every religion...

Failing to seek and pursue peace...

Failing to courageously speak against the demonizing of people of other faiths...

C: Trusting in your mercy and compassion, we repent of these wrongs and pray for your forgiveness.

Vision for the Future

P: Lift up before us, O God, your vision of how we can move from bitter and vengeful memories into lives more consistent with your will.

C: Help us to seek your will.

P: Let us see every child, every person everywhere, as equally precious in your sight.

C: Help us to seek your will.

P: Let us actively engage in peacemaking.

C: Help us to seek your will.

P: Let us find ways to live together as one human family, caring for one another as you care for each of us.

C: Help us to seek your will.

P: God of compassion and hope, guide us as we seek to live in harmony and to provide a peaceful tomorrow for our children and our children's children. **Amen.**

Litany for 9/11 (from GODSPACE)

God, we remember those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001.

We know that you remember them too, and are keeping them in your care.

We acknowledge the pervasiveness of violence in our world: sometimes it explodes with intent to kill

And has its success, as on 9/11.

And sometimes it creeps in subtly: in attitudes and mindsets, in worldviews and passing words.

We find it even here in our own hearts.

Cleanse us from all unrighteousness, and restore us to justice.

We rely upon your mercy.

Grant that we may forgive all those who have committed atrocities against us

And remember them also in your merciful love.

We hear your words to us: "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you"
(Matthew 5:44).

We are baffled and astonished at this instruction.

We have no way to understand a peaceable kingdom,

Other than your example.

Console us in our grief, O Lovely One.

Speak to us in our confusion.

Be to us a lamp in darkness,

A lamp of peace drawing us lovingly in.