



## INTRODUCTION

In moments when our community experiences tragedy, we have an opportunity—and a responsibility—to respond not only with words, but with presence. We are inviting faith leaders from across this community to join in a shared practice: brief, on-site gatherings of prayer, silence, and solidarity following incidents of loss or violence.

These gatherings are not about offering explanations or solutions, but about standing together, honoring those affected, and bearing witness to the values we hold in common—life, dignity, compassion, and peace.

This will be an intentionally simple and interfaith expression, typically lasting 10–15 minutes, and shaped by inclusive language that allows each tradition to participate authentically. Leaders may offer brief readings or prayers from their own tradition, while we hold space together in silence and communal commitment.

When appropriate, we will also name our shared desire to reclaim these spaces—not allowing them to be defined by harm, but by the enduring presence of care, hope, and community.

Your presence matters. When faith leaders stand together in moments like these, it sends a powerful message: that we are united in compassion, that we care for the well-being of our neighbors, and that we are committed to the healing of our community. We hope you will join us in this shared witness and help shape a faithful, grounded response in times when it is needed most.

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

### WHY WE GATHER

We want to be clear about *why* we are gathering:

- To **lament what has happened**
- To **honor those affected**
- To **stand in solidarity as a community**
- To **refuse to let violence have the final word**
- To **reclaim the space for life, dignity, and peace**

We will avoid:

- Political messaging
- Speculation about causes
- Attempts to “explain” tragedy

This is not a press conference. It is an act of spiritual care, public compassion, and communal presence.

### WE ARE COLLABORATIVE

We seek to include a variety of faith leaders in our community:

- Christian
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Others (Buddhist, Sikh, etc.)

No one should feel like a guest; everyone should feel like a host.

Guidelines:

- We keep each voice brief and equal
- We avoid theological exclusivity
- We use shared human language (grief, hope, peace, justice, healing)

### PHYSICAL PRESENCE MATTERS

- We will stand at or near the site if appropriate and safe
- We will keep the formation simple (semi-circle, facing community)
- We will use minimal amplification if possible
- We understand our silence is as important as our speech
- We will keep this time short (10-15 minutes) for clarity, focus, and impact

The most important thing is this:

**We are not fixing anything. We are marking something.**

## A 15-MINUTE INTERFAITH LITURGY

### **GATHERING & WELCOME (1–2 MINUTES)**

We gather here today in the wake of tragedy.  
We stand in a place marked by pain, confusion, and grief.  
We come from different traditions, different backgrounds,  
different ways of naming the Holy—  
and yet we come together as one community.  
We are here to remember, to lament, to stand together,  
and to say that this place—this ground—belongs not to violence,  
but to life, to dignity, and to peace.

### **MOMENT OF SILENCE (1 MINUTE)**

I invite us now into a moment of silence—  
to honor those affected,  
to hold grief that is too deep for words,  
and to be present to one another.  
*(Full silence. Let it be real, not rushed.)*

### **READINGS FROM TRADITIONS (4–5 MINUTES TOTAL)**

“Seek peace and pursue it.” *(Psalm 34:14)*

“Whoever saves one life, it is as if they have saved all of humanity.” *(Qur’an 5:32)*

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God.” *(Matthew 5:9)*

### **SPOKEN PRAYERS (4–5 MINUTES)**

**Pastor:**

God of mercy, we bring before you the pain of this day—  
the lives shaken, the fear that lingers, the questions without answers.  
Hold this community in your compassion.  
Strengthen us to care for one another.  
And lead us in the ways of peace.

**Imam:**

O God, the Most Compassionate,  
bring comfort to those who mourn,  
healing to those who are wounded,  
and peace to every troubled heart.  
Guide us to be people who protect life and honor one another.

**Rabbi:**

Source of Life,  
in a place where harm has been done,  
help us to restore what we can—  
with acts of kindness, courage, and justice.  
Let peace take root again among us.

**ACT OF RECLAMATION (2 MINUTES)**

Today, we stand together to say:  
this place will not be defined by what has happened here.  
We reclaim this space—  
for life,  
for dignity,  
for compassion,  
and for peace.

- Place flowers
- Light a candle
- Invite people to touch the ground or extend a hand

**COMMUNAL COMMITMENT (CALL AND RESPONSE) (1 MINUTE)**

If you are willing, I invite you to respond: *We will.*

- Will we care for one another in the days ahead?  
**People:** *We will.*
- Will we stand against violence and for the dignity of every person?  
**People:** *We will.*
- Will we work for peace in our community?  
**People:** *We will.*

**CLOSING BLESSING (1 MINUTE)**

May the One who is the source of life and peace  
strengthen us in compassion,  
steady us in hope,  
and guide us in the work of healing this community.  
May we go from this place  
committed to life,  
to one another,  
and to the good of all.  
Amen.