

Pastoral Prayer for Worship 11/17

Rev. Jennifer “Jo” VonRue

Please join with me in the spirit of prayer or meditation:
Spirit of life, God of sorrow and love...

I am at a loss on this day, wondering if there are any sanctuaries left...I know in my heart that love always wins, but this week, this day, this moment I need fortification that evil and hate will not. Spirit, the struggles on our hearts are deep and vast today.

God, we pray for all of those who are powerless, who do not have a voice, or are too afraid to use their voice to get out of their situation... we lift them each up, carrying a small part of their burden with us so they do not have to shoulder it alone.

And we lift the voices of the women who have come forward to say Me Too, I lift my voice in the chorus, knowing that many of you do as well... We give blessings to these women who have come forward, who are paving the way of justice so that no longer must we live in shame and fear.

Spirit of justice we weep for the members of the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs Texas whose spiritual sanctuary was decimated by a gunman... May all of these thoughts and prayers turn into **action** in the form of our country finally taking the control back from the NRA and saying enough is **ENOUGH**.

And God of freedom, we give thanks for those who have served our country to protect the freedoms that we hold so dear. We lift these prayers and so many more that remain on our hearts into our community knowing that none of us need to carry the burden alone,

My beloveds, even when the days are dark, and love seems so dim, let us reach out let us cry and laugh together, let us hold hands and touch hearts for together WE make love stronger than hate... Spirit of life... give us the strength to carry the flame of love into the world so that WE might do the work of justice equity and compassion each and every moment of our lives.

Won't you be silent with me for 7 breaths?