

# Prayer for the March for Our Lives

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Syracuse

Saturday, March 24, 2018 11:00 a.m.

**Welcome** *The Rt. Rev. Dr. DeDe Duncan-Probe*  
*Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Central New York*

## Opening Responses

Leader: We are called from our towns and cities;  
we are called from our streets and schools;

**All: we are called from the midst of our lives.**

Leader: Many genders, many ages,

**All: many backgrounds, many faiths:**

Leader: crying out for lives destroyed by gun violence,  
lamenting for those imprisoned by fear,

**All: determined to seek transformation.**

Leader: We are called into God's love

**All: to pray for peace and work for justice.**

**Song** *Peace before us*  
*Wonder, Love & Praise (1997)#791*



1. Peace be - fore us, peace be - hind us, peace un - der our feet.  
2. Love be - fore us, love be - hind us, love un - der our feet.  
3. Light be - fore us, light be - hind us, light un - der our feet.



Peace with-in us, peace o-ver us, let all a - round us be peace.  
Love with-in us, love o-ver us, let all a - round us be love.  
Light with-in us, light o-ver us, let all a - round us be light.

Words: David Haas (b. 1957), based on a Navaho prayer. Music: David Haas.

Repeat verse 1 to end song.

## Prayer

Eternal God, you love all whom you have made:  
Strengthen us as we gather in prayer today to end gun violence. We ask your guidance for all community leaders and elected officials. We offer our gratitude for the young leaders of the March for Our Lives movement. As we dedicate ourselves to transformation in our time, give us insight, wisdom and courage to address the epidemic of gun violence. Pour forth your Spirit on all our neighborhoods and break the chain of violence that binds your people. All this we ask for the sake of your love.

**Amen.**

## Reading

*Isaiah 41:10, 54:17*

God says, "Do not be afraid, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed, and you shall refute every tongue that rises against you in judgment.

## Remarks

*March for Our Lives Organizers*

## Reflection

*Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe*

## Prayer

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace.

**Amen.**

## Concluding Blessing

*Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe*

## Marching Forth

*We are marching in the light of God  
Wonder, Love & Praise (1997)#787*

*Sung once, then repeated as we begin walking together to the  
Everson Museum, 401 Harrison Street.*

We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of God  
We are marching in the light of God,  
We are marching in the light of, the light of God.  
We are marching, marching, we are marching, marching,  
We are marching in the light of, the light of God.  
We are marching, marching we are marching, marching,  
We are marching in the light of God.

*Words & music: South African folk song.*



## Sources:

*Iona Abbey Worship Book (2001)*

*Episcopal Book of Common Prayer (1979)*

*Liturgical resources from Bishops United Against Gun Violence*

*Thank you for your presence and prayers today.*