

# We Are the World

There comes a time when we heed a certain call  
When the world must come together as one  
There are people dying  
and it's time to lend a hand to life  
The greatest gift of all

We can't go on pretending day by day  
That someone, somewhere will soon make a change  
We are all a part of God's great big family  
And the truth, you know,  
Love is all we need

We are the world, we are the children  
We are the ones who make a brighter day  
So let's start loving  
There's a choice we're making  
We're saving our own lives  
It's true we'll make a better day  
Just you and me

Well, send them your heart  
so they know that someone cares  
And their lives will be stronger and free  
As God has shown us by turning stones to bread  
So we all must lend a helping hand

We are the world, we are the children  
We are the ones who make a brighter day  
So let's start loving  
There's a choice we're making  
We're saving our own lives  
It's true we'll make a better day  
Just you and me

When you're down and out,  
there seems no hope at all  
But if you just believe  
there's no way we can fall  
Well, well, well, let's realize  
that a change can only come  
When we stand together as one

We are the world, we are the children  
We are the ones who make a brighter day  
So let's start loving  
There's a choice we're making  
We're saving our own lives  
It's true we'll make a better day  
Just you and me



peace  
love



Saturday | May 6, 2023

# Welcome

Isaiah 2:2-5 | Sister Janis, Parish Administrator, St. Stephen Catholic Church

***A Litany on the Tragedy of Gun Violence Written for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day 2010  
by Rev. W. Mark Koenig of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program,  
Pastor Howard Fleming, First United Methodist Church***

43,675 people that we know of died from gun violence in 2022.

**And we grieve.**

An average of eighty people are killed by guns every day, including eight children.

**And our hearts break.**

79% of all homicides in the United States involve guns.

**And we mourn.**

An American child is twelve times more likely to die by a gun than the children who live in all other twenty-five industrialized nations combined. Last year alone, 6,032 children age 17 and younger were hurt or killed by a gun.

**And we weep.**

The annual economic cost of gun violence in America is estimated to at least \$100 billion. Medical costs, decimated families, the court system, our jails and prisons, and security measures in airports, schools, and public buildings all contribute to this sum.

**And sorrow sweeps over us.**

Since John F. Kennedy was assassinated in 1963, more Americans have died by gun fire within our own country than American servicemen and women who were killed in all our wars of the 20th century.

**And we pray.**

Suicides accounted for more than half of U.S. gun deaths

**And we lament.**

There are 393 million guns in the U.S. that is 120 guns for every 100 Americans

**We grieve for those are killed and those whose lives are forever changed;**

**We seek to comfort for those who have lost loved ones;**

**We pray for a change of heart for those who resort to violence.**

**Faced with gun violence, may we educate; Organize; Advocate;**

**And in all the ways we can, work for that day when Guns and weapons of destruction**

**Are transformed into instruments of healing.**

**Amen**

**Facts About Violence in America and Responsive Music | Pastor Arlo, Elkin Presbyterian Church & Guest Praise Band**

**“Sam’s Story” | Pastor Alvin Hayes, St. Home Missionary Baptist Church**

**Spoken Word | Rev. Wallace, Purpose of Love Ministry**

**Denver Nonprofit Turns Guns into Garden Tools**

[Video Clip]

**A Reading from A Child Laughs | Pastor Lance, First Baptist Church**

God of holy wholeness,  
I long for your healing.  
For myself, my family,  
My community and nation.  
My people and so many others,  
This world of brokenness and pain.  
I see so much violence and suffering  
As unhealed wounds fester into hostility,  
Anger clung to for vindication  
Snarls and hardens into bitterness,  
Fear and pride and greed and envy  
Compete for first place  
Among the idols of our hearts,  
Warning us of scarcity,  
Triggering survival instincts,  
Drawing lines and boundaries  
That must not be crossed or else.  
I see this sickness no less in myself in my enemies.  
Retribution, arrogance, cynicism, prejudice,  
Shame, victimhood, apathy, despair...  
The world has battered and beaten me,  
Taken those I treasured, taught me to hate,  
Taught me to become hard and small and self-contained.  
Yet when I turn to you,  
You do not shout or compete with these voices.  
You do not throw your force around  
To overwhelm the unconvinced.  
You make the sun to shine and the rain to fall  
On the just and unjust alike.  
And I do not understand.  
This is not the justice I long for.  
But the longer I look to you,  
Listen for you, sit with you,  
The more I hear your still small voice  
Whisper  
*Peace.*  
*Take Heart.*

*In this world you will know suffering.*

*But have courage.*

*I have overcome the world.*

*You are my own beloved child*

*Precious in my sight.*

***Healing, Whole and Holy God,***

***You offer healing that we don't always understand,***

***To reach the deep and broken places***

***In ourselves and in the world.***

***You call us to find wholeness***

***Not only for ourselves but for all of creation***

***In the practice of compassion,***

***justice, peace and reconciliation.***

***In Jesus Christ you have shown us what it means***

***To embrace a holiness that is inclusive, not exclusive:***

***To break down dividing walls***

***And replace them with bridges of understanding.***

***May we see our lives and our world***

***as whole, and holy,***

***Interdependent and mutually connected.***

***May we become channels of your healing peace***

***Through which you proclaim of your love***

***And your desire for fullness of life***

***that we have known in Jesus Christ.***

***We pray in his name, our Prince of Peace,***

***Redeemer, Reconciler, and One who binds us into the***

***family of God. Amen.***