

## **A Short Service after a Tragedy**

### **Psalm 13**

How long, O Lord? Will you forget me for ever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

How long must I bear pain in my soul,  
and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

**How long, O Lord, How long?**

Consider and answer me, O Lord my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,  
and my enemy will say, 'I have prevailed';

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

**How long, O Lord, How long?**

But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

I will sing to the Lord,

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

**How long, O Lord, How long?**

### **A Reading from Romans 12:14-21**

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them.

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.

Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty,  
but associate with the lowly;

do not claim to be wiser than you are.

Do not repay anyone evil for evil,

but take thought for what is noble in the sight of all.

If it is possible, so far as it depends on you,

live peaceably with all.

Beloved, never avenge yourselves,

but leave room for the wrath of God;

for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'

No, 'if your enemies are hungry, feed them;

if they are thirsty, give them something to drink;

for by doing this you will heap burning coals on their heads.'

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

## **A Prayer for Healing**

God of endless love and unchanging truth,

Our hearts despair at the extent of human wickedness,  
And break for those who have been so tragically and unjustly hurt and killed  
by .....

Yet we give you thanks that even in the midst of the horror,  
Of people killed whilst .....  
there have been so many glimpses of hope,  
in the human kindness and generosity that has prevailed,  
amongst a shocked and grieving people.

Today and in the days that follow,  
We pray for every life that has been lost  
or changed by injury,  
or loss of friends and loved ones  
or fear for the future;

For those whose in mourning and despair;  
For those who have selflessly responded to the needs of others,  
And will continue to provide care, support and healing.

We pray for all political and community leaders  
And those who face the difficult task of protecting their communities,  
And nurturing those values on which their well-being depends.

Help us all to build a better world;  
A world where difference is seen as an opportunity to broaden our understanding;  
Disagreement as the chance to learn and grow,  
Where faith is reclaimed to bring out the best of human flourishing,  
And turn hearts to all that is good and true,  
That your Kingdom may come on earth as it is in Heaven.

**Our Father ...**

**AMEN**

## **The Grace**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all, now and forever. **AMEN**