

Prayer Suggestions for Times of Tragedy and in Natural Disasters

- Before you begin:
- Know WHO you are preparing the prayer for, and focus only on WHY you are gathering.
 - Extend gracious hospitality to all who come together to pray.
 - Enable full, conscious and active participation: prepare a worship aid or use an available resource for simple prayer and response.
 - Liturgy should include music: think of well-known songs, especially those that have an ecumenical “flavor,” i.e. Amazing Grace, Here I Am, Lord, On Eagle’s Wings, Be Not Afraid, Prayer of St. Francis... sing of hope, sing of lament, use psalmody in call/response (a refrain), or add an instrument (guitar, cello, piano, organ) to enhance the prayer experience.
 - Balance the past with the future, using scripture; remind each other of God’s presence in history as well as God’s presence today:
 - Psalm 88: Save me, O Lord my God.
 - Lament with the Book of Job (selected passages)
 - Revelation 7:9-17
 - John 11:17-28
 - Romans 8:31b-39
 - Psalm 80: 1-7, 14-19

Structure of An Evening Prayer (basic format for planning)

- Light Service
- Candle lighting
- Hymn or Song of Lament, Sorrow, or Thanksgiving

- Psalm 141 (recited or sung)
- (Reading of the Word of God—for an extended service)
- Prayer to the Blessed Mother (Canticle of Mary, Litany of Intercession)
- Intercessions We ask God for what we need: extended Prayer of the Faithful
- Lord’s Prayer
- (Collect or Closing Prayer)
- Blessing
- Sign of Peace
- (Closing Hymn or Song)

Structure of Prayer Service for Comfort in Time of Disaster

- (Hymn or Song of Gathering)

- Opening Prayer

- Reading of the Word of God

Intercessions (Response: Grant us hope, and grant eternal life to those who have died.)

Lord's Prayer

Closing Prayer

Sign of Peace

(Closing Song)

(Ritual of lighting candles while leaving or giving of a prayer card to continue the Lament)

