

SERVICE AFTER A VIOLENT EVENT

Killing of Renee Good & Alex Pretti,
Violence in Minnesota Perpetrated by Federal Agents

January 26, 2026—5:00 PM

Cook County Ecumenical Ministerium

PRELUDE

KARINA ROTH

HYMN

Carry This All

(Repeat 5 times)



WELCOME

We gather for our vigil to lift our prayers of lament and for all killed, harmed or grieved following violence and another killing by federal agents in our State of Minnesota.

PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious God, the news of these days has ripped our hearts and torn our souls. We are walking through the valley of the shadow of death. In the depths of pain and anger, we gather before you, O God, our rock and our refuge. You are our only comfort. You are our only hope. Merciful God, you know the depth of our suffering. We have only begun to mourn those who have died:

Uphold all those who love them, we pray. Be with the family and friends of Renee Good. Be with the family and friends of Alex Pretti. Be at work in our world and bring Your peace.

Faithful God, surround us with your everlasting arms. Hear our cries of despair, heed our calls for justice, and do not let us lose hope, in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior, we pray. **Amen.**

HYMN Sometimes Our Only Song is Weeping ACS 1050

SCRIPTURE FROM PSALM 94

How long, O Lord, how long shall the wicked triumph?

They bluster in their insolence; all evildoers are full of boasting.

They crush your people, O Lord, and afflict your very own.

They kill the widow and the stranger and put the orphans to death.

Yet you will not abandon your people, nor will you forsake your very own.

If the Lord had not been my help, I should soon have dwelt in the land of silence.

As often as I said, "My foot has slipped," your steadfast love, O LORD, upheld me.

The LORD has become my stronghold, my God is my rock of refuge.

SCRIPTURE FROM REVELATION 21

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals.

God will dwell with them, and they will be God's people.

God will be with them and will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away."

And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Holy God, you watch over our going out and our coming in, and your Spirit upholds us in every circumstance. Your Son, Jesus Christ, is our Alpha and our Omega, and our hope and trust are in Jesus. In our despair we turn to you. **We wait for you, Lord, and in your word we hope.** *(A time of silence)*

God of resurrection, we remember before you Renee Good and Alex Pretti. We commend them to your eternal love. Grant healing and wholeness to the survivors who are wounded or traumatized and restore all whose spirits are maimed by such violence. We pray now for the people and situations that we name aloud, or in the silence of our hearts. . . . That we may serve as your arms of care to those in distress, we pray: **make us instruments of your peace.** *(A time of silence)*

God of righteousness, you have laid on our elected leaders the responsibility to protect our land and work for the common good. Strengthen their devotion to our common life, give them courage to do what is right, and give them love for their neighbors – especially those who are different from them. That our government may support our search for domestic harmony, we pray: **make us instruments of your peace.** *(A time of silence)*

God of compassion, we give you thanks for first responders, for law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMTs, medical professionals, and all who offer compassionate aid in situations of tragedy. Keep them safe from harm, and protect them. Give them courage and sound judgment as they act. That we may join in support of those who risk their lives for others, we pray: **make us instruments of your peace.** *(A time of silence)*

God of forgiveness, we ask your mercy on the ones who fired the weapons. With your grace, transform those who from malice or ill-judgement inflict violence on others. Console their families. Believing in your power to make all things new, we pray: **make us instruments of your peace.** *(A time of silence)*

God of the promise in word and sacrament, we pray for the church. Give us a voice, your voice, to plead for a society marked by justice and sustained by cooperation among diverse peoples. Train us to resist the lure of brute force. That by your Spirit we may become words and signs of your peace and mercy, we pray: **make us instruments of your peace.** *(A time of silence)*

Our help comes from you, O Lord, you who made heaven and earth. In the midst of grief, you are our comfort. In the face of uncertainty, you are our rock. In the wake of tragedy, you are our hope. So even as we weep, we praise you, and place our trust in you. We pray in the name of the one who suffered and died and was raised for us, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

LIGHTING OF CANDLES

May the Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
(A minute of silence)

HYMN

Let There Be Peace On Earth

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| 1. Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.
Let there be peace on earth,
The peace that was meant to be.
With God as our Father
Brothers all are we.
Let me walk with my brother
In perfect harmony. | 2. Let peace begin with me,
Let this be the moment now.
With every step I take,
Let this be my solemn vow:
To take each moment and
Live each moment
In peace eternally. |
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Let there be peace on earth
And let it begin with me.

CHARGE AND BLESSING

Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. **Thanks be to God.**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. In the name of the Almighty our Creator, ✠ the Redeemer our Hope, and the Spirit our Peace. **Amen.**

Cook County Ecumenical Ministerium at Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Karina Roth, Musical Director

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