

Domestic Violence Awareness Month  
**Candlelight Compline & Vigil**

*VMS*            Our help is in the Name of the Lord;  
*People*        **The maker of heaven and earth.**

*VMS:* Dear God, our Creator, we gather today because we care about those affected by domestic violence: women, children, and men.

*PB:* We remember those who have lost their lives to this malfunction of our society. We pray that their souls are now at rest. We remember children living in homes of domestic violence. Deliver and protect them from further harm.

*VMS:* We pray for their perpetrators, that they may seek help. Help them to relinquish their need to exert power and control.

*PB:* We remember current victims whose lives are filled with fear and uncertainty. Those who are trapped in the psychological cycle of violence and abuse, hope and false love. We ask that you give them a new vision. Guide them with your wisdom to make sound choices that will lead to new life.

*VMS:* We pray that religious leaders will end Scripture abuse so that they may no longer contribute to the oppression of women. We give thanks to those who dedicate their lives to providing education, shelter, and support. Finally, O gracious God, be present with us, restore peace and hope that we may persevere with your Holy Spirit. In faith we pray. **People: Amen.**

~The Rev. Angela F. Shepherd

*PB:* Let us confess our sins to God.

*Officiant and People:* **Holy God, we come to you to claim our relationship with you. We pray for the commitment to grow together, sharing the gifts you have given us with others, here and in the world. Forgive us for the hurt we have inflicted, and help us forgive those who have hurt us. Give us strength and discipline to nurture our relationship with you; to care for every part of your creation; to foster justice and be in solidarity with those in need; to work to end all war, all violence, and all discord; and to respond faithfully when you call, freely giving ourselves as you have shown the way. We open our hearts to you now, O God, in the name of Jesus, who is the Christ. Amen.**

*VMS:* God love you and have mercy upon you; through the cross of Christ, pardon you and set you free. God forgives you – forgive others – and forgive yourself. In the name of God, the Source, the Word, and the Spirit. **People: Amen**

*PB:* O God, make speed to save us.

*People:* O Lord, make haste to help us.

*Officiant and People:* **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

*All read the Psalm together:*

**Psalm 91 *Qui habitat***

- 1 **The one who dwells in the shelter of the Most High \*  
abides under the shadow of the Almighty.**
- 2 **Shall say to the LORD,  
"You are my refuge and my stronghold, \*  
my God in whom I put my trust."**
- 3 **God will deliver you from the snare of the hunter \*  
and from the deadly pestilence.**
- 4 **God will cover you with his pinions, and you shall find refuge  
under her wings; \*  
God's faithfulness shall be a shield and buckler.**
- 5 **You shall not be afraid of any terror by night, \*  
nor of the arrow that flies by day;**
- 6 **Of the plague that stalks in the darkness, \*  
nor of the sickness that lays waste at mid-day.**
- 7 **A thousand shall fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand, \*  
but it shall not come near you.**
- 8 **Your eyes only have to behold \*  
to see the reward of the wicked.**
- 9 **Because you have made the LORD your refuge, \*  
and the Most High your habitation,**
- 10 **There shall no evil happen to you, \*  
neither shall any plague come near your dwelling.**
- 11 **For God will give the angels charge over you, \*  
to keep you in all your ways.**
- 12 **They shall bear you in their hands, \*  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.**
- 13 **You shall tread upon the lion and the adder; \*  
you shall trample the young lion and the serpent  
under your feet.**

**Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.**

VMS: Come to me, all who labor and are heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

*Matthew 11:28-30*

**People Thanks be to God.**

PB: Let us now pause to remember and honor those who have lost their lives to domestic violence this year:

*The Deacon reads the names of the victims people come up to light a candle in their honor.*

*The Cantor sings: **Arise, shine, for your light has come and the glory of the Lord has dawned upon you.***

VMS: Into your hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit;

**People: For you have redeemed me, O Lord, O God of truth.**

PB: Keep us, O Lord, as the apple of your eye;

**People: Hide us under the shadow of your wings.**

VMS: Lord, have mercy.

**People: Christ, have mercy.**

VMS: Lord, have mercy.

*Officiant and People*

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses  
as we forgive those who trespass against us.  
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

PB Lord, hear our prayer;

**People And let our cry come to you.**

PB Let us pray.

PB: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. **People: Amen.**

VMS: O God, our Comforter in hard times, often have we called to you in pain and you have answered our pleas. We pray to you this night for the guardians of a shelter where women lie sleeping, briefly safe from the battering and bitterness of a world that does not protect them. They

look to the shelter staff to knit together their shattered hopes, dreams, and lives. But you, O God, are the tailor, the binder of wounds, and the great healer. Help the shelter staff to be conduits for your love, to reveal You to those they serve, that they may all know you more deeply. In the name of the One who fully opened himself to all in need, Jesus Christ, your Son. **People: Amen.**

*Adapted. ~Ms. Jayne Oasin*

***All say together: Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace. Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised. For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen. Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.***

*PB* Let us bless the Lord. Alleluia! Alleluia!

***People*** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

*VMS:* Live without fear: your Creator has made you holy, has always protected you, and loves you as a mother. Go in peace to follow the good road and may God's blessing be with you always.

***People: Amen.***

*(Prayer of St. Clare)*

*Where you can get help...*

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### **Abuse Prevention Council**

- 24-Hour Crisis Line: 704.481.0043
- Court Advocate: 704.481.0180
- Business: 704.487.9325

Address: P.O. Box 2589 Shelby, NC 28151  
<http://apcouncil.wordpress.com>