

DVAM Liturgy 2018

Today, we recognize that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This is a difficult topic. As we do the important work of naming and opposing violence, please make your own well-being your priority. If you need to tune out or step out, please do. Domestic violence is a pattern of violent and coercive behavior exercised by one adult over another in an intimate relationship. This behavior can be verbal, emotional, physical, and/or sexual. Surveys indicate that 1 in 4 women and 1 in 9 men will experience domestic violence. As a church, we stand firm in saying that God hates abuse, and we will be a safe space for survivors of domestic violence. We also recognize that through the #MeToo movement and the latest confirmation hearing of a Supreme Court justice, many have also been grappling with the reality of sexual violence in our culture, whether perpetrated by an intimate partner, a family member, an acquaintance, or a stranger. So today, we pray with both survivors of domestic violence and sexual assault. We know God stands with the oppressed and weeps with us at the sight of violence and abuse. Let us pray together for survivors of violence and abuse.

Child Sexual Abuse

Every 98 seconds, an American is sexually assaulted and every 8 minutes, that victim is a child.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One Candle Is Extinguished

Teen Dating Violence

1 in 3 adolescents in the U.S. is a victim of physical, sexual, emotional or verbal abuse from a dating partner. Only 33% of teenage dating abuse victims ever told anyone about it.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One Candle Is Extinguished

Domestic Violence

In the United States, an average of 20 people experience intimate partner physical violence every minute. Only 34% of people who are injured by intimate partners receive medical care for their injuries.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One Candle Is Extinguished

Sexual Assault

1 in 3 women and 1 in 7 men become victims of some kind of sexual violence in their lifetime. 1 in 5 women and 1 in 71 men become victims of rape.

O God, hear our prayers for those who suffer.

One Candle Is Extinguished

Hear us now, O God, as we name the ways we will work to change our culture of violence.

We will be a safe and sacred space for survivors of abuse and assault.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is re-lit.

We will learn all that we can about preventing and responding to domestic and sexual violence.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is re-lit.

We will speak out on domestic violence and sexual assault and will fight for legislation that protects survivors and holds perpetrators accountable.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is re-lit.

We will be a resource to survivors. We will respond with love and care, working with survivors toward safety before seeking accountability and healing.

May we work to make it so.

A candle is re-lit.

The Domestic Violence Hotline is 1-800-799-SAFE or thehotline.org.

The Sexual Assault Hotline is 1-800-656-4673.

Teen Dating Violence text LOVEIS TO 22522

The Child Abuse Hotline is 1-800-25-ABUSE.

We pray all of this in the name of Jesus who loved, trusted, and believed those who had been beaten, belittled, and dismissed. We seek to live like him, and to pray like him, saying...

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.