

## A litany of lament and hope for Rachel's Day

### Reader:

A reading from the Gospel of Matthew, the second chapter.

An angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt . . . for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." When Herod saw that he had been tricked . . . he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem. . . . Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

**A voice:** I weep for our children who are no more.

**All: We refuse to be consoled.**

**A voice:** I weep for our boys who are no more.

**All: We refuse to be consoled.**

**A voice:** I weep for our girls who are no more.

**All: We refuse to be consoled.**

**A voice:** I weep for our parents who grieve.

**All: We refuse to be consoled.**

**A voice:** I weep for our families forced to grieve.

**All: We refuse to be consoled.**

**A voice:** I weep for our cities and towns torn by gun violence and terror.

**All: We refuse to be consoled.**

**A voice:** I weep.

**All: We refuse to be consoled.**

(Voices may name children recently lost to gun violence, neighborhoods affected by gun violence, streets where gun violence is visible, each time saying "I weep for . . ." with the response, "We refuse to be consoled.")

**A voice:** I cry out for justice for our children.

**All: We refuse to be defeated.**

**A voice:** I cry out for hope for our boys.

**All: We refuse to be defeated.**

**A voice:** I cry out for serenity for our girls.

**All: We refuse to be defeated.**

**A voice:** I cry out for tranquility for our parents.

**All: We refuse to be defeated.**

**A voice:** I cry out for peace in our cities and towns.

**All: We refuse to be defeated.**

**A voice:** I pray for hope!

**All: We pray for hope!**

**A voice:** I act for peace!

**All: We act for peace!**

**A voice:** I work for justice!

**All: We work for justice!**

**Leader:** Let us pray.

God of peace, God of justice, you weep with us for our children, our brothers and sisters, our parents, our families, our cities and towns torn apart by gun violence. Give us courage, give us determination, give us strength, that we may work untiringly for the hope and peace and justice you desire for all the world. This we ask through your Son, the Prince of Peace, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.