

## 9-11 Resources for Worship

The Event: The **September 11 attacks** (also referred to as **9/11**) were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda on the United States on the morning of September 11, 2001. The attacks killed 2,996 people and injured over 6,000 others and caused at least \$10 billion in property and infrastructure damage<sup>1</sup> and \$3 trillion in total costs.

These immediate deaths included 265 on the four planes, 2,606 in the World Trade Center and in the surrounding area, and 125 at the Pentagon. The attacks of September 11, 2001, were the deadliest terrorist act in world history and the most devastating foreign attack on American soil since the sneak attack by the Japanese on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941.

All of those perished were civilians except for 71 law enforcement officers and 343 firefighters who died in the World Trade Center and on the ground in New York City, one law enforcement officer who died when United Airlines Flight 93 crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania, 55 military personnel who died at the Pentagon in Arlington County, Virginia, and the 19 terrorists who died on board the four aircraft. Overall, 2,605 U.S. citizens, including 2,135 civilians, died in the attacks but an additional 372 non-U.S. citizens (excluding the 19 perpetrators) also perished. More than 90 countries lost citizens in the attacks.

-From Wikipedia

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**Note to worship planners:** In the resources listed below, many of the hymns are taken from Lift Up Your Hearts (LUYH) or Psalms for All Seasons. You can also find these hymns in other hymnals.

Also, all of these prayers or readings may be altered or adapted to fit your needs.

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Psalm 27

Read Psalm 27 - either responsively, read all together, have 2 readers read, or 1 reader.

### **A Prayer of Confession and Acclamation**

Light of the world, shine in our darkness.

Savior of the world, come into our hearts.

There is much we should fear if we faced this day alone.

But you, O Lord, are with us; thanks be to God! **Amen.**

(prayer from *Psalms for All Seasons*, pg. 163)

Song: The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation (LUYH 431, 774, or 885)

### **A Prayer for Trying Times**

God who delivers, God who protects, God who sustains, God who heals: we claim your promises. We remember the events of September 11, 2001, with heavy hearts. In these trying times we live in, we rehearse again your goodness and ask that your Holy Spirit will work among all the peoples of this world to bring about healing and hope.

**We come in prayer, both as sinners and those sinned against. As your children, we long for your deliverance, your protection, your sustenance, and your healing. As we respond to these trying times, we come to you alone, the only source of true peace.**

By the power of your Holy Spirit, may all we do be marked by grace and truth, mercy and justice, righteousness and love. And may we dwell in your presence forever, as your adopted children who have arrived at home.

**Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, from everlasting to everlasting.**

**Amen and amen.**

(adapt. From *Psalms for All Seasons*, 41A).

Song: O God Our Help In Ages Past (LUYH #405)

Optional contemporary song choices: Cornerstone (by Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan); Mighty to Save (by Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan); Whom Shall I Fear, God of Angel Armies (by Chris Tomlin)

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### **Prayer of lament:**

Why, Lord, must evil seem to get its way?  
We confess that our sin is deeply shameful;  
but the wicked are openly scornful—  
they mock your name and laugh at our dismay.  
We know your providential love holds true:  
nothing can curse us endlessly with sorrow.  
Transform, dear Lord, this damage into good;  
show us your glory, hidden by this evil.

(from The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, pg. 113, #6)

Song: Deliver Me From Evil (Psalm 140) LUYH #656

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*The prayer below may be adapted as needed.*

We pray to you, O Lord, our God and Father,  
because we are encouraged by Jesus Christ,  
your Son and our brother, to do so.  
You have said through the mouth of the prophet:  
“Seek the good of the city and pray for it to the Lord”;  
we therefore pray to you today  
for our cities and villages and for the whole land,  
for justice and righteousness, for peace and good order everywhere.  
**Have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

We pray for those who govern.  
Teach them that you are the ruler of all  
and that they are only your instruments  
Grant them wisdom for their difficult decisions,  
a sharp eye for what is essential,  
and courage to obey your commandment.  
**Have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

We pray for all who, by your ordaining,  
are responsible for justice and peace.  
We pray for all who continue to seek salvation in violence.  
Show terrorists that no blessing rests in violence.  
Take the young among them especially into your care  
and bring order into their confused thoughts.  
Bring murder and kidnapping to an end.  
**Have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

We pray for all who are no longer able to sleep in peace  
because they fear for their own life  
and for the lives of those near and dear to them;  
we pray for all who no longer have hope in your kingdom  
and for all who are tormented by anxiety or despair.  
Grant that they may be blessed

with faithful friends and counselors alongside them  
to comfort them with your strengthening gospel and sacrament.

**Have mercy, Lord, we pray.**

Lord, you have the whole wide world in your hands.  
You are able to turn human hearts as seems best to you;  
grant your grace therefore to the bonds of peace and love,  
and in all lands join together whatever has been torn asunder. **Amen.**  
(From The Worship Sourcebook - pg. 222, #7)

Song: Pelas Dores Deste Mundo/For the Troubles - LUYH # 663

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### **Prayer for Hope and Peace**

God, you are our world's every hope. You are tender enough to weep with those who weep and yet strong enough to lend comfort and not be consumed with the sorrows that overwhelm us. You are discerning enough to see where our lives run off the rails and yet gracious enough to forgive our foolishness and open again the better path that leads into your kingdom. You are the bright center to all of life, O God! Your lordship helps us glimpse our future with you in your kingdom, even as it points the way home.

For today, as always, this world needs your shalom-filled presence. Bring peace to war-torn places and help people everywhere to see in one another your image. May those who delight in the paths of suicide and destruction be turned instead to delight in life and in mutual flourishing. End the terror in which so many live, and thwart the dreams of those who plot still more terror on the unsuspecting. Where there is hunger, bring bread; where there is drought and thirst, send refreshing rains; where there is hatred, bring your peace; where there is greed, bring your own fullness and so turn appetites run amok away from short-term pleasures toward things that last and that foster richness and plenty for all.

**We are the people of your ascension and reign.**

**Whatever we do, help us never to forget who we are, whose we are,  
and where true joy may be found.**

**In the power and blessing of your name we pray. Amen.**

(adapt. From The Worship Sourcebook, Second Edition, pg 674)

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Our songs and prayers include honesty before God in which we express the pain we experience over our own sins and failures, the difficulties in both our lives and others' lives, and our laments at the suffering and brokenness that marks our world and our lives. We have assurance, says Belgic Confession, Article 26, that Christ, our intercessor, will hear us, "since he suffered, being tempted, he is also able to help those who are tempted."

Sing: Salaam/Peace - LUYH #298 - Note that the word "Salaam is an Arabic greeting meaning peace."

#### Prayer for Peace

Note: This next prayer found on LUYH #73 can be used with spoken refrain: "Dona nobis pacem. (grant us your peace); or a sung refrain using the first 8 measures of Dona nobis pacem #73.

Prince of Peace, as we wait for your coming, we pray fervently: Refrain

For all who live with violence and war [specify], we pray: Refrain

For all who live with worry and fear [specify], we pray: Refrain

For all who live in loneliness and despair [specify], we pray: Refrain

For all of us, your children, who long for peace, we pray: Refrain

**Maranatha: Come, Lord Jesus, we pray. Amen.**

(Traditional)

Sing: Dona Nobis Pacem - LUYH #73

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#### Psalm 11

In the LORD I take refuge;

how can you say to me, "Flee like a bird to the mountains;

for look, the wicked bend the bow, they have fitted their arrow to the string,  
to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.

If the foundations are destroyed,  
what can the righteous do?"

**The LORD is in his holy temple; the LORD's throne is in heaven.**

**His eyes behold, his gaze examines humankind.**

**The LORD tests the righteous and the wicked,  
and his soul hates the lover of violence.**

On the wicked he will rain coals of fire and sulfur;

a scorching wind shall be the portion of their cup.  
**For the LORD is righteous; he loves righteous deeds;  
the upright shall behold his face.**

Loving God,  
you are our shelter even when your whole creation is shaken and wickedness prevails.  
No one—helpless, orphaned, or oppressed—is beyond your reach and care.  
You have given us victory over sin and death in the rising of your Son.  
Let the surpassing joy of his resurrection conquer our present fear.  
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Sing: O Lord, Be Our Refuge**

1 O Lord, be our refuge, when evils assail;  
your justice is sure, and your strength will prevail.  
Yet wicked ones rise and the good are laid low.  
Your mercy reveal and your righteousness show.

2 O God, send your fire, come to judge humankind,  
our evil consume and our virtue refine.  
Then crowns of oppression will fall to the dust,  
and saints will delight in the reign of the just.

3 How firm a foundation we find in God's Word!  
We fashion our lives in the way of the Lord.  
When all else gives way, God's salvation remains;  
and even in death, God's great glory sustains.

Tune: FOUNDATION (How Firm A Foundation)

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**A Prayer Litany for 9/11 based on Psalm 13**

**All: How long, O Lord? Will you forget us forever?**

Leader: Lord, today we remember a day when everything changed. We remember a beautiful  
autumn day forever marred by smoke, chaos, death, and confusion.

**All: How long will you hide your face from us?**

Leader: We wondered where you were. We wondered how this could happen. So many innocent people gone. So many more left quaking with fear.

**All: How long must we wrestle with our thoughts and every day have sorrow in our hearts?**

Leader: We think of the children – now in their teens – who only know their dad through pictures and the memories of others. We think of the husbands, wives, mothers, father, sons, daughters, grandparents, siblings, and friends who miss that familiar face, whose gatherings are no longer complete.

**All: Look on us and answer, O Lord, our God. Give light to our eyes.**

Leader: We acknowledge that we don't understand, but we trust in you, Lord. We trust that you continue to work all things according to your purpose and that your Word and your plan will prevail. We know that "though the wrong seems oft so strong, you are the Ruler yet!"

**All: Our enemies will say, "I have overcome them" and our foes will rejoice when we fall.**

Leader: May we not give in to our fear. May we pray for our enemies and those who would harm us. May hearts of stone be turned to hearts of love.

**All: But we trust in your unfailing love; our hearts rejoice in your salvation.**

Leader: May we shower our community with love in your name. May we actively live the hope we profess.

**All: We will sing to the Lord, for he has been good to us. Amen.**

Sing: This is My Father's World (LUYH 21)

-Written by Mary B. Stegink, Ridgewood CRC, Ridgewood, NJ