

LIGHTING CANDLES AMIDST GUN VIOLENCE

Let us light a candle for those who have lost their lives due to gun violence
the teachers, the caregivers, and especially the children

Let us light a candle for all who have been physically or mentally wounded due to gun violence
may they find care that helps them in the struggle to heal

Let us light a candle for all of the families and friends of those killed or injured
that they may find comfort in their grief and support for the road ahead

Let us light a candle for those who committed the violence
that they may receive a fair trial and a just sentence

Let us light a candle for all of the first responders, caregivers, and good Samaritans
may they know the gratitude of all those affected

But most let us light a candle for the lawmakers and all those in power
that they may hear the cries of everyone affected and realize now is the time to act
to move towards meaningful action, towards practical legislative solutions

(by Elizabeth R. Goeke, 2018; adapted by Chaplain Donnel)