



# COVID-19 Remembrance Vigil

An Interfaith Gathering to remember  
our beloved family and friends lost to the  
COVID-19 pandemic and the faithful servants  
who cared for us during this time.

**May 25, 2022 @ 7 p.m.**

**Church of the Cross, PCUSA**

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Hoffman Estate, IL. 60169

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[www.churchofthecross.online](http://www.churchofthecross.online)

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All Sing<sup>1</sup>

*“Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying”*

*(Sing 2x)*

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing, \_\_\_\_\_

Lord, send your Spir-it in this place; \_\_\_\_\_

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray - ing, \_\_\_\_\_ send us

love, send us power, send us grace. \_\_\_\_\_

**Proclamation ~ Hoffman Estates Mayor William McLeod**

**presented by Alderman Michael Gaeta**

**Greetings from Hoffman Estates Police Department ~ Chief Kasia Cawley**

**Prayer Litany of Gratitude for Those who Serve**

**Rev. Freddie Rogers, Jr.**

Holy One, you are the One who reminds, *“Do not fear, for I am with you; I am your God.”* (Isa 41:10) This evening we pray to you with thanksgiving for all who have served us during this pandemic. Strengthen, help, and uphold them in their daily work.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

We pray this day for our police and fire departments and all first responders.

**Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Holy God who calls all humanity to serve, you called police officers and firefighters, dispatchers and paramedics and other first responders to their professions to protect and to save. You gifted them so they might bring their best training and experience to bear. Receive the anxiety they feel as they sense and respond to the heightened anxiety in our communities.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

Holy God of comfort, God of all mercy, you promised to be near to the brokenhearted, and to save the crushed in spirit. Be with your people in their distress and protect those who respond to their calls for help. Guide, uphold, and assist police officers and first responders as they strive to keep citizens safe and healthy. Gift them with the wisdom of your insight and clarity.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

Encourage the families of our police officers and firefighters, dispatchers and paramedics and other first responders as they support them in their call, knowing that through their loved ones, lives are protected, justice is sought, and helping hands extend compassion to those who face tragedy and fearsome situations.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

We pray this day for our health care professionals.

**Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Holy One, you have cared for the well-being of your people since the beginning of time. Your healing teaches us your compassion for our frailty. Thus, we pray this day for the faithful health care servants who willingly jeopardize their own, and their families' health and safety to confront sickness and disease.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

Holy One, abide in and with all engaged in the healing sciences and arts. Bless them as they labor for you in stressful, anxious, and sometimes threatening settings. Keep them close in your loving embrace and provide your health care servants rest during wearisome hours of constant demand.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

Encourage the families of health care workers as they support them in their call, knowing that through their loved ones, lives are saved, and your tenderness is known.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

We pray this day for all front-line workers.

**Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Holy One, we ask you to bless all front-line workers who dedicated themselves to stocking shelves and selecting our purchases and delivered them to our homes. Bless those who kept our world moving by providing transportation to and from our work or doctor visits or other essential activities, whether on busses or trains or taxis or ride share drivers and so many others. They, too, risked their health in their service to us, as they ensured we were able to get where we needed to go.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

Holy One, bless those behind-the-scenes people, who are too many to mention, for they ensured our communities were able to function—truck drivers, mechanics, public department personnel, public workers, schoolteachers. There are so many who transitioned to online technology to continue their work, their teaching, their service in so many ways.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

Encourage the families of all these front-line workers for without them, life would have changed even more radically than it did.

**Holy One, bless their dedication to serve.**

Holy One, bless those you have called to be your hands and feet in the professions of protection and healing and serving the world. We are grateful for their gifts, their service, and their sacrifice. In gratitude, as a community, we now turn to these faithful servants gathered here, along those who could not be here tonight, to say...

**Thank you for your sacrifices.**

**Thank you for the countless hours you've spent serving others.**

**Thank you for being flexible.**

**Thank you for your understanding.**

**Thank you for your strength.**

**Thank you for your courage.**

**Thank you for your selflessness.**

**From the bottom of our hearts to everyone in these professions who have contributed to caring for our community – THANK YOU.**

**Amen.**

All Sing<sup>2</sup>

*"Peace Like a River"*

1. I've got peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a  
2. I've got love like an o - cean, I've got love like an

riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul; I've got  
o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean in my soul; I've got

peace like a riv - er, I've got peace like a riv - er,  
love like an o - cean, I've got love like an o - cean,

I've got peace like a riv - er in my soul. (my soul.)  
I've got love like an o - cean in my soul. (my soul.)

Greetings from the Presbytery of Chicago

Rev. Kenneth Hockenberry, Stated Clerk

Psalm 23

Cantorial Leader Ilana Axel and Terrie O'Day  
Beth Tikvah Congregation

Remembering Meditation

Rev. Julie Peterson

Choral Anthem<sup>4</sup>

*"Shalom"* by Dan Forrest

Director~Marie Rutter  
Pianist~Dr. Robert Kania  
Violinist~Mai El Moughayar

Prayer for the Grieving

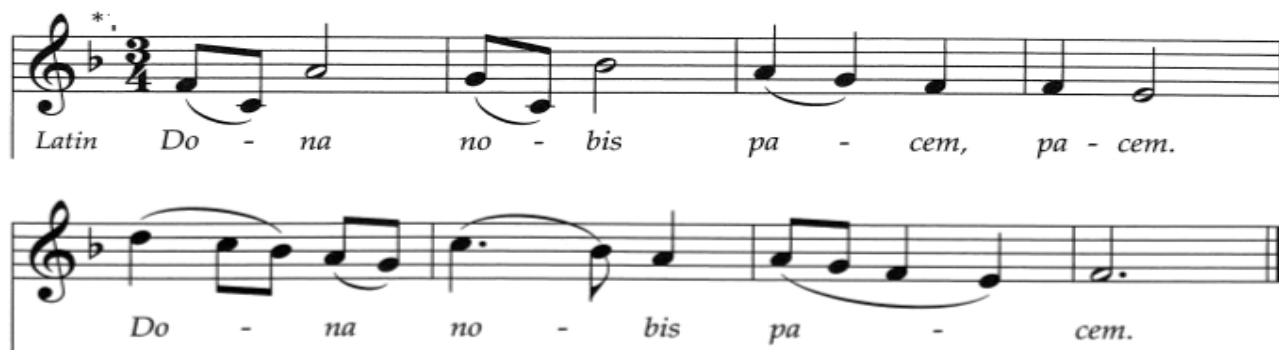
Rev. Julie Peterson

**We Remember Them**<sup>3</sup> by Sylvan Kamens & Rabbi Jack Riemer Stewart Truelsen

At the rising sun and at its going down; **We remember them**  
At the blowing of the wind and in the chill of winter; **We remember them**  
At the opening of the buds and in the rebirth of spring; **We remember them.**  
At the blueness of the skies and in the warmth of summer; **We remember them.**  
At the rustling of the leaves and in the beauty of the autumn; **We remember them.**  
At the beginning of the year and when it ends; **We remember them.**  
As long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as;  
**We remember them.**  
When we are weary and in need of strength; **We remember them.**  
When we are lost and sick at heart; **We remember them.**  
When we have decisions that are difficult to make; **We remember them.**  
When we have joy we crave to share; **We remember them.**  
When we have achievements that are based on theirs; **We remember them.**  
For as long as we live, they too will live, for they are now a part of us as,  
**We remember them.**

**Let No Soul Be Forgotten: Vigil Prayer**<sup>6</sup> by Rabbi Annie Lewis (adapted)  
Rabbi Steven Peskind, Chaplain

**All Sing**<sup>5</sup> “*Dona Nobis Pacem*” (Grant us peace)



Latin Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem.  
Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

HEBREW  
שִׁים שְׁלוֹם עֲלֵינוּ

ARABIC  
رَبِّ هَبْنَا سَلَامًا تَامًا.  
رَبِّ هَبْنَا السَّلَامَ.

Please continuing singing *Dona Nobis Pacem*, as we gather outside around the tree,  
**or** if the weather is bad, as we prepare to light candles inside for our loved ones.

As the name of each beloved one lost to COVID is lifted up, let us all say...

**Let no soul be forgotten.**

### Peace Mural:

Leslie Michaels, Muralist, Art Teacher, Chicago Metro Area

### Participant Leaders:

Cantorial Leader Ilana Axel, Beth Tikvah Congregation, Hoffman Estates

Chief Kasia Cawley, Village of Hoffman Estates Police Department

Michael Gaeta, Alderman, Village of Hoffman Estates

Rev. Kenneth Hockenberry, Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Chicago

Terrie O'Day, Member, Beth Tikvah Congregation, Hoffman Estates

Rabbi Steven Peskind, Chaplain, St Alexius Medical Center, Hoffman Estates

Rev. Julie Peterson, Pastor, Church of the Cross

Rev. Freddie Rogers, Jr, Pastor, Destiny Church, Hoffman Estates

Stewart Truelsen, Elder, Church of the Cross, Hoffman Estates

### Musicians:

Community Choir members from: Beth Tikvah Congregation, Church of the Cross and family members, Festival Chorus of Harper College

Dr. Robert Kania, Pianist/Organist, Church of the Cross and Music Chair at Judson University, Elgin,

Mai El Moughayar, Violinist, Friend of Church of the Cross, Hoffman Estates

Music Director Marie Rutter, Church of the Cross, Hoffman Estates

### Flowers:

Fabbrini's Flowers, 18 Golf Center, Hoffman Estates

### References:

<sup>1</sup>Glory to God, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville KY, pg 469

<sup>2</sup>The Celebration Hymnal: Song and Hymns for Worship, © 1997 Word Music/Integrity Music, pg750

<sup>3</sup><https://www.shiva.com/learning-center/resources/poems-of-comfort/>

<sup>4</sup>Shalom by Dan Forrest, Beckenhorst Press, Inc, Columbus, OH

<sup>5</sup>Glory to God, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville KY, pg 752

<sup>6</sup><https://www.ritualwell.org/ritual/let-no-soul-be-forgotten-vigil-prayer-marking-two-years-covid>. (*adapted to use updated numbers for our location*)

# I Am There

*by Rev. James Dillet Freeman*

Do you need Me?

I am there.

You cannot see Me, yet I am the light you see by.

You cannot hear Me, yet I speak through your voice.

You cannot feel Me, yet I am the power at work in your hands.

I am at work, though you do not understand My ways.

I am at work, though you do not recognize My works.

I am not strange visions. I am not mysteries.

Only in absolute stillness, beyond self, can you know Me as I am, and then but as a feeling and a faith.

Yet I am there. Yet I hear. Yet I answer.

When you need Me, I am there.

Even if you deny Me, I am there.

Even when you feel most alone, I am there.

Even in your fears, I am there.

Even in your pain, I am there.

I am there when you pray and when you do not pray.

I am in you, and you are in Me.

Only in your mind can you feel separate from Me, for only in your mind are the mists of "yours" and "mine."

Yet only with your mind can you know Me and experience Me.

Empty your heart of empty fears.

When you get yourself out of the way, I am there.

You can of yourself do nothing, but I can do all.

And I am in all.

Though you may not see the good, good is there, for I am there.

I am there because I have to be, because I am.

Only in Me does the world have meaning; only out of Me does the world take form; only because of Me does the world go forward.

I am the law on which the movement of the stars and the growth of living cells are founded.

I am the love that is the law's fulfilling.

I am assurance. I am peace. I am oneness. I am the law that you can live by. I am the love that you can cling to. I am your assurance. I am your peace. I am one with you. I am.

Though you fail to find Me, I do not fail you.

Though your faith in Me is unsure, My faith in you never wavers, because I know you, because I love you.

Beloved, I am there.