Prayers for Peace, Hope and Justice

Enough is Enough

Today the focus of the Peace Justice and Hope prayer will start with a moment of silence or what should actually be an eternity of silence, for all the women who cannot be at church today, who cannot go for a run today, who cannot go shopping today or see or feel the sun on their skin, as they have been killed.

This morning my prayer must be partial and incomplete and a refusal, for we are not supposed to know how to navigate, deal with or comprehend the relentless mass murder of women in South Africa. How are we supposed to hold the pain of feeling the incomprehensible numbers of women killed in South Africa daily and we are told this is 15 women every single day. In the past two weeks we have been confronted with the reality that nine women's lifeless bodies have been found in one area of Johannesburg. Gender based violence which is violence against women by men is five times higher in South Africa than the global average.

Let us pray:
Dear God let us pray for the women who have been identified by name in Johannesburg, so we can move away from thinking of any woman as a number for one has always been too many. We pray for the other women to be identified soon, so their families can be supported through these times of unimaginable grief. May every march, every protest every candle being lit, every social media post and every prayer lift us out of the terror and despair we are being faced with daily and move us to action. God, I pray for every woman who is terrified and fears for her life doing the ordinary things that we should always be able to do, like leave our homes and return alive and then remain alive in our homes.

Dear God we need all men to actively participate in making it possible for women, all women simply to live. Men need to stop killing women. This is our prayer today God, that we shift men's attitudes, the patriarchal structures, the violent ideologies and misrepresentation of the vital role women play in our world; but we need the women to be, and we need them to stay alive. I end with the words from the Methodist Church of Southern Africa's letter that was sent out this week: When our sisters and we can include mothers, grandmothers, daughters, aunts, nieces and granddaughters are not safe, the church cannot be silent. Enough is enough. Prayer must lead to action.

Please join me in the prayer for Africa and the world.

God Bless Africa and all the world
Guard our Children
Guide our Leaders
and Give us Peace.