

Prayers for Peace, Hope and Justice

Today we reflect on a week of mixed emotions, pain **and** celebration.

The discovery of more bodies of murdered women. The scourge of femicide continues. We are angry too at the high rate of all murders in south Africa.

On average 58-60 of us die every single day. Every single day. That is more than us sitting in these pews today.

And the violence, terror and loss of life is distributed so differently in our communities.

According to an article by Luke Daniel, more than 600 people were killed on the Cape flats in the last three months alone, and this during the deployment of the South African army in the area.

The causes are multifactorial, and not simple, we know.

Yet violence hatred, criminality and femicide continue, in spite of our protests, our marches, our policing, our army, our justice system, and even our religious communities are all found wanting.

It is not yet noon. I wonder who's relative, friend, workmate, will be lost today. Times 60!

But there were celebrations this week. For Heritage Day communities celebrated their cultural identities, cuisine, traditional dress and stories of "who we are." But truth be told, our different heritage elements and journeys have also contributed to our current South African landscape.

Let us pray:

Lord, we continue to weep especially for your daughters murdered in our land. We seek your face lord for the violence and deaths. We give thanks to the SAPS officers and members of the justice system who do their best under difficult circumstances, and we give thanks for successful prosecutions.

Lord, we reflect on our varied heritage journeys in all their complexities.

As we reflect on our multiculturalism as South Africans, help us O God to learn to share and care better, to address the influences of the past and move deliberately to use our heritage identities to address the beautiful diversity in our land and the extraordinary opportunities in developing our intercultural future.

And may we deliberately celebrate the sanctity of life in the beauty of your creation, our Universal heritage.

Lord, forgive us, we trust in your presence and our hope is in you God.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We share together the Prayer for Africa and all the world:

God bless Africa, and all the world

Guard our children

Guide our leaders

And give us peace.

Amen.