

Prayer After Charlottesville

Oh God, with anguish
 We pray that we may find ways
 To move forward towards the light.
 Not back into the the shadows
 Of hatred, violence,
 And the silence that protects it.

We pray for the wisdom
 To know how to move ahead.
 We recognize that evil
 Can overtake a nation,
 As history reveals;
 We recognize too that
 Reconciliation is possible,
 That peace can flourish
 Where once hate and violence reigned.

We pray that all citizens of good will
 Speak out again and again
 So the sound of Your justice
 Drowns out the cries of hatred,
 The deafening silence that protects it.

May we as a nation form a circle,
 Inclusive, with no top or bottom,
 Where we can welcome everyone
 With outstretched hands.

May our circle grow ever larger,
 More hands open, holding another's palm,
 Realizing we are holding on to the hope
 Pope Francis calls us to
 If we can see we are all connected. Amen.

—Jane Deren, Ph.D.



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