



TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

An evening of candle-lighting, listening and remembering.



**ST PETER'S
HOUSE**

CURIOSITY | ENCOUNTER | GIFT

Part One: Act of Remembrance

Leader: Source of love and life, we gather this evening in sorrow but also in hope. We gather to remember those who have been taken by the devastation of violence used against them, and to claim the opportunity to build lives of wholeness in their honour and hope in our future.

Many: **We remember those whose names we may know, and those whose names we do not know but who were part of our community. We remember the partners, friends, allies and families who have been steadfast in their love; and the people who have devoted their life's work to the prevention of violence.**

Leader: Source of all that is good, who stands alongside us in solidarity as we remember tonight — we remember those who fear the repercussions of authenticity. Those whose lives feel darkened by hopelessness, and who live with the dread of violence.

Many: **We remember those who have overcome fear, indifference or burnout to embrace a life of caring compassion. We hold in our minds the brilliant ideas, science and insights that have led to new, life-giving procedures; and those**

in leadership who have acted to provide health care for those who have transitioned.

Leader: Source of pure and righteous anger, that burns white-hot at injustice and suffering caused to those who simply yearn to live freely as themselves — into your love we trust the hundreds of people who have been murdered for the sake of hate, and we remember alongside them the thousands more who felt forced to take their own lives.

May we have the courage, tenacity, and will to continue to make a difference in a world even when violence is aimed towards our community.

Many: **May we challenge and stand strong against the forces that allow the needless harm and violence to continue - prejudice, unjust laws, repression, stigma and fear.**

Leader: We share dreams of a world where all are cared for, dreams of wholeness — of life lived in all its fullness.

Many: **We remember those from our community who have been crushed by violence — they will not be forgotten, and we will not be silenced.**

Candle Lighting



- Person 1:** As violence starts with hate, so darkness is overcome by light. And so tonight I light this little candle — knowing that its flame burns brightly as a symbol of the inextinguishable light of life and love.
- Person 2:** As darkness brings hopelessness and despair, so light casts out fear and shadows. And so tonight I light this little candle — a prayer perhaps, or maybe a symbol of hope and defiance. A light that shines for hope. A light that the darkness will not overcome.
- Person 3:** As light is made from the full spectrum of colours coming together, so I light this little candle knowing that we all — trans-gender, gender-fluid, non-binary and cis-gendered, and any other gendered identity — are one tonight. And as this little light blazes out, I remember that Divine Source of love that is reflected in all people and all creation.

[Candle Lighting]

Person 3: Across faiths and traditions, silence is held to honour and remember those who have died. Some people use silence to offer prayers, some meditate, some simply hold the stillness.

We will now share a few moments of silence to remember those lives lost to transphobic violence and hate. Music will mark the end of this time.

[2 minutes Silence]

Leader: The Blessing

As the fever of day calms towards twilight
May all that is strained in us come to ease.

We pray for all who suffered violence
today,
May an unexpected serenity surprise them.

For those who risk their lives each day for
peace,
May their hearts glimpse providence at the
heart of history.

That those who make riches from violence
and war
Might hear in their dreams the cries of the
lost.

That we might see through our fear of each
other
A new vision to heal our fatal attraction to
aggression.

That those who enjoy the privilege of peace
Might not forget their tormented brothers
and sisters.

That the wolf might lie down with the lamb,
That our swords be beaten into
ploughshares

And no hurt or harm be done
Anywhere along the holy mountain.

John O'Donoghue. *For Peace*.