

PRAYER: RESTORATIVE JUSTICE MONTH

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace

God of love, we gather with heavy, hopeful hearts. We ask you to lighten the hearts of those who mourn at the untimely loss of someone they love. Nothing can ever fill the hole in the hearts of those who have suffered such a loss. Help them to walk with the pain along the path that leads to healing and peace.

Where there is injury, let me sow pardon

God of compassion, help us to reach out to those who are most in need of a gentle touch today. We recognize that you have created us as one family, walking together through life. Help us to be there for each other especially when one of our family members is in pain and sorrowing.

Where there is doubt, let me sow faith

God of justice, give us legislators who have the courage to enact laws that truly restore our communities, heal our divisions, stop neighborhood violence, and result in communities where all people are respected and no one has to live in fear.

Where there is despair, let me sow hope

God of courage and strength, help us to stand up for the rights of those in need of a stronger voice on their behalf. Help us to work together to ensure that the rights of victims become the law of our state and our country. Help us to ensure that all the benefits of the victims' restitution fund be used for the reasons they have been collected. Let us be hope for each other by walking together toward the common goals we share.

Where there is sadness, let me sow joy

God of gentleness and consolation, we are all members of your family but we have been the cause of harm and sadness to each other. Do not let the sadness overcome us. Let us find a joy in being and working together to make your world the place you created it to be.

Where there is darkness, let me sow light

God of light and life, help us to dedicate ourselves to ensuring that no one else loses a loved one to violence. Let us become people of life, not death, people of light, not darkness, people of restoration, not revenge, one family united to insure that there are no more victims,

Let those candles of hope burn in the hearts of each one of us. And, together as one family, we can dispel the darkness that surrounds us.