Remembering September 11

Sunday, September 11, 2011 is the Tenth Anniversary of terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center Towers, the Pentagon and the fourth jet flight that ended tragically in rural Pennsylvania. Nearly 3,000 victims and 19 hijackers died in those attacks. Churches across America will be remembering that tragic day within the context of Sunday morning worship. As you plan Christian witness that holds dear the Prince of Peace (through Education, Liturgy and Prayer, Interfaith Relations, etc.) we direct your attention to the excellent resources provided by the G.A. Mission Council. Go to: http://gamc.pcusa.org/ministries/september11/

- provided by Presbytery’s Peacemaking Team

Prayer for International Crisis
Eternal God, our only hope, our help in times of trouble: show nations ways to work out differences. Do not let threats multiply or power be used without compassion. May your will overrule human willfulness, so that people may agree and settle claims peacefully. Hold back those who are impulsive, lest desire for vengeance overwhelm our common welfare. Bring peace to earth, through Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace and Savior of us all. Amen.

Prayer when there is Tragedy
God of compassion: you watch the ways of humanity, and weave out of terrible happenings wonders of goodness and grace. Surround those who have been shaken by tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in faith. Though they are lost in grief, may they find you and be comforted; through Jesus Christ, who was dead, but lives, and rules this world with you. Amen.

Prayer in Times of Violence and Fear
Almighty, all-merciful God, through Christ Jesus you have taught us to love one another, to love our neighbors as ourselves, and even to love our enemies. In times of peace and fear, let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts, so that we may not be overcome with evil but overcome evil with good. Help us to see each person in light of the love and grace you have shown us in Christ. Put away the nightmares of terror and awaken us to the dawning of your new creation. Establish among us a future where peace reigns, justice is done with mercy, and all are reconciled. We ask these things in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

These prayers, scriptures and hymns are samples of Worship Resources that are available from the General Assembly Mission Council website listed above. Please feel free to adapt and use these and other appropriate resources in planning your times of congregational worship, study and pastoral care.

Scripture Readings for 9/11

Isaiah 11:1-6
“The wolf shall live with the lamb…”
Isaiah 25:6-10
“the Lord God will wipe away tears…”
Isaiah 32:15-20
“justice will dwell in the wilderness…”
Psalm 72
“In his day may righteousness flourish"
Ephesians 4:25-5:2
“Put away from you all bitterness…”
Colossians 3:12-17
“clothe yourselves with compassion…”
Matthew 5:3-12
“Blessed are the peacemakers…”
John 14:25-31
“Peace I leave with you, my peace…”

Selected Hymns for 9/11

#80 Lonesome Valley
“Jesus walked this lonesome valley”
#291 O God of Earth and Altar
“From all that terror teaches…”
#530 O Lord of Life
“All souls You call…”
#452 O Day of God, Draw Nigh
“Come with your timeless judgment…”
#526 For All the Saints
“From earth’s wide bounds…”
#450 O Day of Peace
“Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb”
#408 Where Cross the Crowded
“Till all the world shall leam thy love…”
#394 There is a Balm in Gilead
“Sometimes I feel discouraged…”
#171 The King of Love
“In death’s dark vale I fear no ill…”
#210 Our God, Our Help
“Our shelter from the stormy blast…”

Ps. 46:1-2
God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear.