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Domestic Violence
Readings

Reading 1

Adapted from the prayer of Francis of Assisi, Italy 13th Century
The Prayer of St. Francis

Liturgist: Lord, make us instruments of your peace;

People: Where there is hatred, let us sow love;

Liturgist: Where there is injury, pardon;

People: Where there is doubt, faith;

Liturgist: Where there is despair, hope;

People: Where there is darkness, light;

Liturgist: And where there is sadness, joy.

People: Lord, forgive us when we fall short and grant that we may seek to:

Liturgist: comfort hurting sisters and brothers rather than to be comforted.

People: To understand, rather than to be understood.

Liturgist: To love, rather than to be loved.

All: Amen

Reading 2

Adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4 NIV.

Liturgist: Love is patient, love is kind.

People: Lord, help us to be patient and kind with one another in our lives and in our homes.

Liturgist: Love does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

People: Lord, forgive us when we are boastful, proud or envious.

Liturgist: Love is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

People: Help us be God-seeking instead of self-seeking; calm our anger. Thank you for forgiving the wrong we do toward You and against each other.

Liturgist: Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

People: Lord, we solemnly reject the evil of domestic violence. We rejoice that in your truth we are set free.

Liturgist: Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

People: In you Lord, we have hope. Through you, we will persevere.

Liturgy

Liturgist: For too long the church has turned a blind eye, and a deaf ear, to victims of domestic violence. Forgive us for our shortcomings Lord, as we seek to do better.

People: Lord, hear our plea.

Liturgist: Give us courage to believe victims and resources so that we may minister to them.

People: Lord, hear our plea.

Liturgist: Help us bring healing and hope to victims and to the children of victims.

People: Lord, hear our plea.

Liturgist: Help us never fail to hold abusers accountable. Let us not rush to quickly forget even as we move to forgive.

People: Lord, hear our plea.

Liturgist: Guide us in our struggles to understand, to console and to heal.

People: Lord, hear our plea.

Liturgist: Let us never fail to reach out to those who are spiritually broken, just as you reached out to us in our brokenness. In doing so, may we help restore all who are affected by domestic violence to a right relationship with you.

People: Lord, hear our plea.