

Praying for the Chatham Community

As we grieve the loss of life, the injuries, and the trauma from an accident in Chatham, we turn to God together in prayer.

Here are some simple ways to pray:

- **Lament.**

The Bible teaches us that expressing honest grief to God is a form of prayer. You can use your own words or draw from Psalms like 10, 13, 42, or 86.

*"Morning, noon, and night
I cry out in my distress,
and the Lord hears my voice."*

Psalms 55:17

- **Pray for Those Affected.**

Every person is seen and deeply loved by God. Pray for individuals by name, if you know them. Lift up those who were present at the accident, the injured, the traumatized, the victims' families, the school community, first responders, medical staff, and others impacted. Ask God to surround them with comfort, support, and care.

- **Pray for Those Providing Help and Care.**

Thank God for the people who show up to care and bring healing. Pray for people by name who are on the front lines. Pray for groups of people who offer significant and practical care for those injured, hurting, and grieving. Ask God to sustain them in their work.

- **Pray for Healing—and for a Heart to Join God's Work.**

God is not only present in our suffering; He is also at work within it. Pray with an open heart, asking God to show you how you might participate in bringing healing, hope, and restoration.

"Engage our imaginations and move our hearts to compassion, O Lord, that we would interact with these casualties, not as news stories or statistics, but as our own sisters and brothers, flesh and blood, divine image-bearers, irreplaceable individuals whose losses will leave gaping holes in homes, friendships, workplaces, churches, schools, organizations, and neighborhoods.

Be present to those now wounded.

Even in the shadow of such tragedy, let us not lose hope. Give us eyes to see the rapid movements of mercy rushing to fill these newly wounded spaces. Let us see in this the echoes of your own mercy and compassion—a foretaste of your kingdom coming to earth. And move our own hearts also, equipping us to intercede, to act, and to respond however we are able.

"Move, O Holy Spirit, in the midst and in the aftermath of this tragedy, in the wake of our wounding, in the shock and the sorrow."

From "A Liturgy for Grieving a National Tragedy" – *Every Moment Holy*, Volume 2