

**Prayer service on behalf of the Students and Faculty at Virginia Tech
D'Esta Love**

Gracious God, We seek your comfort and your peace as we enter into this time of prayer on behalf of those who died this day and those who have been wounded on the campus of Virginia Tech. Surround all those who have been shaken by this tragedy with a sense of your present love, and hold them in your loving and comforting arms. For those who are wounded we ask for your healing touch. For those who are lost in grief, draw near to them and give them comfort. As the shades of evening fall upon their campus, grant them your peace as they seek rest from a long day of unimaginable terror and grief.

Console our hearts, O God. Will we ever find rest on the earth? How many of our children must die, O God, at the hands of those who are troubled and who rage against innocent and unknown victims. And they are unknown to us O God, but you know their names and you know where they fell. We do not know their names, O God, but we know who they are—students like ours—rising for a day of classes, shot down in their dormitory on a campus like ours—we know who they are--preparing for the end of a semester filled and with hope for what the morrow brings. Deliver us O God from the forces of evil that rob us of our children, that rob us of our hopes and our dreams.

How long must we hear the news, see the images, feel the horror? We long to see your face—to stand in your presence to see the end of tribulation upon the earth--when death will be no more and all tears will be wiped from our eyes.

We cry come Lord Jesus and it is in his name that we pray, AMEN.

Pray with me as our Lord taught us:
Our father who art in heaven, hallowed by thy name
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever Amen.

O God our Lord, we give into your hands our groanings too deep for words, our troubled and jumbled thoughts, our wounded hearts knowing that you hear our silent cries, that your Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf and that you have the power to bless and to heal. Grant us rest and peace and give us protection as the world turns into darkness and returns again to light. Dismiss us now with your mercy as we commit ourselves to all for whom we have prayed this night. May their night of darkness come to an end soon.

Amen