

Take Back the Night—A Service in Memory of Female Victims of Violence
Stauffer Chapel
March 29, 2006
8:00 pm

Prayer by D’Esta Love, University Chapel

Mighty God of heaven, we praise and bless your name above every name that is given among human kind. We are here tonight be your name—without hesitation, critique or fear of reproach to embrace our broken and wounded bodies and spirits. We also lift up to you women here tonight and women all over the world who are victims of abuse, violence, and war.

Help us, O Lord, to have regard for all who suffer and bear shame. Help us to have regard for our sisters—who are not here. Women who are languishing on the fringes and borders of life who have not had the freedom nor the encouragement to embrace or even acknowledge their personhood—women who are often considered least. We do not even know their names—but you, O Lord, know our sheep by name. You hear their cries, you know their suffering, nothing is hidden from you. Help us Lord to regard their plight—to see them so that they are no longer invisible in the world.

Tonight as representatives of all women who are wounded we seek healing and peace. We desire your healing touch. Draw near to us. Whisper peace and love and joy to our hearts. Cradle us in your arms and let us weep out our blinding tears. And teach us—your daughters—to see, to hear, to be your instruments for healing and justice. Give us courage. Help us to honor all those tonight who stand against violence and help us take our stand among them. We pray tonight in the name of Jesus by whose wounds we are healed. Amen