

All Saints-by-the-Sea Episcopal Church
Santa Barbara, CA
May 25, 2014

As we begin our worship this morning, in the wake of Friday evening's horrific violence in Isla Vista, let us pause for a moment of silence as we pray for the victims of this senseless tragedy.

A period of silence is kept

God of life and love, God of hope and new tomorrows, God of compassion and comfort, God of healing and strength, God of the cross, and God of the empty tomb; we come before you today with hearts that are saddened, weighed down by the grief that has been wrought, once again, by the evil and violence that so threatens our world.

Forgiving and healing God, we pray that your compassionate and healing Spirit will embrace all of the hearts that have been wounded and broken by acts of violence and hate, remembering today especially the victims, as well as the families, loved ones and friends, of those who died and were injured in the shootings in Isla Vista.

Loving God, Jesus welcomed and gathered all people into his arms, and blessed them in the name of peace and love. Be with the victims of this tragedy and those who mourn alongside them. As all things are possible with you, redeem this horror with the immensity of your love. Be with us as we struggle with the mysteries of life and death; in our pain, bring your comfort; and in our sorrow, bring your hope and your promise of new life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.