

*“To you from whom we draw strength and faith,*

*We thank you for the extraordinary blessing of communion with one another.*

*See us as we come together at a time of great stress for the community that surrounds us.*

*We struggle through each day -- fighting for the values that make us more whole and more free.*

*Even at a time where our sanctuaries of a free society seem to be under siege,*

*We pray for the memory of our brave and courageous children, who were lost to violence. May the families they leave behind be lifted by grace.*

*Let their loved ones be comforted and let our community be healed.*

*We ask that you stir our spirits and hearts to constantly be reminded how you have called for all of the people in this room,*

*To use our time, our treasure and our talent.*

*To be advocates in a society that chooses the sword of speech and argument to resolve our differences, instead of weapons of Violent Destruction.*

*Let us **live** in Peace,  
In this, our solemn vocation...*

*And, in fulfillment of your will,  
Let us **live**.*

*AMEN.*