

A Prayer on Saturday night, Oct. 20, 2018

O God, you call us to worship, and as I prepare for worship tomorrow, my heart is broken and my spirit is distressed.

With the people of Amritsar, India, I weep over the tragic loss of life in the train station. That joyful celebration and eye-filling wonder of fireworks could turn to such tragedy is beyond comprehension. We are moved to tears. We are angered that such a thing could happen. Lord, have mercy. Have mercy on those who mourn, confront those whose mistakes made this tragedy possible. Let righteous flow down, O Lord.

With the world we have watched and listened to the unwinding of the events leading to and following the killing of Jamal Khashoggi. We confess the words of the politicians and debates about a proper response have overtaken our empathy for Hatice Cengiz, Jamal's fiancée. We are moved to tears. We are angered that such a thing could happen. Lord, have mercy. Have mercy on those who grieve, confront those responsible with their actions. Let righteous flow down, O Lord.

As Honduran refugees have sought entry into Mexico on their way to the US, we have watched in wonder and in dread, with breaking hearts and deep anxiety. We are angered that the drug gangs and others treat human beings with such violence and intimidation that flight into the unknown of America is a better option than staying at home. We weep with mothers who have left children. We are in awe of the resilience of those in the caravan. We are angered by the lack of hospitality offered, and pray that we would show gracious hospitality if we were invited to do so. Lord, have mercy. Have mercy on those who flee, confront those responsible for causing this flight with their actions. Move the hearts of those who have the opportunity to show hospitality to do exactly that. Let righteous flow down, O Lord.

God of grace, each of these situations reminds us of the power individuals have in and over the lives of other people. Teach us to exercise thoughtful and caring responsibility in use our power in and over the lives of other people, so our decisions and actions might promote human flourishing and bring glory to Your holy name. Teach us to be our sister's and brother's keepers.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Peter Bush