



Born to Die, Born to Rise

A Time of Remembrance & Resurrection

20th Anniversary of September 11, 2001

8:46a.m. - Flight 11 crashes into the North Tower of the World Trade Center

Psalm 34

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.
O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.
Look to him, and be radiant;
so your faces shall never be ashamed.
This poor soul cried, and was heard by the LORD,
and was saved from every trouble.
The angel of the LORD encamps
around those who fear him, and delivers them.
O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.
O fear the LORD, you his holy ones,
for those who fear him have no want.
The young lions suffer want and hunger,
but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing.

Come, O children, listen to me;
I will teach you the fear of the LORD.
Which of you desires life,
and covets many days to enjoy good?
Keep your tongue from evil,
and your lips from speaking deceit.
Depart from evil, and do good;
seek peace, and pursue it.

The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
and his ears are open to their cry.
The face of the LORD is against evildoers,
to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.
When the righteous cry for help, the LORD hears,

and rescues them from all their troubles.
The LORD is near to the brokenhearted,
and saves the crushed in spirit.

Many are the afflictions of the righteous,
but the LORD rescues them from them all.
He keeps all their bones;
not one of them will be broken.
Evil brings death to the wicked,
and those who hate the righteous will be condemned.
The LORD redeems the life of his servants;
none of those who take refuge in him will be condemned.¹

Prayer

Almighty and eternal God, from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted either by death or life: hear our prayers and thanksgivings for all whom we remember this day; fulfill in them the purpose of your love, and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.²

9:03a.m. - Flight 175 crashes into the South Tower of the World Trade Center

Romans 12:9-21

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another. Do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly. Never be wise in your own sight. Repay no one evil for evil, but give thought to do what is honorable in the sight of all. If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all. Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.” To the contrary, “if your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink; for by so doing you will heap burning coals on his head.” Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.”

Prayer

O God, our hope and refuge,
in our distress we come quickly to you.
Shock and horror of that tragic day have subsided,
replaced now with an emptiness,
a longing for an innocence lost.

¹All scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version.

² <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/topical-prayers/prayers-remembrance>

We come remembering those who lost their lives
in New York, Washington D.C., and Pennsylvania.

We are mindful of the sacrifice of public servants
who demonstrated the greatest love of all
by laying down their lives for friends.
We commit their souls to your eternal care
and celebrate their gifts to a fallen humanity.

We come remembering
and we come in hope,
not in ourselves, but in you.

As foundations we once thought secure have been shaken,
we are reminded of the illusion of security.
In commemorating this tragedy,
we give you thanks for your presence
in our time of need
and we seek to worship you in Spirit and in truth,
our guide and our guardian.

Amen.³

9:37AM - Flight 77 crashes into the Pentagon

Heidelberg Catechism⁴

Q. What is your only comfort in life and death?

A. That I am not my own, but I belong in life and death to my faithful Savior, Jesus Christ. He has fully paid for all my sins with his precious blood, and has set me free from all the power of the devil. He also preserves me in such a way that without the will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; indeed, all things must work together for my salvation. Therefore, by his Holy Spirit he also assures me of eternal life and makes me heartily willing and ready from on to live for him.

Q. What do you need to know in order to live and die in the joy of this comfort?

A. First, how great my sins and misery are; second, how I am delivered from all my sins and misery; third, how I am to be thankful to God for such deliverance.

9:59AM - The South Tower of the World Trade Center collapses

³ [Prayers For 9 11 Victims - Powerful & Uplifting Words For Prayer \(prayerist.com\)](http://prayerist.com)

⁴ [What is your only comfort in life and death? - Lord's Day 1 - Heidelberg Catechism \(heidelberg-catechism.com\)](http://heidelberg-catechism.com)

South Tower, 96th Floor, Corner Office⁵

“Come where you can breathe,” she says.
There is no breathing here;
air is poison, searing, near solid.

To live I must lean and breathe.
Soon the flames will touch me,
push me to lean farther.

Past leaning is flying.
Flying is freedom;
freedom is choice.

The hatred behind me
soon will force choosing.
I hope I have the courage
to choose to fly.

F. John Sharp

Psalm 91:1-13

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,
will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress;
my God, in whom I trust.”

For he will deliver you from the snare of the fowler
and from the deadly pestilence;
he will cover you with his pinions,
and under his wings you will find refuge;
his faithfulness is a shield and buckler.
You will not fear the terror of the night,
or the arrow that flies by day,
or the pestilence that stalks in darkness,
or the destruction that wastes at noonday.

A thousand may fall at your side,
ten thousand at your right hand,
but it will not come near you.
You will only look with your eyes
and see the punishment of the wicked.

Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
the Most High your dwelling place,
no evil shall befall you,
no scourge come near your tent.

⁵ Poetry of September 11: Library of Congress Bibliographies, Research Guides, and Finding Aids (Virtual Programs & Services, Library of Congress) (loc.gov)

For he will command his angels concerning you
to guard you in all your ways.
On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.
You will tread on the lion and the adder,
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

10:03AM - Flight 93 crashes 80 miles southeast of Pittsburgh in Shanksville, Pennsylvania

Matthew 11:28-30

“Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

John 11:25-27

“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?’ She said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.’”

The Lord’s Prayer⁶

**Our Father, who art in Heaven
Hallowed be 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil**

For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Psalm 23

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures;
he leads me besides still waters,
he restores my soul.

⁶ Todd Beamer, a passenger on Flight 93, called the Verizon Airfone call center to inform them that the flight had been hijacked and they planned to retake control of the plane. Beamer and Jefferson recited the Lord’s Prayer and Psalm 23 before he and other passengers stormed the cockpit.

He leads me in right paths
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,
I fear no evil;
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff —
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD
my whole life long.

10:28AM - The North Tower of the World Trade Center collapses

Into the Fire⁷

The sky was falling
And streaked with blood
I heard you calling me
Then you disappeared into the dust

Up the stairs, into the fire
Yea, up the stairs, into the fire
I need you kiss
But love and duty called you some place higher
Somewhere up the stairs, into the fire

May your strength give us strength
May your faith give us faith
May your hope give us hope
May your love give us love

You gave you love to see
In fields of red and autumn brown
You gave your love to me
And lay your young body down

Up the stairs, into the fire
Yea, up the stairs, into the fire
I need you near

⁷ [The Rising » Bruce Springsteen; www.brucespringsteen.net](http://www.brucespringsteen.net)

But love and duty called you some place higher
Somewhere up the stairs, into the fire

May your strength give us strength
May your faith give us faith
May your hope give us hope
May your love give us love

It was dark, too dark to see
You held me in the light you gave
You lay your hand on me
Then walked into the darkness of your smoky grave

Up the stairs, into the fire
Yea, up the stairs, into the fire
I need you kiss
But love and duty called you some place higher
Somewhere up the stairs, into the fire

May your strength give us strength
May your faith give us faith
May your hope give us hope
May your love give us love

- Bruce Springsteen; *The Rising*, 2002.

October 07, 2001 - The United States-led coalition launches attack on Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. Operation Enduring Freedom concludes nearly 20-years later ... an estimated 174,000 lives lost.

Prayer for the People and Nation of Afghanistan⁸

God of Compassion, God of Peace, God of Justice:
You, O God, are the One who

sees the forgotten

speaks with the Voice of the silenced
remembers and redeems those who are lost and without hope.

Hear our prayer for the people of Afghanistan, those fleeing for refuge, those left behind,
those who cannot find a way out.

The faces of the people of Afghanistan, filled with desperation and fear, haunt us. The horrors the world has witnessed in the catastrophic collapse of a nation's government take us to a place of sorrow beyond words. The scenes from the airport as evacuations continue,

⁸ [Presbyterian Disaster Assistance \(pcusa.org\)](http://www.pcusa.org)

the cities and small communities, relentlessly overtaken, and the knowledge that we in the United States are a part of this story, are painful to bear.

We see the anguish of your suffering people and recognize a wrenching feeling deep in the pit of our own stomachs: for we know we share responsibility for what is unfolding and what is being lost. We have made choices as a nation to engage with Afghanistan, all these long years, and though we prayed it would be for good, we know that the legacies of nations with power have often caused harm when good was hoped for. We confess to you that our best efforts are still mired in sin. We ask for your forgiveness. Help us to learn, and to amend our ways.

We acknowledge those in military service in our nation, in Afghanistan, as well as in other places who gave their lives, their health, and their futures, hoping to be a force for the protection of the vulnerable and the well-being of the people of Afghanistan. We lift up their sacrifice, their trauma and their sorrow to you, O God who heals every wound.

Most of all, God of the refugee, God of the journey, Protector of the helpless, we lift to you the people of this fragile and wounded nation; those who remain at home, and those who flee. Guard them and shelter them under the shadow of your wings. Lead them to safe haven and give them the strength and hope to begin again. Give us the grace to walk alongside them.

Help us, God of justice and mercy, to turn our own anguish into deeds of love and welcome. Help us not to turn away, nor to forget. Open our hearts, our doors, our communities, our churches and neighborhoods to receive, to honor, and to bless. Make us instruments of your peace, for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ, our Love and our Redeemer.

- Rev. Dr. Laurie Kraus; Director, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PCUSA)

Where, O Death is Your Sting?

John 11:38-44

“Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, ‘Take away the stone.’ Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, ‘Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?’ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, ‘Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.’ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, ‘Lazarus, come out!’ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in cloth. Jesus said to them, ‘Unbind him, and let him go.’”

Mark 16:1-8

“When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, ‘Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?’ When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.”

Concluding Prayer

Holy God, Creator of all people and all nations, it is with sorrow and apprehension we remember the events that occurred on this day twenty years ago.

We life to You in prayer all those who died in the Twin Towers, the Pentagon and on United Flight 93. We entrust them to Your loving care. Console their families, friends, and all who mourn this loss in the hope that all who trust in You find peace and rest in Your Kingdom.

We pray for those who courageously responded to provide aid and comfort to the afflicted. May their painful memories of that day be healed and transformed into strength and positive resolution.

We also pray for ourselves as we seek Your strength and guidance. We live in the aftermath of this tragedy and under the shadow of aggression. We stand in need of your assistance - in need of your peace, your love and your hope.

Enable us, to put an end to fear by resolving to live lives that are based on respect for one another; by resolving to abide in a peaceful manner and never settle disagreements in our lives in a violent way; by resolving no to fall into the trap of blaming entire ethnic groups, races, or religions in repose to acts of hostility; by resolving that justice, not revenge, prevail in our world.

Let us resolve that in the face of hatred, we will show love; that in times of despair, we will be voices of hope and creators of new dreams; that in times of darkness, we will be sources of light.

Let us resolve that we never regard forgiveness as weakness, but rather as a source of strength in our lives and in our world.

And, let us honor the memory of nearly 3,000 individuals who died on September 11, 2001 by resolving, with Your help to truly live this way so You may be glorified and Your love made know to others through us.

Amen.

- Darrell Burns