

Guiding Questions for Preaching on Gun Violence

Perhaps as priest or deacon you feel called to specifically preach on gun violence. Below are some beginning and guiding questions to help you get started.

Having done research on the issue, including practical and theological insights, consider:

- What is your prayer for your congregation as they hear/experience this sermon?
- What are your hopes in speaking out about this issue?
- Why do you feel called to preach about gun violence? Why now?
- How do you ground your message in the words, life and teaching of Christ?
- Gun violence is an issue with many voices and views present in the public square. As an ordained clergy person in the Episcopal Church, what do you believe your voice adds to the conversation?
- What is your understanding of your being seen as a representative of the faith in addressing this issue? Can you separate your faith community's stance from your own? How might that understanding be demonstrated in this preaching?

For many who have preached on gun violence, taking time to reflect on "why" you feel called to preach on a certain issue or story or text, then the "how" of the preaching becomes much clearer.

Remember to pray for your congregation and to pray for yourself.

Prayer for the Holy Spirit (BCP p. 251)

Almighty and most merciful God, grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.