

The prophets affirm, "the people who've walked in darkness have seen a great light."

We walk in darkness today, O God of Light.

We walk in the darkness of loss, of violence, of fear. We walk in the darkness of unknown, unsure, uncertain.

We stumble through darkness in which words tumble out of our mouths, leaving their chalky residue on our tongues, but they have so little meaning, so little substance, rather they simply add to the darkness, to the loss, to the unknowing.

We stumble through the darkness seeking, struggling to put our fingertips on something familiar, something comforting, something of home. On this faltering journey, may we stumble into our humanity.

We walk in darkness today, O God of Light.

We walk in the darkness of 28 dead in Newtown.

We walk in the darkness of more than 450 murdered in Chicago this year.

We walk in the darkness of Columbine, Virginia Tech, Tucson, and Portland.

We walk in the darkness of wondering how? and why? and where next?

Hear our lament and break forth, O God of Light.

Remind us yet again that flickering light of the candle is as bright as the sun in this overwhelming darkness.

Warm our hearts with the promise that it was you who spoke a word and brought light into being.

Dry our tears with the assurance that it was you who set the sun of day and the stars of night.

Calm our fears with the reminder that it was you who led the way and lit the night with a pillar of fire.

Call us to action with the hope that a star brighter than all the others will take us down the path toward encountering the Prince of Peace.

Give us courage, O God of Light, to not let darkness have the final word. Give us strength to not let fear cloud our commitment to your rule of love. Give us boldness to not ever forget that you have called us to put down the sword. And give us the daring to join our voices yet again with the great cloud of witness and hear us as we, with the confidence of children, pray the prayer Christ taught us