



Prayer Vigil

**For Comfort, Justice, and the
Dignity of All**

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

St. John's Episcopal Church - Royal Oak, MI

GATHERING MUSIC

It is Well with My Soul

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 46:1-2

Deborah Shepherd

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved.

OPENING SONG

Be Not Afraid

OPENING PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

Gracious and merciful God, we come before you carrying grief we did not choose, anger we do not know how to release, and fear that settles deep within our bones. Be near to all who mourn lives lost to violence in Minneapolis. Be near to families torn apart by borders, detention, and uncertainty. Hold close those who feel unseen, unheard, or expendable. Gather us now into your sheltering presence, that we may speak truth, lament honestly, and receive the comfort only you can give. Through Jesus Christ, who wept with those who wept. Amen.

PSALM OF TRUST AND REFUGE - Psalm 34

Jonatan Ascarruz-Asencios

I will bless the LORD at all times*
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

Proclaim with me the greatness of the LORD*
let us exalt his Name together.

I sought the LORD, and he answered me*
and delivered me out of all my terror.

I called in my affliction and the LORD heard me*
and saved me from all my troubles.

The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous*
and his ears are open to their cry.

The righteous cry, and the LORD hears them*
and delivers them from all their troubles.

The LORD is near to the brokenhearted*
and will save those whose spirits are crushed.

The LORD ransoms the life of his servants*
and none will be punished who trust in him.

REFLECTION

Keith Freeman

REFLECTION SONG

The Cry of the Poor

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Bob Davis & Linda Watkins

Response: *Lord, hear our prayer.*

CANDLE LIGHTING

Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All

CLOSING PRAYER

Deborah Shepherd

God of compassion, hold us when the weight of the world feels unbearable. Comfort those who mourn. Protect those who are afraid. Soften hearts grown hard through fear, and strengthen all who labor for justice and peace. Send us from this place not numb, but committed to love more deeply, to listen more faithfully, and to act with courage shaped by mercy. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CLOSING SONG

Make Me a Channel of Your Peace

BLESSING

Rev. Dr. Maryjane Peck

May the God who sees every tear bring comfort to the brokenhearted.

May Christ, who crossed every boundary for love, guide your steps.

And may the Holy Spirit give you courage to stand with the suffering and hope strong enough to endure.

And the blessing of God Creator, Redeemer, & Sustainer, be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

Special thanks to Laurie McLaughlin for sound & tech assistance