



THE MOTHER EMANUEL NINE

A LITANY OF REMEMBRANCE

By: The Reverend Mashod A. Evans

- ONE:** “I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness” *
- Yes, but what happens when wickedness makes its way into God’s house?
Charleston, . . . Mother Emanuel, . . . One year ago.
- MANY:** Lord, today we remember the Emanuel Nine who were tragically slain on June 17, 2015.
- ONE:** With open doors, and open hearts, they welcomed the stranger, just like the Bible encourages us to do. Then, suddenly things take a horrific turn; intentions announced, weapon brandished, pleas offered, terror unleashed, horror ensued. In a matter of minutes, a holy space, becomes the scene of a hate crime.
- MANY:** As we reflect on that night and relive those moments, our hearts are made heavy again. We cry aloud again, “Why, Dear Lord? Why?”
- ONE:** Cynthia Marie Graham Hurd, Susie Jackson, Ethel Lee Lance, Depayne Middleton-Doctor, Clementa C. Pinckney, Tywanza Sanders, Daniel Simmons, Sharonda Coleman-Singleton, Myra Thompson.
- MANY:** Lord, bless their memory, bless their families.
- ONE:** Immeasurable grief, YES. Righteous anger, DEFINITELY. Hate in response to hate: NEVER. In fact, the opposite was the outcome. Almost instantly forgiveness was offered, unity was demonstrated, steps toward reconciliation were made.

MANY: Evil will not win. Hate will not have the last word.

ONE: We are a resilient people, we are a redeemed people, resurrection people. We know that in death, even horrible, inhuman, unjustified death, God can create opportunity for new life, just as He did in Jesus Christ.

MANY: Evil will not win. Hate will not have the last word.

ONE: As we reflect, and as we remember, we maintain our hope. A hope that is sustained by a belief that God is our Emanuel, meaning, God with us, and if God, be with us, then God be for us, and if God be for us, who can be against us.

TOGETHER: Evil will not win. Hate will not have the last word. **AMEN**