



THE MOTHER EMANUEL NINE

PRAYER

By: Carlene Lenore Douglas

O God of understanding, wisdom, strength and power, we remember before You this day our brothers and sisters whose lives were snatched by a heart of hatred and bigotry. We remember before You nine faithful servants, whose lives were violently taken while peacefully studying Your Word. We call their names before You, these martyrs, these sacrificed lives, the Mother Emmanuel Nine:

- The Honorable Reverend Clementa Pinckney
- The Reverend Daniel Simmons
- The Reverend Sharonda Coleman-Singleton
- Sister Depayne Middleton Doctor
- Sister Cynthia Hurd
- Sister Susie Jackson
- Sister Ethel Lance
- Brother Tywanza Sanders
- Sister Myra Thompson

We pray that Your eternal light will shine on them.

Father in this safe and trusted space we come to cry, to vent, to grieve with their families and Emmanuel AME Church; to release our anger, and to unpack the emotions of this great loss. To find a place to sow our tears, and mend the inner wounds that rise from our memory of the seventeenth day of June, two thousand and fifteen.

In Jesus' Name we ask You to shine your light of hope through us as we live in this uncertain world of hatred and violence. Show us the way, O God, that we as a united Body can cut off the horns of bigotry and hatred and prejudice that bully their way into the faces of Your people.

We pray for peace and love to reign in our homes, churches and communities. We pray for deliverance from feelings of hatred and mercilessness that make their way into our hearts. Help us to move forward in faith, trusting You to heal us in Your time and release us to love all people.

Hear us, O Lord, as we rest in the safety of Your loving presence. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.