

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CITY- DATE**

**CONTACT: NAME**

**Church/Community Name**

**email**

### **Christians Across the Country Come Together For a Service of Lament, Repentance, and Action Against Gun Violence**

- Not all Christians baptize their guns; many churches and denominations are active in supporting common sense gun laws and bans on assault weapons movement
- Central to the call to action is Isaiah 2:4 “and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks”
- Resources available for churches to uniquely participate in the Day of Worship

On September 18, 2022, newly-formed [Christians United Against Gun Violence](#) will lead the first national Day of Worship dedicated to directly addressing the gun violence epidemic in our country. As followers of a peacemaker named Jesus, whose ministry focused on the most vulnerable, the group is deeply concerned about gun violence in schools where innocent children are slain.

"It has come to this: there is a need to create an American Christian group called Christians United Against Gun Violence, knowing both that America is drenched in the blood of the victims of gun violence, and that American Christians will include among their number some of the most militant opponents of any change to current gun laws. Someone must raise a strong voice of Christian protest. I commend this group, I stand with them, and I will support their work with my own," said Dr. David P. Gushee, Distinguished University Professor of Christian Ethics and Director of the Center for Theology and Public Life at Mercer University and Chair of Christian Social Ethics at Vrije Universiteit (“Free University”) Amsterdam, and Senior Research Fellow, International Baptist Theological Study Centre.

Just like the World Communion Sunday, a day in which churches from many denominations join together to celebrate their oneness in Christ, this Day of Worship will provide Christians with an opportunity to unite their voices in a shared cause.

**WHAT:** Churches across the country will lead distinct worship services to directly address the gun violence epidemic in our nation.

**WHEN:** September 18th

**WHERE:** Local faith communities

**WHY:** Because Christians follow a peacemaker named Jesus who reminds us again and again that love is an active verb.

**HOW:** The website (<https://christiansunitedagainstgunviolence.org/home>) provides resources to help churches plan a meaningful worship service, including liturgy, music, sermon reflections, further study and action, images, and children's education.

Christians United Against Gun Violence has caught the attention of Shane Claiborne, a Christian activist and co-author of [Beating Guns](#). “Gun violence is a national epidemic. It is the #1 cause of death for our kids. Over 100 lives are lost every day to guns. Let us lament the lives lost, and honor them by taking action to end gun violence,” said Claiborne, who is also a leading figure in the New Monasticism movement, and a social activist, advocating for nonviolence and service to the poor.

## **ABOUT**

Christians United Against Gun Violence (<https://christiansunitedagainstgunviolence.org/home>) is a grassroots movement created by Christian peacemakers who want to reduce gun violence. They feel that as Christians, they need to offer a united voice in opposition to common mis-readings of sacred text and the teachings of Jesus. This website assists congregations, ministers, priests, pastors, and activists to create a meaningful worship service followed by powerful political action. The idea of protest-through-worship is designed to loudly witness to the person of Jesus, who resisted all violence. #ChristiansUnitedAgainstGunViolence.

###

