



## Transgender Day of Remembrance

*Background: The Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDOR) is observed annually on November 20. It was set aside to memorialize those who were killed due to anti-transgender hatred or prejudice. The event is held in November to honor Rita Hester, a trans woman of color whose murder on November 28th, 1998 kicked off the Remembering Our Dead web project and a San Francisco candlelight vigil in early 1999. Due to the interest in both the website and that original vigil, it was decided that an annual memorial to those killed due to anti-transgender violence or prejudice was necessary to help spread information about these deaths.*

*The Transgender Day of Remembrance serves several purposes. It raises public awareness of hate crimes against transgender people and those perceived to be trans. It publicly mourns and honors the lives of our siblings who might otherwise be forgotten. Through the vigil, we express love and respect for transgender people in the face of national indifference and hatred. TDOR also gives non-trans allies the chance to step forward with us and stand in vigil, memorializing those who have died by anti-transgender violence.*

*It is common practice to read the names of those murdered in the last year. This can be done by volunteers or by the worship leaders. Some TDOR services include the ways in which the people were killed - it is up to the worship leadership to determine whether this is appropriate for your setting. It is strongly encouraged that trans-identified people are part of the planning and discussion prior to the service. Regardless of whether or not the ways in which people are killed is read, it is important for the worship leadership to understand the brutality of the murders as physical manifestations of systemic racism and sexism. It is also important to recognize that those recognized on TDOR are not the only trans folks who lose their lives in any given year; many others lose their lives to suicide and drug addiction, which are also results of systemic oppression.*

*TDOR should also be a time to mark the resilience of the trans community. With that in mind, a TDOR service should focus not only on those lost and the systems which result in such violence, but also on the resilience of those individuals and the community as a whole. Language in the service below uses expansively gendered language; adapt as is fitting for your context.*

### CALL TO WORSHIP (From Matthew 5)

One: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

**All: Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

One: Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

**All: Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

One: Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

**All: Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.**

One: Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

**All: Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.**

One: We are the salt of the earth, the light of the world.

**All: We will let our light shine before others,  
and our shining will give glory to God.**