

Benediction written for a Transgender Day of Remembrance  
By Sonny Graves, UCC

*This is adaptable to a variety of services that honor the lives and memories of transgender persons.*

As we ready to leave this sacred space you are invited to stay after the benediction to talk with one another, comfort one another, or just stay for a moment in this sanctuary

Let us pray

Our God, Our Divine, Our Creator,

    bless those who are in our hearts on this day of remembrance,  
    named or unnamed - young and old, of every race, faith,  
    and gender experience whose lives were stolen by violence.

We pray in your embrace there is now comfort, there is now love, there is now peace.

Bless those who survive, and continue to see a new day rise in the rays of your sun.

    Bless every beautiful gender of your creation.  
    Bless us in all our different lives and experiences.

We know your image is abundant

    and refuses any limit or constraint  
    that says there is only one right way to be.

We know in you, the possibilities are endless

    and each and every are holy sparks of life

Bless our scars,

    both physical and emotional,  
    for we know they not only bear witness of our pain and trauma,  
    they also draw the body maps of our healing,  
    of something forever changed,  
    that carries wisdom, and resilience.

Bless the courage of our hearts here today

    and move in us as resolve to root out injustice, ignorance, cruelty, and despair.

Move in us as mercy that opens us to compassion, and forgiveness.

Move in us as hope that lets our minds and hands work for reconciliation

    and restoration of love to one another  
    and abundant life for all.

Bless us as we carry today, and every day this legacy of love and hope:

    For those who have died,  
    For those who still live,

And as the sweet justice for children yet unborn.

For this we pray, Amen.