Holy God

We remember this day, fifteen years ago, and still cry out in lament for the thousands of lives lost on this day in acts of terror.
We cry out in lament for losing the world we thought we had, and being thrust into the reality that violence can strike us at any time.
We cry out because violence is still done in Your name, whether it be the striking of planes into buildings, or the refusal to help a refugee child.
We are a people who worship the culture of violence.
We value violence over life, revenge over justice, retaliation over forgiveness.

You are the Christ, the One who died on the cross because of the violence, the sin of the world.
You are the one who took on our violence, and instead of retaliation, You came to us and said, “Peace be with you.”
Instead of the fear of terror, You came to us and said, “Do not be afraid.”
Instead of calling us to take up weapons and attack, You called us to put down our sword, and instead, “Love thy neighbor.”

On this day, may we remember those lives who were lost.
May we remember the lives that have been lost in war, in acts of terrorism, and in acts of retaliation in the name of peace to this day.

Our violence has not stopped. The sins of the world continue.
But we can change.

Spirit of Life, breathe new life into us.
Call us into the ways of peace and restorative justice.

Help us to seek reconciliation with our Muslim kindred, and all peoples of faith and ideals around the world.
Help us to build bridges instead of walls.

Remind us of our common humanity, created in Your image, created to care for the world and one another.
Remind us of Your creative intention in each of us, and to seek it in others.

In the name of Jesus the Christ, who continues to show us the Way, the Truth, and the Life, we pray.

Amen.