



# Transgender Day of Remembrance

Wednesday, November 20, 2019  
6:00 p.m.

November 20 is set aside each year as the International Transgender Day of Remembrance. Started in 1998 by Gwendolyn Ann Smith, transgender activist, as a way to memorialize Rita Hester, who was violently murdered in Allston, Massachusetts. The day has evolved and grown such that it is now marked internationally in more than 185 cities in 20 countries.

The Transgender Day of Remembrance has historically been a day to remember those who have been murdered as the result of ignorance and transphobia. It is a day set aside to call attention to the violence, extreme discrimination, and alienation towards those in society who are transgender.

## PRAYER OF MEDITATION

*As the people gather before the service begins, we encourage you to use the following prayer for meditation.*

On this Transgender Day of Remembrance, we remember those who have been murdered for being who they are, those who face violence on a daily basis, those who have lost loved ones, and those who worry for loved ones.

May we come to a time when we cease to shame children around gender roles and expression, where we allow for freedom and exploration of identity and expression, and to a world that operates from love especially when things are difficult and confusing. May all of us who live with the threat of violence find support, strength, community, hope, and safety from violence.

— Sunshine Jeremiah Wolfe

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Sung by Trans Chorus of Los Angeles.*

“I Shall Miss Loving You”

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Sung by Trans Chorus of Los Angeles.*

“True Colors”

*Candles are distributed and lit.*

## CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: Be with us, loving God in all of our journeys.  
People: From near and from far and histories unknown.

Minister: Be with us, kind God in strength and in weakness.  
People: The lost and forsaken, the proud and the strong.

Minister: Be with us, creative God in all of our beings.  
People: Where life in our genders can truly belong.

Minister: Be with us, supporting God in all of our actions.  
People: Fulfilling your kingdom where all people come.

Minister: Be with us, loving God in all of our wishes.  
People: That rest in your love, when all are as one.

## COLLECT OF TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Minister: God dwells in you.  
People: And also in you.  
Minister: Let us pray.

*Remain standing; silence is kept.*

Minister: God of all creation, whose wisdom and love is boundless, you have many names and you are beyond all expressions of gender. We have many names for our sexual and gender identities. We give you thanks for the diversity of sexuality and gender. At times we deny that diversity by holding too strongly and tightly to the divisions that we ourselves create.

As we come together to remember those transgender people who have been killed, taken their own lives or been injured, help us to honor their identities, and the identities of all people. Help us to create a world where everyone can live with authenticity and dignity.

Help us all, who belong to every sexuality and gender, to live our own lives in true fulfillment of our different identities, in fellowship with each other and in the Love of Christ.

*Amen.*

## READINGS

A Reading from Isaiah (56:1–8).

Thus says our God, “Do what is right! Work for justice! For my liberation is about to come, and my justice is about to be revealed.” Foreigners who would follow God should not say, “God will surely exclude me. I’m not part of the Eternal’s chosen people.” Nor should the eunuch say, “And I am a dried-up tree.” For thus says our God: “To the eunuchs who keep my Sabbath, who choose that which pleases me and hold fast to my Covenant — to them I will create within my Temple and its walls a memorial, and a name better than that of children. I will give them an everlasting name that will not be excised. And the foreigners who join themselves to me, ministering to me; loving the name of God and worshiping me — all who observe the Sabbath and do not profane it, and cling to my Covenant — these I will bring to my holy mountain and make them joyful in my house of prayer. Their burnt offerings and their sacrifices will be acceptable on my altar, for my house will be called a house of prayer for all peoples!”

A Reading from *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians* by Austen Hartke.

When parents attend churches that teach that being transgender is sinful, they are much more likely to reject their child, once that child comes out; in turn, a child who is rejected is more likely to suffer from mental health issues and to commit suicide. This sad fact was made visible for many in the death of Leelah Alcorn, who stepped out in front of a truck in December 2014 after experiencing negative faith-based reactions from her parents and being forced to attend Christian conversion therapy to “cure” her of her gender identity.

Christianity has been dominated by the voices of those who speak out against the existence, the well-being, and the humanity of transgender people. These voices have sunk into the fabric of American culture, and the result has been a rash of murders that causes no religious outrage, no demand for justice from those who should have cared for the wounded ones on the side of the road. We have closed our ears to the cry of the parents who have lost their children because of toxic theology; we have turned away from the tears of the youth who ask if Jesus can love them just as they are. Too many of those questioning their gender identity have been made to feel that they must choose between God and an authentic and healthy life. Not all of the people forced into that decision make it out alive.

This is where transgender Christians have been forced to live: out on the edges. They walk the fine line between acceptance and rejection, between God’s love and the church’s judgment. But this is also where God begins to bring life out of death, because although religious affiliation in families has been connected to rejection of LGBT children, faith can also be one of the largest contributors to well-being in youth if their religious community supports them. We know that family acceptance and the creation of a refuge in homes and communities is incredibly important to the health of transgender people, and so we must ask, is it time for God’s house to truly become a house of prayer for all people? Will we hear the words of Scripture, and the stories of the trans Christians in our midst, and allow our sanctuaries to become the spaces they were always meant to be?

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Sung by Trans Chorus of Los Angeles.*

“Not My Father’s Son”

## **PRAYER**

Minister: God full of mercy, bless the souls of all who are in our hearts on this

Transgender Day of Remembrance. We call to mind today young and old, of every race, faith, and gender experience, who have died by violence. We remember those who have died because they would not hide, or stood too proud. Today we name them: the reluctant activist; the fiery hurler of heels; the warrior for quiet truth; the one whom no one really knew.

As many as we can name, there are thousands more whom we cannot, and for whom no prayers may have been said. We mourn their senseless deaths, and give thanks for their lives, for their teaching, and for the brief glow of each holy flame. We pray for the strength to carry on their legacy of vision, bravery, and love.

And as we remember them, we remember with them the thousands more who have taken their own lives. We pray for resolve to root out the injustice, ignorance, and cruelty that grow despair. And we pray, God, that all those who perpetrate hate and violence will speedily come to understand that Your creation has many faces, many genders, many holy expressions.

People: Blessed are they, who have allowed their divine image to shine in the world.

Blessed is God, in whom no light is extinguished. Amen.

— Rabbi Ruben

Zellman

## LITANY OF TRANSFAITH

Minister: We praise you, Holy One, for the gift of life: precious, stubborn, fragile and beautiful.

People: We are grateful for the time we have to live upon the earth, to love, to grow, to be.

Minister: We give thanks for those who are standing in their courage to be who they are.

People: We pray for strength for those who do not feel safe or are not ready to reveal their truth.

Minister: We remember those who have been taken by the devastation of violence.

People: We claim the opportunity to build lives of wholeness in their honor.

Minister: Inspire us to challenge and stand strong against unjust laws, repression, stigma and fear.

People: Into your care, we trust and lift up the hundreds of souls who have been tortured and murdered or taken their own life.

Minister: We give you thanks for the partners, friends, allies and families who have been steadfast in their love.

People: For the people who, with passion and commitment, support all expressions of gender.

Minister: We give thanks for the science that has led to new life-giving procedures.

People: For those who have acted to provide health care.

Minister: We give you thanks for those whose prejudice and judgment have yielded

to understanding.

People: For those who have overcome fear to embrace a life of compassion.

Minister: We lift up the hundreds of souls who have been tortured and murdered.

People: We cherish the memories of those we have lost.

We gather in the name of God, Creator, Redeemer, and Sustainer, to name and remember before God those who have died as the result of transphobic violence in the last 12 months.

Didem Akay	Maxim Brizuela	Dymun Dupree
Eduarda Albuquerque	Mhelody Polan Bruno	Meg Duram
Alessandra	Yara Serena Camargo	Brigitte Escalona Escobar
Alka	Paris Cameron	Laly Heredia Escobar
Kayla Alves	Ashanti Carmon	Esra
Jessyca Ananias	Carly	Fabiola
Luana de Andrade	Sandy Carrillo Bello	Angela Paola Fajardo
V. Barbosa de Aquino	Santiago Carvajal	Kiki Fantroy
Marqueza de Araújo	Mayte Castro Anay	Yuri Gabriel Castro Farias
Patricia Araújo	Chhaya	Fernanda
Samara Araújo	El Choco	Sara Fernandez
Laura Muñoz Arcila	Jordan Coffey	Shakira Fernández de la Hoz
Pamela Arenceli	A.A. Silva Costa May	Bessy Michelle Ferrera
Laura Gentle Argueta	Ana Paula da Costa Ribeiro	Nathacha Ruby Flores
Ashley	Cecelia Cranko	Juliane de Fonseca ("Juju")
Daniele Azevedo	Lara Crespo	Junia Franco
Bárbara	Nathyelly Cruz	José Matías De la Fuente Guevara
Rosinha do Beco	Fabi Cortes Morales	Brigitte Galvan
Jessica Benavidez	Soren Neres Denardi	Alondra Garcia
Rosalinda Pérez Berigüete	Rekha Desai ("Reva")	Angi Garcia
Zaira Betancur	Carolline Dias	Cris Garcia Aponte
Jahy Bianchini	Jade Camila Diaz	Amy Griffiths
S. Biswas	Camila Diaz Cordova	Becky Gonzales Reyna
Faye Moren Black	Angie DiGiacomo	Titi Gulley
Muhlaysia Booker	Mirna Antonella DiMarzo	Gurpreet
Melissa Borges	Pebbles LaDime Doe	Giselle Andrea Gutierrez
Jasmyne Fontile de Brinto	Dulce	Valencia

Amma Hajjani	Dana Martin	Bibiu de Lima Pires
Hani	Andrew Elijah Martinez	Heart Pontanes
Leandro Parra Herмосilla	Daniela Martinez	Ana Paula Portyllho
Aylin Hernandez Gomez	Alana Ferrira May	Sheila Prado
Doris Hernandez	T. May	Keyariah Quick
Wilmer Adali Hernandez	Maya	Rajathi
Rapalo	Milo Mazurkiewicz	Pamela Sandoval Ramirez
Kenia Hilton	Victoria Medeiros	Medely Razard
Catalina Casquete Holguin	J. A. Cermeño Medina	Reena
Giuliano Imperato	Johana Medina	Bailey Reeves
Malaj Islas	S. Medina	Jessa Remiendo
Jaleyah Jamar	Alex Milkovich	Jesusa Ventura Reyes
Kate Maikelly de Jesus	Miuda	Maria Paula Murillo Reyes
Barbosa	Sussy Montalvan	Miriam Rivera
Charlene Keroly	Caio Dantas Monteiro	Rita
Ainee Khan	Marisol Montenegro	Sasha Maria Rivas Martinez
Sana Khan	Devora Montolio	R. Adeldo Rodriguez Alonzo
Antonia Lainez	Luto Samira Morena	Dianna Rodrigues
Lara	J. P. Moreno	Roberta Rodrigues
Joha González Leal	Fabricia de Moura Lima	Romy
Claire Legato	Thaylla Rodrigues de Moura	E. dos Santos da Rosa
Ana de Lima	Muskan	Rose
Brooklyn Lindsey	Nadia	Jéssica Gómez Rúa
Chynal Lindsey	Natalia	("Pajarita")
Lohane Silva de Lira	Gabriele Oliveira	Minerva Rubio
Lolita	W. Félix de Oliveira	Natalia Delgado Rubio
Carla Giron Londono	B. J. P.	Miranda Pilar Ruiz
Andra Mora Lopez	Pamela	Pollita Ruiz
Yaritza Angelica Millones	Pamella	Sabrina
Lopez	Ana Paula	Britany Sanchez Zarate
Itzayana Lopez Hernandez	Gala Estefania Perea	Jony Sosa Sanchez
Lu	Juju Periigosah	Abril Navarro Salazar
La Mariposa	Perla	Flavia Santana
Elayne Markes	Luana Piovani	Leleco Pereira dos Santos
Itali Marlowe		

Levi Matheus Santos (Livia Di Castro)	Aghata de Silva Marinho	Tabbo
Mellyssa Rodrigues dos Santos	Aline da Silva	Tamara
Patricia Rafaela dos Santos Camargo	Cryllaine Guedes da Silva	Techi
Paula Santos	Emmanuelle Agostinho da Silva	Thais
Rayssa dos Santos Oliveira	Karla Fernanda Silva	Bruna Torres
Taila Silveira Pacheco Santos	Kelly da Silva	Lucia Torres Mansilla
Victoria Santos Falcao	L. J. da Silva	Brenda Plaza Vallejos
Ares Saturno	Larissa Rodrigues da Silva	Eric Varao
Gökçe Naz Saygi	Mara da Silva	Sandrielly Vasconcelos
Chanel Scurlock	M. Dantas da Silva	Mirlla Vasques Arcanjo
Hande Seker	Nemer da Silva Rodrigues	Yoselin Marin Velasco
Nashley Delgado Segovia	Michelle Simone	Claudia Vera
Nahara Sereya	Bee Love Slater	La Verito
Nazab Abid Shaikh	Austin Smith	Leandro Vicente
Shakira ("La Moy")	Zoe Spears	Vittoria
Shalu	Renata Spencer	Bubba Walker
Shokir Shavkatov	Kassandra Solorzano Romero	Jazzaline Ware
Tracy Single	Aysla Souza	Ellie Marie Washtock
Bruna Soares	Yara Souza	Pollyane Weneck
Sara Miranda de Souza	Elisha Chanel Stanley	Layleen Cubilette Polanco
Bruna Surfistinha	Denali Berries Stuckey	Xtravanganza
	Nika Surgutskaya	Defne Yilmaz
		Celaya Méndez Zelada

And I invite you to add your own intentions, spoken or held in the silence of your hearts.

## **MUSICAL MEDITATION**

*Sung by Trans Chorus of Los Angeles.*

“Somewhere Over the Rainbow”

## **INTERCESSIONS**

Minister: Let us pray for all those who have been killed or died because they have not conformed to the gender roles that society expects.

People: Grant them peace and bring to those they leave behind them your comfort.

Minister: Help us to listen, and to understand what it means to be transgender, so that we and all people of trans experience live in harmony.

People: Let us be filled with the presence of great compassion towards ourselves and towards all living beings.

Minister: We acknowledge the harm that our prejudice and ignorance has sometimes unknowingly created. We recognize the feelings of guilt and self-loathing that transgender people themselves feel when they apply these negative messages about transgender people in general to themselves. May they have full knowledge of your love that transcends all genders.

People: Grant us wisdom, care and concern that all of us, whatever our genders and backgrounds, are equally accepted as part of the beloved community.

Minister: For transgender people who are rejected by their families or lack social support we ask you to give all people involved strength and understanding.

People: Help transgender and non-binary people, their friends, spouses and supporters, to overcome obstacles, and to bring new opportunities for relationships to be restored.

Minister: Comfort all who experience discrimination, unemployment, verbal abuse or experience attacks in their homes or on the streets.

People: Grant us courage and compassion so that we may all live together in peace.

Minister: We recognize the harm that has been caused by medical misdiagnoses and by embracing historic presumptions that people of trans experience are following a lifestyle choice in pursuit of sexual rewards, instead of their true identity.

People: Help all of us to create a future which is not bound to the attitudes of the past but one in which we can move forward to promote the fullness of life in all the world.

Minister: Loving God, Creator of the Universe, grant us fresh hearts and new minds so that we can celebrate the full richness and diversity of human experience in the Love of Christ.

People: Amen.



## CONCLUDING COLLECT

Minister: God of all mercy and consolation,  
Come to the aid of your people as we mourn the loss of the dead on this Transgender Day of Remembrance. Turn us from our pity, despair and fear toward full relationship with you and all of our neighbors.

Give us the courage to challenge oppression, both gender-based or based on our other ways of dividing and conquering. Love us into including all of our neighbors. Give us the light to examine ourselves, our comfort, privilege and fear, and turn us toward relationship.

May your Holy Spirit lead us to open our hearts to you and one another in confession, and be opened to your forgiveness and renewal.

People: Amen.

## MUSICAL MEDITATION

*Sung by Trans Chorus of Los Angeles.*

“You Have More Friends Than You Know”

## BLESSING

Friends, let us go in the company of Hope.  
God’s love can do miraculous things —  
things we cannot yet dream of for ourselves,  
and things we cannot yet imagine for each other.  
With such faith in the liberating power of love,  
go in peace.  
Amen.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Needed: Cosmetics and Chest Binders to Los Angeles LGBT Center**

Persons of trans experience often have higher rates of poverty and unemployment which impacts their ability to buy cosmetics and chest binders. This year we are collecting for trans folks in need. GC2B makes great binders in all sizes. If you Google search GC2B chest binder you will find a lot of great options. Wait times for a free binder can be over a year, so by donating a binder you are drastically cutting the wait time down for LGBTQ person in need. **We are collecting new, unopened cosmetics and binders in the main office through Nov. 30.**

Information = Kelly O’Phelan at [kophelan@allsaints-pas.org](mailto:kophelan@allsaints-pas.org).

## Community Resources

**Trans Lifeline- Counselor hotline** and suicide prevention run by the trans community for trans\* and gender nonconforming people:  
*[www.translifeline.org](http://www.translifeline.org)*

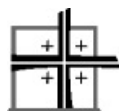
**Queer Theology** - Founded by a trans priest, explores a queer reading of scripture, helps build healthy queer theologies, and provides a robust online community to those that are closeted, exploring, or isolated from safe queer spaces:  
*[www.queertheology.com](http://www.queertheology.com)*

**ProjectQ Community Center** is a non-profit organization that provides safe space for LGBTQIA homeless youth in Los Angeles. At the Community Center, LGBTQIA homeless youth can receive free mentorship classes and workshops, along with free gender affirming haircuts.

**The Trevor Project** is the leading national organization providing crisis intervention and suicide prevention services to lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer & questioning (LGBTQ) young people under 25. You can reach out for support 24/7 by calling the Trevor lifeline at 1.866.488.7386

**enfleshed** was created out of a deep longing for spiritual resources that speak in our time to the things that matter most. With a commitment to spiritual and theological depth and the centering of marginalized experiences, conversations, and communities, enfleshed seeks to provide liturgy, devotionals, curriculum, preaching, training, and pastoral care that addresses honestly, tenderly, and directly, the beauty and pain of living enfleshed lives.  
*[enfleshed.com](http://enfleshed.com)*

**Trans Can Work:** Building a culture nationwide for transgender people to thrive in the workplace. *<https://transcanwork.org/>*



**ALL SAINTS CHURCH**  
132 NORTH EUCLID AVENUE ☎ PASADENA CA 91101  
tel 626.796.1172 ☎ fax 626.796.4749 ☎  
[www.allsaints-pas.org](http://www.allsaints-pas.org)