

# Transgender Day of Remembrance & Resilience

Sunday, November 20, 2022  
5:00 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

*Candles are distributed as people enter the church.  
They are lit just before the service begins.*

**WELCOME**

Thomas Diaz

**OPENING MEDITATION**

Casey Casas

**CALL TO WORSHIP** *Standing — all who are able.*

Ella Baker

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** *Remain standing.*

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.*

## **READING** *Seated.*

Hannah Earnshaw

A Reading from Romans (8:31–39).

What should be our response? Simply this: “If God is for us, who can be against us? Since God did not spare the Only Begotten, but gave Christ up for the sake of us all, we may be certain, after such a gift, that God will freely give us everything. Who will bring a charge against God’s chosen ones? Since God is the One who justifies, who has the power to condemn? Only Christ Jesus, who died—or rather, was raised—and sits at the right hand of God, and who now intercedes for us! What will separate us from the love of Christ? Trouble? Calamity? Persecution? Hunger? Nakedness? Danger? Violence? As scripture says, “For your sake, we are being killed all day long; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.” Yet in all this we are more than conquerors because of God who has loved us. For I am certain that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, neither heights nor depths—nor anything else in all creation—will be able to separate us from the love of God that comes to us in Christ Jesus, our Savior.

## **READING** *Remain seated.*

August Quinn

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?

**MEDITATION** *Remain seated.* The Rev. Megan More

**PRAYER**

*Remain seated.*

Ella Baker

Minister: God full of mercy, bless the souls of all who are in our hearts. 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** *Remain seated.*

Hannah Earnshaw

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.

**REFLECTION** *Remain seated.*

Abby Loeb

“You Are Enough”  
—Adam Roa (b. 1985)

**NECROLOGY** *Remain seated.*

Ella Baker, Jonathan Bates, August Quinn

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.

*The following is the international list. Those who died in the United States are read aloud. We acknowledge that the names provided might not be the name with which the individual identified.*

Khay Abdulgajir	Chocolatito Anzora	Cristina Blackstar
Jo Acker	Sarahí Atenea/Saray Ramos	Emma Boland
Regina Allen ("Mya")	Izaguirre	Camila Boloco/Camila Ignacia
Pérola Almeida ("Steffany Melody")	Doski Azad	Tiffany Landino Bracho
Isabella Álvarez ("Bella")	Sasha Barrionuevo	Serena Brenneman
Pepa Álvarez	Alex Bastien	Cherry Bush
Lorrayne Alves	Cloe Bianco	Malte C.
Andrea Velasco Amaya	Semaj Sincere Billingslea	Gabriela Cabrera ("Gabi")
Camury Amorim	Zen Black	F. E. Caetano
Ezra Amos		

Martina Caldera	Mirza-Hélène Deneuve ("Julles")	Amani Frieden
Joseline Calito		A. G.
Tamara Campos	Grecia Devora	Dorce Gamalama
Larissa Carvalho	Camila Rodrigues Dias	Asher Garcia
Adiela García Castaño	Alicia Díaz	Renata Garcia
Marisela Castro	Maddie Dickens	Ximena García
Renata Cavalcante/Renata Ferraz	La Divaza	Keshia Chanel Geter
Luise Fernandes Cazé	Artemisa Domínguez	Kenna Leigh Gillock
Karla Michelle Chavira Chávez	Blair Envy	Sofia Gisely
El Cho	Renato Estrada	Ingram Gordon
Kauany Circo	Rany Fada	Mel Robert Groves
Celene Gabriela Colantini ("Nati")	Isabela de Araújo Farias	Quinn Mowrer Gustin
Estrellita Martínez Correa	Fern Feather	Carina Guzman
Danna Alejandra Navas Corredor	Haley Gabriella Feldmann	Loren Guzmán
Larissa Correia	Estefanía Fernández ("Betty")	DeeDee Hall
Pamela Correia	Paulinha Ferrara	Jessi Hart
Luana Riço Costa	Vitória Rodrigues Ferraz	Chanelika Y'Ella Dior Hemingway ("Sid")
Carla Cris	La Flaca	Lu Henrique
Lara Croft	Luna Flores	Ángel Rogríguez Hernández ("Ximena")
Palloma Cruise	Briza Garces Florez	Kelly Romero Hernández
León Pindo Cuenca	Marcela Gomes Fonseca	Maddie Hoffman
Nikai David	Yasmim Fontes	Samuel Hoffmann
Hayden Nevah Davis	Melany Fox	Sabrina Houston
Toi Davis	Deysianne França	Sameera Iftikhar
	R. da Silva Franco	Gabriella Irente ("Hanna")
	Damien Fraser	

Victoria Alejandra Ironici	Gwenn Agathe Linski	Sherin Celin Mathew
Mariana Jaramillo	Alice Litman	Gabi Mattos
Joyi Díaz Jiménez	Karla Valentina Espinoza Loor	Shawmayné McClam
Mildred Castillo Jiménez	Alejandra Valeria López	Joyce Medeiros
Brazil Johnson	Karina López	Andrielly Priscila de Melo
Danyale Johnson	Aldana Lorenz	Tiffany Meneses
Felis Joy	Monicalorenzi Lorenzi	Paula Mesquita
Amanda Îaûara Ka'aeté	Ana Paula Albino Lovera	C. Messias
Sabrina Kalegary	Hagatha Luana	Ariyanna Mitchell
Dayana Karrington	Adrien Baptiste Luckas	Carolina de León Montaña
Kai Khan	Jasper Aaron Lynch	Teresa Montaña
Brunna Kimberlly	Julya Madsan/Rogério Diego dos Santos	Kitty Monroe
Kimbella Kimble	Vitória Magalhães	Gabrielly Monteiro
Tatiana Labelle ("Tee Tee")	Elise Malary	Yessi Montero
Thiraphong Lamluea	Helen Brigitte Maldonado Maldonado	C. A. Castillo Morales
Alexa Valle Landaverde	Patricia Mazzini Manco	Huapaya Morales
Destinee Lashae	Suany Maradiaga	Nedra Sequence Morris ("Sequence")
Marquiisha Lawrence	Michele Marques ("Mona")	Acey D. Morrison
Miguel Ángel Pérez Leal	Verônica Martineli	Ray Muscat
Jimmie "Jay" Lee	Cristina Cantillo Martínez	Angel Naira
Amarey Lej (Myara)	Jéssica Martínez	Yakki Nájera
Tayda Lebón	Violeta Marujoz	Vianey Navarrete
Jenny De Leon	A. Masih	Diana Navarro
Amelia Furniss Leonhart	Sasha Mason	Kathryn Newhouse
F. C. Ferreira Lima		Cristian Nicola
Victoria de Lima		

Soffia Clementina Noriega	Paris Rich	Ace Scott
Carla Machado Noya	Martasia Richmond	M. Shiekh
Danna Nunes	Dede Ricks	Arelis Cabezas Sierra
Sabrina Fernanda de Oliveira	Estrellita Saltos Robalino	Atena Queiroz da Silva
Stéfany Ferreira de Oliveira	Bianca Machado Rodrigues	Diany Cavalcante da Silva
Roxy Tumbaco Orrala	Thalía Rodríguez	J. L. da Silva
Valis Ortíz	Andrea Rozo Rolón ("La Leona")	Jasmyne da Silva
Rikkey Outumuro ("Tru Starlet")	Kelly Keyze Rosa	Júlia dos Santos Silva
Günay Özyıldız	Cesi de Rosas ("Mamá Osa")	Robertinha da Silva
Sara Nicole Muñoz Palacios	Iggy Rose	Natasha Simonini
Ignacia Palma	Nicol Ruiz	Larah Skalwalker
Gael Pandinho	Kitty Russo	Naomie Skinner
Miia Love Parker	Katherine Salazar	Lucia Smitt
Angie Carolina Patiño	Valentín Quezada Saldías	C. de Azevedo Soares
Lavinia da Silva Pereira	Rosa Salvaje	Estefani Rodrigues Soares
Tal Piterbraut-Merx	Johana Sánchez	Tallyta Soares
Yuridia Pizarro	Isabella Sandoval	Fernanda López Somer
Melina Zurita Plaza	Marimar Santiago ("Estrellita")	Naomi Fernandes de Sousa
Apinat Plookpluem	Crislaine dos Santos	Anne Souza
La Pocha	Danielly do Carmo Santos	Beatriz Souza/Beatriz Bastos
Duval Princess	Priscila Santos ("Priscila Diva")	Carmem Lúcia Alves de Souza ("Lu")
Rexy Que	Estee Saway	Karol Souza
Cypress Ramos	Keeva Scatter	Zirve Soyly
Usha Rani	Blenda Schneider (Beatriz)	Matthew Angelo Spampinato
Mônica Ribeiro		Britney Spears



Joey Spencer ("JoJo")	Kesha Webster	I.
Royal Poetical Starz	Za'niyah Williams	Kaif
Ke'Yahonna Stone	Amy Winehouse	Karla
Kamila Marie Swann ("Dee Dee", "Kandii Redd")	Milo Winslow	Khushboo
Michelle S Tarrío	Brent Wood	Larraya
Ruby Taverner	Isabella Yanka	Lorena
Karla Tovar	Akshitha	Lovely
Vergel Catalonia Tumícad	Anika	Luo
Nikki Turrietta	Ashu	Mani
Nancy Sacul Tut	Berrak	Mano
V. R. V.	Bia	Michele
Isabela Vargas	Bijlee	Milena
Paulo Vaz ("Popó Vaz")	Bruna	Morgana
Paloma Vazquez	Bunty	Muskan
Babalu Vendraminy	Camila	Nicolý
Rodrigo Ventocilla Ventosilla	Chaand	Nikki
Bella Analía Vera	Citlalli	Nila
Sofía Vera	Coconut	P.
Kauê Vestemberg	Cristhian	Paloma
Susana Villarreal ("Susy")	Cromada	Pamela
Kimberlly Villegas	Dallila	Panimalar
Shelony Viloría ("Riqui pa Riqui")	Danifi	Paola ("La Gaga")
Lara Vinny	Derya	Paris ("Victoria Secrett")
Bárbara Waimaran	Estrella	Rauany
Shay Patten Walker	Fernandinha	Renatinha
	Hanar	S.

Saima	Sherly	Valeria
Salomé	Soni	Viridiana
Sanjana	Soraia	Wafa
Sasha	Taylor	Yaneth
Sheeza	Toffe	Zehava
Shehnaz	Trini	Zoya

An additional 33 beloved children of God were lost, whose names we do not know.  
 And the five beloved souls who were lost last night in the shooting at Club Q. in Colorado Springs.

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

**INTERCESSIONS** *Remain seated.*

Hannah Earnshaw

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** *Remain seated.*

Ella Baker

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.

## **BLESSING**

August Quinn

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.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **Donations needed**

Transgender and non-binary people often have higher rates of poverty and unemployment.

Please consider donation to the following:

### **Community Resources**

**Trans Defense Fund LA – <https://transdefensefundla.org/>**

Trans Defense Fund LA, provides non-lethal self-defense tools, classes, and community resources to transgender people with priority given to those in LA county, Black and Latinx trans people, sex workers, and femmes.

**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)

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**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*

**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*

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

**Human Rights Campaign (HRC):** By empowering and mobilizing people at the grassroots level, HRC Los Angeles aims to create impactful change, providing advocacy for HRC's mission and work on the ground. HRC Los Angeles is a dedicated team of volunteers who use their experience and talents to develop a more affirming, inclusive, and equitable community. *cristina@hrcla.net; mallory@hrcla.net*

**LA LGBTQ Trans\* Lounge:** Trans\* Lounge, the Los Angeles LGBT Center's groundbreaking empowerment program for social connection and support, serving the TGI/ENBY+ (Trans, Gender Non-Conforming, Intersex, Non-Binary, Gender Expansive) communities!  
*https://translounge.org* or *gbigam@lalgbtcenter.org*

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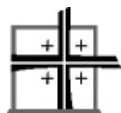
**Powered By Rainbows LGBT Education Program:** Powered By Rainbows is an LGBT Education YouTube Series. They try to fill the gap that schools and other places aren't filling when it comes to LGBT education. They have a team of 30 people that research and put together videos. Matt Haslem is the director and creator of the program.  
*matthaslemproductions@yahoo.com* or *https://youtube.com/c/PoweredByRainbows*

**Trans Wellness Clinic:** Trans Wellness Clinic helps Trans individuals with all sorts of services such as accessing affirming healthcare, change legal name and gender marker, etc. They also have a clothing closet where trans individuals can access once a month to get free clothes for interviews etc. *https://mytranswellness.org* or call 323.993.2900

**Trans Latin@ Coalition:** The mission of The TransLatin@ Coalition (TLC) is to advocate for the specific needs of the Trans Latin@ community that resides in the U.S.A. and to plan strategies that improve our quality of life. *https://www.translatinacoalition.org*

**Flux:** Flux aims to raise the profile of the Trans\* and gender-nonconforming community by leveraging social events, creating safe spaces, and innovative advocacy initiatives.  
*https://www.transidentity.org*

**Gender Spectrum:** They provide an online community space for transgender and gender expansive youth as well as affirming education for parents and organizations.  
*https://genderspectrum.org/*



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