

## Prayer After Charlottesville

Oh God, with anguish  
We pray that we may find ways  
To move forward towards the light.  
Not back into the the shadows  
Of hatred, violence,  
And the silence that protects it.

We pray for the wisdom  
To know how to move ahead.  
We recognize that evil  
Can overtake a nation,  
As history reveals;  
We recognize too that  
Reconciliation is possible,  
That peace can flourish  
Where once hate and violence reigned.

We pray that all citizens of good will  
Speak out again and again  
So the sound of Your justice  
Drowns out the cries of hatred,  
The deafening silence that protects it.

May we as a nation form a circle,  
Inclusive, with no top or bottom,  
Where we can welcome everyone  
With outstretched hands.

May our circle grow ever larger,  
More hands open, holding another's palm,  
Realizing we are holding on to the hope  
Pope Francis calls us to  
If we can see we are all connected. Amen.

—Jane Deren, Ph.D.



Stephen Swofford/Daily News-Record via AP,  
<http://bit.ly/2wMIZ3b>