

Merciful and loving God, watch over all those who have lost their freedom due to this nation's war on drugs. Be with those whose lives are lived within the walls of our jails and prisons, being denied connection to your creation. Let them see you out in the rec yard, in each other and in themselves. Help these souls see that the journey to you, gracious God, is an inward journey and not an outward one. Give them a sense of peace and dignity within a system designed to strip away our shared humanity.

God of comfort and peace, be with the families, the loved ones, partners and spouses, children and grandchildren that have been affected by this country's drug and policing policies. Our society has been torn apart by these sins. These policies have continued to draw lines of division throughout our communities and neighborhoods. Let us remember that we are one, one consciousness, one love. Let us use the anger we hold as your gift to us, so that we may find the drive to change the systems that seem so unchangeable.

Ancient and eternal God, we gather together today in remembrance of our friends, loved ones and partners that have lost their lives to drug overdose and to the war on drugs. These lives were shorter than we expected and so we carry that trauma within us. We carry the responsibility of their remembrance when our society prefers to forget their names. We honor them with our memories, both joyful and tearful. Help us to find a sense of closure, a sense of healing, a sense of your presence, in this moment, in this breath, allow us to hold these souls, as we step into your presence.

Infinite God, we light these candles in remembrance of those souls we carry with us, deep in our bones, souls and stories that we lift up to you. We burn this incense, and we ask that your heavenly angels lovingly gather up these souls of our loved ones that we bring with us tonight, and assuring them of their dignity, sacredness and holiness, carry these gentle spirits into your nearer presence. Allow them to finally know your peace, your mercy and your love. We also ask you, to grant us a sense of forgiveness, forgiveness of what we have done and what we have left undone, so that we can live more fully in the present moment and not dwell in our past nor in our future, but here and now with you and each other.

