



### Grain

“Without their fierce devotion  
We are fragile and forlorn  
Stumbling briefly among the stars.  
We and our futures belong to them  
Exquisitely, our beliefs and our  
Breaths are made tangible in their love.”

–Maya Angelou (in devotion by Rev. Stephen Bouman)

### Field - Prayer on 9/11 (written for confirmands) by Vicar David Rask Behling, Hixton, WI

“Today, let us remember in our words and in our silence, the anniversary of a moment of terrible violence. [*Silence*] We remember the lives of those who perished. [*Silence*] We remember the family members and friends who mourned their loved ones then and honor them now. [*Silence*] We remember those who died working to save the lives of others. [*Silence*] O Lord, we ask you on this night of all nights, to be with those whose lives continue to be darkened by the shadows of destruction, and to bring the light of peace and love to our divided and damaged world. [*Silence*] Amen.”

### Thoughts

Where were you on 9/11? It is one of those dates imprinted on our minds. You may still recall how you felt, how surreal and incredulous the attacks were, the people you first spoke to, and the days that followed. Our country took some disappointing turns in response to 9/11 but this week, we reflect on the suffering inflicted on that day as well as the courage and extravagant love of so many.

Several years ago, Pastor Stephen Bouman, former bishop of the Metropolitan New York Synod wrote a reflection on September 11, 2001 asking us to remember to say a prayer at 8:46 am on the day when the first plane hit the WTC in NY. He quoted Maya Angelou (Grain), and offered the following:

“Let us remember all the bravery, 'exquisitely tangible,' all the public and anonymous heroes, in a time when 'serving and giving for others rose above every other concern. Think about all of the giving. Those uniformed and civilian servants who risked their lives for others on September 11, on the flights, in the Pentagon, at Ground Zero in New York; teachers who comforted children and waited till all were safely accounted for (we lost 47 parents of our Lutheran school children that day); pastors and parishes who kept their doors open and sat with the public, listening to their lament for months; those around the world and throughout our church who sent stuffed animals, cards, letters, money, expressions of prayerful compassion, visits; ironworkers, truck drivers, chaplains, counselors, volunteers, all who worked at ground zero, at the morgues, at the site in Staten Island during the long months of rescue, then recovery; military chaplains and those who serve in our armed forces; those who lost loved ones, friends, businesses and worked at the dignity of living every day with sorrow...

At Ground Zero when the remains of a child of God would be found something remarkable would happen. All activity would cease. The pile would gentle down to silence. With bowed, uncovered heads everyone at Ground Zero would show their consummate respect for life as the remains would be lovingly brought out from the rubble. Let us remember, with bowed heads and respectful silence, the heroes, the servants, the extended act of giving which surrounded all of us. And let our hearts break open to the ground zeros of today.”

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Many Blessings upon you,

Pastor Cindy