

Prayer for the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Book of Common Prayer, page 815

Resist.bot

Text "resist" to 50409

House Joint Resolution 40 — 115th Congress

This joint resolution nullifies the "Implementation of the NICS Improvement Amendments Act of 2007" rule finalized by the Social Security Administration on December 19, 2016. The rule implements a plan to provide to the National Instant Criminal History Background Check System the name of an individual who meets certain criteria, including that benefit payments are made through a representative payee because the individual is determined to be mentally incapable of managing them. (Current law prohibits firearm sale or transfer to and purchase or possession by a person who has been adjudicated as a mental defective.)

Vineyards figure prominently in two of our readings: Isaiah and Matthew. And it's a common image throughout the Bible.

Generally speaking, a vineyard (or God's vineyard) is the world, and we are placed in it to tend to it.

And what generally happens when we don't do a good job of tending to God's vineyard (the world), is chaos and violence.

The shooting last Sunday in Las Vegas — really, only the most recent in recent U.S. history — stands as a reminder that, maybe, we are not doing a very good job tending to this vineyard.

Don't worry that I'm going to be offering you a gun-control sermon. I have absolutely no intention of doing that.

And that's because I tend to believe that 99.97% of gun owners have never discharged their guns in anger at another human being.