

The events of Sept. 11 have tragically affected the citizens of our nation. We have been bloodied by an attack on our national treasures and our people. As we remember these fallen buildings and fallen citizens, we reflect on our common loss. As we join hands and hearts in prayer, we console not only those who have lost loved ones, but ourselves as well. This deep wound which has been opened will not easily close.

As we continue to support those who are on the front lines of the chaos, we must remember we do it for family, friends, and fellow countrymen. As the wreckage is cleared and the hope for survivors continues, we lift our eyes skyward. Our creator knows the purpose for which we toil and strengthens our hands for the work ahead of us.

Many are working so justice may be wrought upon those who have so savagely attacked us. We must remember our anger can't console us forever. Although justice will be served for this outrage, we must maintain our values and faith, which has made us the nation we are.

It's our common grief that will bring us peace as time presses on. As we seek to rebuild, we remember time heals all wounds. Please join us today in praying for those left behind who have lost family and friends. Please lift up those who work to recover survivors. Please pray for those who work to mete out justice to those who have harmed us.

Although our lives have stopped in many ways, our God's hasn't. We may not have noticed, but his hand was yet at work. As we leave, notice the leaves. As we have changed, so have they. The vibrant colors, which brought joy in past years, bring us solace now.

The leaves change, they will fall and winter will come. As the silence of winter snows blanket our nation, we will grieve. We will sleep, we will eat, and we will rest. Spring will come—flowers will bloom and the leaves, they will return. They will be green, and the laughter of our children will fill our ears. We, the people, will have survived and overcome a tragic loss.