

Sanctity of Human Life Sunday Responsive Reading

O love that will not let us go,

we rest our weary souls in thee,

though we sin, fail, hurt, and destroy,

you will not let us go.

Though we kill, impoverish, steal, rape, abort, and enslave,

you will not let us go.

Though we judge, silence, forget, ignore, and harm,

you will not let us go.

Though we fail to see the sanctity of life every day, in a million ways,

you will not let us go.

O light that follows all our ways,

we yield our flickering torch to thee.

You know the pain that follows those who have had abortions.

Your light follows all our ways.

You know the weight of bearing a child who is unplanned.

Your light follows all our ways.

You know the shock of discovering birth defects and disease.

Your light follows all our ways.

You know the trauma of rape and incest.

Your light follows all our ways.

O joy that seeks us through pain,

we cannot close our hearts to thee.

We lift up political leaders, whose decisions can change our laws.

We cannot close our hearts to thee.

We lift up health care providers, whose care can harm and can save.

We cannot close our hearts to thee.

We lift up congregations, whose grace can rescue and whose judgment can destroy.

We cannot close our hearts to thee.

We lift up sexuality, which can reveal deep vulnerability and belonging, or deep pain.

We cannot close our hearts to thee.

We lift up women, who can find strength and healing in you.

O cross that lifts up our heads,

we dare not ask to fly from thee.

In you we live, move, and have our being.

You lift up our heads.

You are the author of life.

You lift up our heads.

You created us in your very image.

You lift up our heads.

You knit us together in our mother's wombs; we are fearfully and wonderfully made.

You lift up our heads.

All of life is a gift, and all of life is sacred. We offer our lives, our holy and sacred lives, to you.

Amen.