



GREEK ORTHODOX METROPOLIS OF ATLANTA

September 11, 2009

My beloved ones,

*“In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.
And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.”
John 1:4-5*

It seems scarcely possible to me today we observe the eighth anniversary of that dark day, September 11, 2001. For Americans everywhere the day the towers fell was a turning point in history, comparable only to what earlier generations experienced with attacks on Pearl Harbor the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. We all remember it well – it was a day of mourning, and anger and disbelief.

The terrorist attack on America occurred at a time when Orthodox priests were preparing to celebrate the Divine Liturgy, and Orthodox Christians were on their way to church. I myself was in Mount Athos, preparing for the Vigil of the Feast Day of the Virgin. We emerged from our churches on September 11, 2001 to learn of the horrific devastation and loss of life. The world changed on September 11, 2001, never to be the same again.

We still feel the pain.

The reality of such evil and violence is a constant reminder of the need for the love of God in each heart and mind. For only He can provide the strength for the survivors and families of victims of violence, tragedy, disaster and illness. Only He can heal our wounds and make us whole again.

In the Divine Liturgy, we pray for the peace of the whole world. So each of us has the responsibility to pray, and to do whatever we can to make the world safer and more secure. Today we join together to pray that there are no more terrorist attacks. Today we pray for healing in the hearts and minds and souls still broken from the losses of September 11, 2001.

For this reason, I would like for a Trisagion to be conducted on Sunday, September 13, 2009 after the Divine Liturgy in all our parish communities, offering petitions for the servants of God who suffered on 9/11, for those who lost their lives unjustly, and their families and loved ones who still mourn their loss.

We must pray together, so that His light may shine more brightly in this present darkness, illuminating hearts and minds with His grace. I remain,

Paternally yours with love in Christ,

Bishop Alexios

ALEXIOS

Metropolitan of Atlanta