

## HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 6/2/2023

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

Pastor Steve Beckham, a good friend of mine, retired this past Sunday. In addition to being a fine congregational shepherd, Pastor Steve is also a gifted composer of music. At his retirement reception, several of his compositions were performed. I'm going to share one of those with you here, both because of the beauty of this musical prayer and because today is Gun Violence Awareness Day.

### FOR JUST ONE DAY, ONE JUST DAY

(A Prayer)

For just one day may we have peace?  
May anger sleep, may fighting cease?  
May those in bondage know release  
For just one day, one just day?

One just day: a day of rest  
To let the whole world catch its breath  
To search our souls, each in our own way  
For just one day, one just day.

For just one day, no weapon used,  
No one coerced, no one abused,  
No one by hate or anger bruised,  
For just one day, one just day.

One just day: no anguished tears,  
A pause from pain, a rest from fears,  
No hand or voice in anger raised  
For just one day, one just day.

For just one day, no stubborn pride;  
All wounded honor set aside,  
No one pursued or forced to hide,  
For just one day, one just day.

For just one day, let no one cheat  
No theft, no guile, no mean deceit;  
A peaceful trust for all who meet,  
For just one day, one just day.

One just day: a day of rest  
To let the whole world catch its breath,  
To search our souls, each in our own way  
For just one day, one just day.

One just day, no spin, no skew,  
When every word we hear is true.

And if somehow we see this through,  
For just one day, one just day,  
One Just Day, can we do two?

In CHRIST'S love,  
Pastor Jeffrey