

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR AN ELECTION

Monday, November 7, 2022 ♦ 7:00 PM

“The human heart is the first home of democracy. It is where we embrace our questions. Can we be equitable? Can we be generous? Can we listen with our whole beings...and offer our attention rather than our opinions? And do we have enough resolve in our hearts to act courageously, relentlessly, without giving up...trusting our fellow citizens to join with us in our determined pursuit of a living democracy.”

TERRY TEMPEST WILLIAMS

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT, WELCOME & OPENING REFLECTION

The Rev. Steven L. Thomason,
Dean, Saint Mark's Cathedral



After each prayer is offered, a singing bowl is toned to hold space for silent prayer.

A PRAYER FOR ELECTIONS AT THE NATIONAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LEVEL

ALMIGHTY GOD, give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will. Guide the people of the United States, this state, and our communities in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; we ask this in your name. Amen.

PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Rabbi Daniel Weiner, *Temple DeHirsch Sinai*

GOD OF HOLINESS, we hear Your message: *Justice, justice you shall pursue.* God of freedom, we hear Your charge: *Proclaim liberty throughout the land.* Inspire us through Your teachings and commandments to love and uphold our precious democracy. Let every citizen take responsibility for the rights and freedoms we cherish. Let each of us be an advocate for justice, an activist for liberty, a defender of dignity. And let us champion the values that make our nation a haven for the persecuted, a beacon of hope among the nations.

May our actions reflect compassion for all people, within our borders and abroad. May our leaders and officials embody the vision of our founders: *to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity.*

We pray for courage and conscience as we aim to support our country's highest values and aspirations: the hard-won rights that define us as a people, the responsibilities that they entail.

We pray for all who serve our country with selfless devotion — in peace and in war, from fields of battle to clinics and classrooms, from government to the grassroots: all those whose noble deeds and sacrifice benefit our nation and our world.

We are grateful for the rights of *Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness* that our founders ascribed to You, our Creator. We pray for their wisdom and moral strength, that we may be guardians of these rights for ourselves and for the sake of all people, now and forever. Amen.

A PRAYER FOR ALL PERSONS

Ms. Elise De Goover, *Faith Action Network*

KEEP WATCH, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, O God; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.

REFLECTION

Abbott Genjo Marinello, *Chobo-ji Zen Temple*

ZEN BUDDHISTS say there is a reality even prior to heaven and earth. Incomparably profound and minutely subtle, it has no form, let alone a name. Inspired by this intimate infinity we make a vow to care for all beings great and small, animate and inanimate. May we take this moment to open and root our heart-minds in mother earth, so that we may collectively care for this very troubled world.



A WORD OF HOPE & PRAYER FOR HEALING THE HUMAN HEART

Pastor Carey Anderson, *First AME Church*

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace. Amen.

CONVERSATION

Ms. Emily Meeks, *Saint Mark's Cathedral*

Parker Palmer's Habits of the Heart

1. *An understanding that we are all in this together. We are interconnected and interdependent.*
2. *An appreciation of the value of "otherness." The dualism of "us versus them" is a dead-end.*
3. *An ability to hold tension in life-giving ways. Contradiction, paradox and mystery are important meaning-markers in our broken and imperfect lives.*
4. *A sense of personal voice and agency.*
5. *A capacity to create community.*

*from Healing the Heart of Democracy:
The Courage to Create a Politics Worthy of the Human Spirit (2011)*



POEM

I Worried, by Mary Oliver

The Rev. Beth Chronister, *University Unitarian Church*

IWORRIED a lot. Will the garden grow, will the rivers
flow in the right direction, will the earth turn
as it was taught, and if not how shall
I correct it?
Was I right, was I wrong, will I be forgiven,
can I do better?
Will I ever be able to sing, even the sparrows
can do it and I am, well,

hopeless.
Is my eyesight fading or am I just imagining it,
am I going to get rheumatism,
lockjaw, dementia?
Finally I saw that worrying had come to nothing.
And I gave it up. And took my old body
and went out into the morning,
and sang.

A PRAYER FOR OUR WORK FOR THE COMMON GOOD

HOLY ONE, you show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of all those whom we serve, and always to your glory. Amen.

A READING FROM CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURE *Philippians 4:4-9* Mr. Michael Ramos, *Church Council Greater Seattle*

REJOICE in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO SUFFER FOR THE SAKE OF CONSCIENCE

GRACIOUS GOD, strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask in your holy name. Amen.

A READING FROM THE QUR'AN

Imam Jamal Rahman, *Interfaith Community Sanctuary*

WE BEGIN in the Name of God,
Everlasting Mercy, Infinite Compassion.
Praise be to God, Loving Lord of all the worlds.
Everlasting Mercy, Infinite Compassion.
Eternal Strength of every living being,
Whose Majestic Power embraces us on the day of the great return.
Only You do we adore, and to You alone do we cry for help.
Guide us, O God, on the path of Perfect Harmony,
the path of those whom You have blessed with the gifts of Peace, Joy, Serenity
and Delight,
the path of those who are not brought down by anger,
the path of those who are not lost along the way.
Amin
So be it.

١ مِى حَرَلْ اَنْ مَحْرَلْ اَلَلْ اَمَسَب
٢ نِى مَلْعَلْ اَبَرَهَلْ دَمَحَلْ ا
٣ مِى حَرَلْ ا
٤ نِى دَلْ اَمَوَى كَلَمِى
٥ مِى قَتَسْ اَطْرَصَلْ اَنْ دَهْ ا
٦ رِى غَمَهَى لَعْتَمَحْنِ اَنْ دَلْ اَطْرَص
نِى لْ اَضَلْ اَلْوَمَهَى لَعْبُ وُضْعَمَلْ ا

(Trans. Imam Bilal Hyde)

PRAYER FOR EVERY HUMAN HEART

MAY WE open our minds to an inner spaciousness that embraces all
May we cleanse and polish our hearts so that Divinity is reflected in us
May we engage our hands and feet in service to God's creation
May we "be a lamp, or a lifeboat, or a ladder."

EXCHANGE OF PEACE/SHALOM/SALAAM

You are invited to stand and share a sign of peace with your neighbors, respecting others' desires for distance to be maintained.

Ways to exchange a sign of peace include: a handshake, a bow, folding your hands and saying "peace be with you", etc.

After the exchange of peace, all are invited to remain standing and sing the following hymn.

HYMN

How beautiful, our spacious skies ♦ sung by all, standing

TUNE: *Materna*

How beau - ti - ful, our spa - cious skies, our am - ber waves of grain,
In - di - ge - nous and im - mi - grant, our daugh - ters and our sons:
How beau - ti - ful, sin - cere la - ment, the wis - dom born of tears,
our pur - ple moun - tains as they rise a - bove the fruit - ful plain.
O may we nev - er rest con - tent till all are tru - ly one.
the cour - age called for to re - pent the blood - shed through the years.
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God's gra - cious gifts a - bound,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God grant that we may be
and more and more we're grate - ful for life's boun - ty all a - round.
a sis - ter - hood and bro - ther - hood from sea to shin - ing sea.
a na - tion blessed, with none op - pressed, true land of li - ber - ty.

WORDS: Miriam Therese Winter (b. 1938), © Medical Mission Sisters, 1993, reprinted by permission; MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward (1848–1903), public domain.

CONCLUDING PRAYER AND BLESSING

Fr. Michael G. Ryan, *St. James Cathedral*

CANDLE-LIGHTING AND LEAVE-TAKING

Leaders will assist the assembly in lighting your handheld candles. To share your candle light with a neighbor, keep your lit candle upright to allow your neighbor to angle their unlit candle wick to your flame. After all candles have been lit and the lights are dimmed, you are invited to depart the cathedral, bringing the candle with you as a reminder to be a light of hope in the world. The cathedral will remain open for a half hour after the service concludes.

SAINT MARK'S EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

1245 Tenth Avenue East, Seattle WA 98012 ♦ 206-323-0300 ♦ WWW.SAINTMARKS.ORG