

UNITED WE STAND

AN INTERRELIGIOUS PRAYER VIGIL ON THE EVE OF ELECTIONS

Monday, November 4, 2024 ♦ 7:00 PM

*Please feel free to light a candle as a prayerful action anytime during the evening.
Sand bowls are located beside both rear columns.*

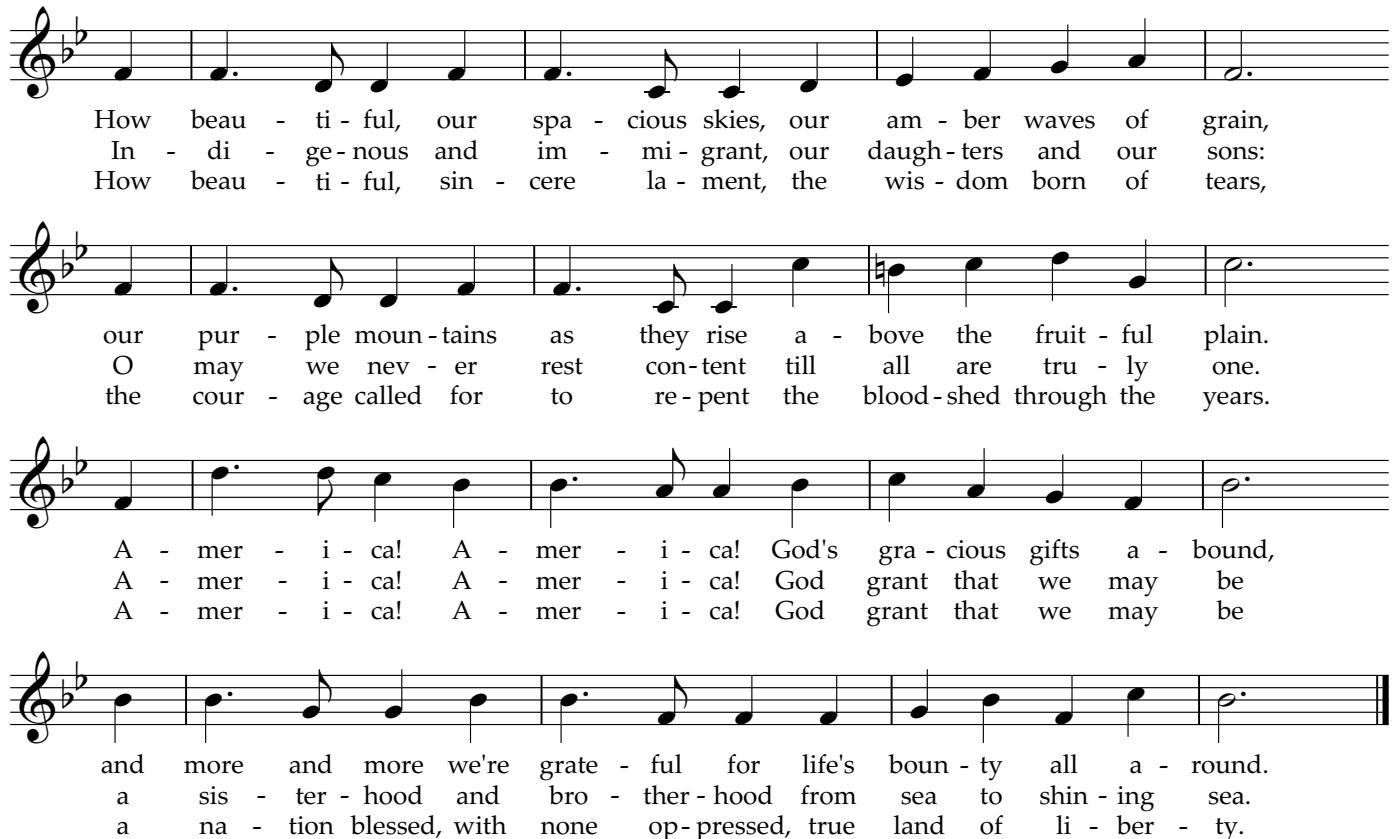
WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The Very Rev. Steven L. Thomason
Dean of Saint Mark's Episcopal Cathedral

HYMN

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

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, permission to reprint requested;
MUSIC: Samuel Augustus Ward (1848-1903), public domain.

CALL TO PRAYER

The Rt. Rev. Philip N. LaBelle
Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

VIGIL OF PRAYER

*A reader reads a passage from foundational documents and leaders; then another voice leads a prayer.
After each reading & prayer, there is an interlude of silence or music.*

READING from the Declaration of Independence

The Rev. Beth Chronister
Minister, University Unitarian Church

WE HOLD these truths to be self-evident, that all people are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among peoples, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.

PRAYER A Prayer for our Nation

Rabbi Daniel Weiner
Senior Rabbi, Temple De Hirsch Sinai

Silence & stillness

READING Abraham Lincoln, from the first inaugural address (March 4, 1861)

The Rev. Dr. Michael Trice
Founding Director, Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement, Seattle University

THIS country, with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it.... Why should there not be a patient confidence in the ultimate justice of the people? Is there any better or equal hope in the world? ...

We are not enemies, but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection. The mystic chords of memory, stretching from every battlefield and patriot grave to every living heart and hearthstone all over this broad land, will yet swell the chorus of the Union, when again touched, as surely they will be, by the better angels of our nature.

PRAYER A Prayer for Healing

Bishop Shelley Bryan Wee
Bishop of the NW Washington Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church of America

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.*

Silence & stillness

THIS is what should be done
 By one who is skilled in goodness,
 And who knows the path of peace:
 Let them be able and upright,
 Straightforward and gentle in speech,
 Humble and not conceited,
 Contented and easily satisfied,
 Unburdened with duties and frugal in their ways.
 Peaceful and calm and wise and skillful,
 Not proud or demanding in nature.
 Let them not do the slightest thing
 That the wise would later reprove.
 Wishing: In gladness and in safety,
 May all beings be at ease.
 Whatever living beings there may be;
 Whether they are weak or strong, omitting none,
 The great or the mighty, medium, short or small,
 The seen and the unseen,
 Those living near and far away,
 Those born and to-be-born —
 May all beings be at ease!
 Let none deceive another,
 Or despise any being in any state.
 Let none through anger or ill-will
 Wish harm upon another.
 Even as a mother protects with her life
 Her child, her only child,
 So with a boundless heart
 Should one cherish all living beings;
 Radiating kindness over the entire world:
 Spreading upwards to the skies,
 And downwards to the depths;
 Outwards and unbounded,
 Freed from hatred and ill-will.
 Whether standing or walking, seated or lying down
 Free from drowsiness,
 One should sustain this recollection.
 This is said to be the sublime abiding.
 By not holding to fixed views,
 The pure-hearted one, having clarity of vision,
 Being freed from all sense desires,
 Is not born again into this world. ♦

READING

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., from *I have a dream* (August 28, 1963)

The Rev. Dr. Carey G. Anderson
Senior Minister, First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Seattle

AMERICA is essentially a dream. It is a dream of a land where people of all races, of all nationalities, and of all creeds, can live together as brothers and sisters. The substance of the dream is expressed in these sublime words, “We hold these truths to be self-evident that all people are created equal...”

Notice that at the center of this dream is an amazing universalism. It does not say some people, but it says all people. It does not say all white people, but it says all people, which includes black people. It does not say all Gentiles, but it says all people, which includes Jews. It does not say all Protestants, but it says all people, which includes Catholics.... It says that each individual has certain inherent rights that are neither derived from or conferred by the state. They are gifts from the hands of the almighty God.

PRAYER

A Prayer for Those Who Suffer for the Sake of Conscience

Hannah Hochkeppel
Paths to Understanding

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.*

Silence & stillness

READING

Eleanor Roosevelt, from *Tomorrow Is Now* (1963)

Mahrukh Motafram
*Trustee, Parliament of the World's Religions
 past board member, Zoroastrian Society of Washington State*

IT IS my conviction that ... every bad situation is a result of apathy, of lack of planning, of individuals who think, “After all, it’s not my business.”

Of course, it is our business, yours and mine. This is our country, our government. These are our representatives. These are our laws. ... The picture of a nation is the sum of the images of all its people; foreign policy embodies all our voices and choices. When we don’t like it, we must do something about it. ... Sometimes through apathy we allow demagogues in different parts of the nation to lead us by the nose temporarily because we do not realize that self-government requires self-examination, action by the individual, standards, values, and the strength to live up them.

PRAYER

A Prayer for Elections at the National, State, and Local Level

Sofia Sayabalian

Center for Ecumenical and Interreligious Engagement, Seattle University

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.*

Silence & stillness

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

READING FROM THE QUR'AN & PRAYER

Imam Jamal Rahman

Co-founder & Imam, Interfaith Community Sanctuary

١ بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 ٢ الْحَمْدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ الْعَالَمِينَ
 ٣ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
 ٤ مَلِكِ يَوْمِ الدِّينِ
 ٥ إِيَّاكَ نَعْبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسْتَعِينُ
 ٦ أَهْدِنَا الصِّرَاطَ الْمُسْتَقِيمَ
 صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنْعَمْتَ عَلَيْهِمْ غَيْرِ
 ٧ الْمَغْضُوبِ عَلَيْهِمْ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ
 آمين

WE BEGIN in the Name of God,
Everlasting Mercy, Infinite Compassion.

- 2 Praise be to God, Loving Lord of all the worlds.
- 3 Everlasting Mercy, Infinite Compassion.
- 4 Eternal Strength of every living being,
Whose Majestic Power embraces us
on the day of the great return.
- 5 Only You do we adore, and to You alone do we cry for help.
- 6 Guide us, O God, on the path of Perfect Harmony,
- 7 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.

—*Al-Fatiha* (Qur'an 1:1-7)
translation by Imam Bilal Hyde

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.

HYMN

Lift every voice and sing ♦ sung by all, standing as able

WORDS: James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938)

MUSIC: J. Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954)

1. Lift ev - ery voice and sing till earth and hea - ven ring,
 2. Ston - y the road we trod, bit - ter the chas - tening rod,
 3. God of our wear - y years, God of our si - lent tears,

ring with the har - mo - nies of li - ber - ty.
 felt in the days when hope un - born had died;
 thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;

Let our re - joic - ing rise high as the lis - tening skies;
 yet, with a stead - y beat, have not our wear - y feet
 thou who hast by thy might led us in - to the light;

let it re - sound loud as the roll - ing sea.
 come to the place for which our pa - rents sighed?
 keep us for ev - er in the path, we pray.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
 We have come o - ver a way that with tears has been wa - tered;
 Lest our feet stray from the plac - es, our God, where we met thee;

sing a song full of the hope that the pre - sent has brought us;
 we have come, tread - ing our path through the blood of the slaugh - tered,
 lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we for - get thee;

fac - ing the ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun,
 out from the gloom - y past, till now we stand at last
 sha - dowed be - neath thy hand may we for ev - er stand,

let us march on, till vic - to - ry is won.
 where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.
 true to our God, true to our na - tive land.

WORDS & MUSIC: public domain

CONCLUDING PRAYER & BLESSING

Father Michael G. Ryan
 Pastor, St. James Cathedral



SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

1245 Tenth Avenue East
Seattle, WA 98102

206-323-0300

WWW.SAINTMARKS.ORG