SAINT MARK'S
EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

PRE-ELECTION INTERFAITH VIGIL

FOR UNITY AND PEACE

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 ◆ 7:00 PM

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

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

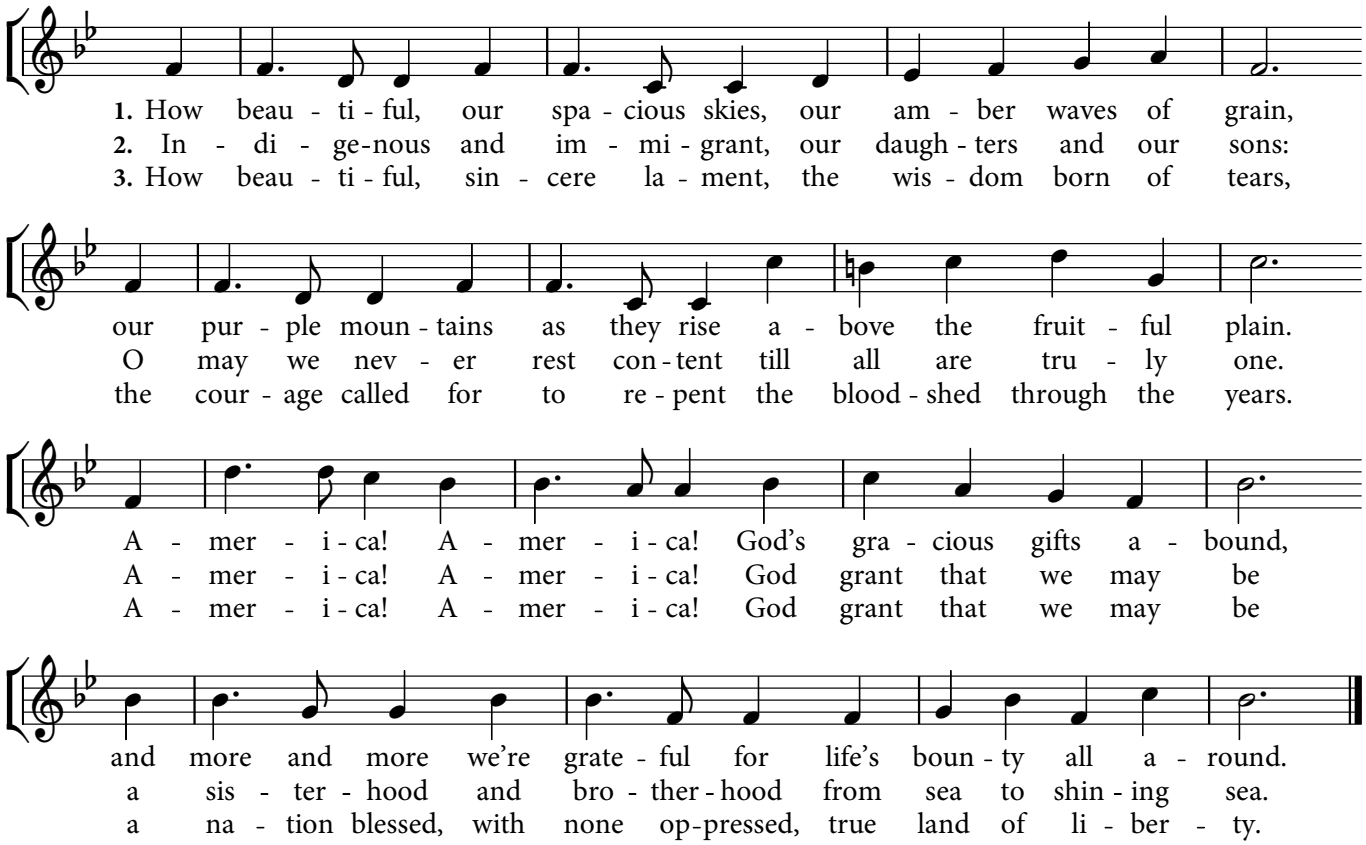
A READING FROM THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

Edwin Ferrera, DMin
Director of Hispanic Ministry,
Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

Sostenemos como evidentes estas verdades: que todos son creados iguales; que son dotados por su Creador de ciertos derechos inalienables; que entre éstos están la vida, la libertad y la búsqueda de la felicidad; que para garantizar estos derechos se instituyen entre los hombres los gobiernos, que derivan sus poderes legítimos del consentimiento de los gobernados; que cuando quiera que una forma de gobierno se haga destructora de estos principios, el pueblo tiene el derecho a reformarla o abolirla e instituir un nuevo gobierno que se funde en dichos principios, y a organizar sus poderes en la forma que a su juicio ofrecerá las mayores probabilidades de alcanzar su seguridad y felicidad.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men 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 Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness.

HYMN *How beautiful, our spacious skies ◆ sung by all, standing as able* TUNE: *Materna*



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CALL TO PRAYER

Archbishop Paul D. Etienne
Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle

A READING FROM ABRAHAM LINCOLN

The Rev. Dr. Kara Markell
Assistant Director,
Center for Ecumenical & Interreligious Engagement, Seattle University

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? In our present differences, is either party without faith of being in the right? If the Almighty Ruler of Nations, with His eternal truth and justice, be on your side of the North, or on yours of the South, that truth and that justice will surely prevail by the judgment of this great tribunal of the American people.

By the frame of the Government under which we live this same people have wisely given their public servants but little power for mischief, and have with equal wisdom provided for the return of that little to their own hands at very short intervals. While the people retain their virtue and vigilance no Administration by any extreme of wickedness or folly can very seriously injure the Government in the short space of four years.

My countrymen, one and all, think calmly and well upon this whole subject.

—from The First Inaugural Address, March 4, 1861

A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Rabbi Daniel Weiner
Senior Rabbi, Temple De Hirsch Sinai

SILENCE & STILLNESS

For quiet reflection:

How do I witness to truth and justice?
What wells do I draw from for virtue and vigilance?



A READING FROM ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

Sebrina Somers
Member, Seattle Bahá'í Community

NEVER before was it so important that every individual should carry his share of responsibility and see that we obey the laws, live up to the Constitution, and preserve every one of those precious liberties which leave us free as individuals. One of the things to which we have to be particularly alert today is the growth of religious prejudice and race prejudice. Those are two things which are a great menace, for we find that in countries where civil liberties have been lost both religious and race prejudice have been rampant...

In addition to that, I think we should begin much earlier to teach all the children of our nation what a wonderful heritage of freedom they have–of freedom from prejudice–because they live in a nation which is made up of a great variety of other nations. They have before them and around them every day the proof that people can understand each other and can live together amicably, and that races can live on an equal basis even though they may be very different in background, very different in culture. We have an opportunity to teach our children how much we have gained from the coming to this land of all kinds of races, of how much this has served in the development of the land.

—from the Address to the Chicago Civil Liberties Committee, March 14, 1940

A PRAYER FOR IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

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

God of mercy, God of justice, God of love, you sheltered Abraham and Sarah in their journeys, you saved Hagar and Ishmael, you protected Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus as they fled from a violent ruler.

Today, O God, we cry out for our immigrant and refugee siblings. Those who fled violence, persecution, poverty, and war. Those who crossed borders seeking safety, opportunity, and hope. Those who have lived in this country for a short time – still living with the fear that comes from entering a new land. Those who have lived here for decades – who have raised families and worked and contributed to this land, who live in fear they might be torn away from their families. We pray for all parents, children, those in detention centers, those denied due process, those deported, those who have disappeared, and those who have died.

God, protect them. Surround them with your presence. Let them know they are not forgotten, that they are not alone, that their lives are precious, and that no government, no border, no document, and no act of cruelty can diminish their sacred worth as your beloved children.

On the eve of this election, we pray for all whose lives and futures will be shaped by its outcome, including the many immigrants and refugees who have no vote and yet bear the consequences of decisions made. We pray for free and fair elections, for leaders who honor human dignity, and for a democracy in which the rights and humanity of all people are protected, regardless of citizenship or status.

Strengthen all who are organizing, advocating, protecting, and refusing to surrender hope. Bless their courage, their resilience, and their love. May those who have the privilege of voting remember those who cannot. And may all of us work for a just world where all belong. In God's Holy Name. Amen.

SILENCE & STILLNESS

For quiet reflection:

How can I honor the gifts and dignity of all people?
How can I help to build a world that is free from fear?



A READING FROM DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

The Rev. Canon Carla Robinson
Canon for Multicultural Ministries & Community Transformation, Episcopal Diocese of Olympia

We can no longer afford to worship the god of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. And history is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate.

We are now faced, my friends, with the fierce urgency of now. In this unfolding conundrum of life and history, there is such a thing as being too late. Procrastination is still the thief of time. Life often leaves us standing bare, naked, and dejected with a lost opportunity. The tide in the affairs of people does not remain at flood—it ebbs. We may cry out desperately for time to pause in her passage, but time is adamant to every plea and rushes on. Over the bleached bones and jumbled residues of numerous civilizations are written the pathetic words, "Too late."

We still have a choice today: nonviolent coexistence or violent coannihilation. We must move past indecision to action. We must find new ways to speak for peace and justice throughout the developing world, a world that borders on our doors. If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.

Now let us begin. Now let us rededicate ourselves to the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world. This is the calling of the children of God, and our brothers and sisters wait eagerly for our response…. If we will but make the right choice, we will be able to speed up the day, all over America and all over the world, when "justice will roll down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream."

—from "Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break Silence", April 4, 1967

A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Genjo Marinello
Chobo-ji Zen Temple

Dear ones, in order to be at peace with troubling circumstances and capable of loving action in the midst of a storm, the Zen tradition offers the following form of contemplative prayer:

Sit, breathe, and listen. In our seats, plant your tailbone like a taproot deep into the center of Mother Earth and beyond. Erect your spine like an antenna to the heavens. Rest in your center of gravity, which is at the nexus between heaven and earth. Breathe slow, gentle, whole breaths, extending your exhalation until it is complete but not forced. Allow your inhalation to be slow and natural. Listen on all channels of perception to the symphony of now, letting all thoughts, feelings, and sensations come and go. And as we sit, breathe, and witness this moment of eternity together, may we gently watch for the silence, stillness, and quiet power that is imbued within and between each note. In this background and omnipresent stillness, we are being held, nurtured, restored, and even healed to the best of our bodies' ability. As our heart-minds open more as one, with each other, with our environment, and with the background intimate, infinite stillness, may we join with all other open and well-rooted heart-minds around the globe to embrace our very troubled world and our own personal journeys of trials and tribulations, joys, and sorrows with a gentle, loving, persistent presence.

SILENCE & STILLNESS

For quiet reflection:

How am I speaking for peace and justice?
How am I embodying peace and justice?



A READING FROM DOROTHY DAY

Father Gary Lazzeroni
Pastor of St. James Cathedral

WHAT we would like to do is change the world–make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, the poor, of the destitute–the rights of the worthy and the unworthy poor, in other words–we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend.

—from "Love is the Measure," June 1, 1946

A PRAYER FOR HOPE

Pastor Carey Anderson
Senior Pastor, First African Methodist Episcopal Church of Seattle

SILENCE AND STILLNESS

For quiet reflection:

How is my love being expressed in action?
How can I be a sign of hope to others?



A READING FROM THE QUR'AN & PRAYER

Imam Jamal Rahman
Co-founder & Imam, Interfaith Community Sanctuary

بِسۡمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ ١
ٱلۡحَمۡدُ لِلَّهِ رَبِّ ٱلۡعَٰلَمِينَ ٢
ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ ٣
مَٰلِكِ يَوۡمِ ٱلدِّينِ ٤
إِيَّاكَ نَعۡبُدُ وَإِيَّاكَ نَسۡتَعِينُ ٥
ٱهۡدِنَا ٱلصِّرَٰطَ ٱلۡمُسۡتَقِيمَ ٦
صِرَاطَ الَّذِينَ أَنۡعَمۡتَ عَلَيۡهِمۡ غَيۡرِ
الۡمَغۡضُوبِ عَلَيۡهِمۡ وَلَا الضَّالِّينَ ٧
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.

CONCLUDING PRAYER & BLESSING

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

HYMN *Make me a channel of your peace* ◆ *sung by all, standing as able* TUNE: *Temple*



WORDS: Francis of Assisi (1181-1226);
MUSIC: Sebastian Temple (1928-1997), © 1967 OCP Publications,

CANDLE LIGHTING

As you leave, you are invited to light a candle as a prayerful action. Sand bowls are located beside both rear columns.

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