

# Election Day Prayer Guide

*You are invited to use your time in the sanctuary to pray in whatever form or fashion allows you both to talk to and to listen to God. If you would like some help focusing your attention, feel free to use this Guide to prompt your prayers.*

## Scripture for Meditation

Psalm 23

Psalm 33

Psalm 146:1-10

Joshua 24:14-18

Jeremiah 29:7

Matthew 5:43-48

Matthew 11:15-22

Matthew 22:34-40

John 13:31-35

Romans 12:1-21

Romans 13:1-7

Galatians 5:16-26

Ephesians 2:12-22

Ephesians 4:1-6

James 3:4-18

1 John 4:7-21

## Hymns for Meditation

#331 God of the Ages, Whose Almighty Hand

#341 O God Show Mercy (Psalm 67)

#336 We Gather Together

#337 My Country 'Tis of Thee

#338 O Beautiful for Spacious Skies

#340 This Is My Song

#345 In an Age of Twisted Values

#346 For the Healing of the Nations

## Prayers written by others:

**Prayer for the Nation** - from *the Book of Common Worship PC(USA)*

Almighty God, ruler of all the peoples of the earth, forgive, we pray, our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love truth; give wisdom to our counselors and steadfastness to our people; and bring us at last to the fair city of peace, whose foundations are mercy, justice, and goodwill, and whose builder and maker you are; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer for our Country** - from *The Book of Common Worship PC(USA)*

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honest industry, sound learning, and an honorable way of life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Make us who come from many nations with many different languages a united people. Defend our liberties and give those whom we have entrusted with the authority of government the spirit of wisdom, that there might be justice and peace in our land. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and, in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer At the Time of an Election** - from *The Book of Common Worship PC(USA)*

Under your law we live, great God, and by your will we govern ourselves. Help us as good citizens to respect neighbors whose views differ from ours, so that without partisan anger, we may work out issues that divide us, and elect candidates to serve the common welfare; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer During a National Crisis** - from *The Book of Common Worship PC(USA)*

God of ages, in your sight nations rise and fall, and pass through times of peril. Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save. May leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search your will and see it clearly. If we have turned from your way, help us to reverse our ways and repent. Give us your light and your truth to guide us; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.

### **Prayer for the Election** - by Joanna Harader, author of the “Spacious Faith” blog

God of justice and compassion,  
God of Republicans and Democrats and independents,  
God of the poor and the 1% and the middle class,  
In the heart of this election year we pray for our nation, our churches, and ourselves.  
In the midst of meanness and deception, may our words be kind and true.  
In the midst of loud speeches and harsh accusations, may we listen well and try to understand.  
May those who follow Jesus do the work of Jesus -  
Breaking down the dividing walls  
Speaking the truth in love  
Meeting together in the face of disagreements.  
Holy, loving God, have mercy on your children. Amen.

### **Prayer Prompts and Ideas:**

Pray for:

- Our local School board elections and our schools
- Our County council elections
- Our State level elections
- Our Federal level elections
- The Presidential Election
- Those who are angry

- Those who are complacent
- The Candidates at every level
- That the results of this election will result in good – the common good.
- Wisdom and love as I respond to those who voted differently from me
- Humility and Trust – no matter the outcome
- Guidance in how I may make our community and nation a better place.
- That we may know and serve the common good of all in our community and nation.

### Quotations for thought:

“Though we cannot think alike, may we not love alike? May we not be of one heart, though we are not of one opinion? Without all doubt, we may. Herein all the children of God may unite, notwithstanding these smaller differences.”

– John Wesley

October 6, 1774

I met those of our society who had votes in the ensuing election, and advised them

1. To vote, without fee or reward, for the person they judged most worthy
2. To speak no evil of the person they voted against, and
3. To take care their spirits were not sharpened against those that voted on the other side.”

– John Wesley, The Journal of John Wesley

### Anyway

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self centered;  
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives;  
Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies;  
Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;  
Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;  
Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;  
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;  
Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;  
Give the world the best you've got anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and your God;  
It was never between you and them anyway.

[Reportedly inscribed on the wall of Mother Teresa's children's home in Calcutta, and attributed to her. However, [an article in the New York Times](#) has since reported (March 8, 2002) that the original version of this poem was written by [Kent M. Keith](#).]

## **Power Versus Love**

There are always two worlds. The world as it operates is largely about power; the world as it should be, or the Reign of God, is always about love. Conversion is almost entirely about moving from one world to the next, and yet having to live in both worlds at the same time. As you allow yourself to loosen your grip on the ego or bad forms of power, you will gradually see the inadequacy and weakness of mere domination and control god will then teach you how to tighten your grip around the second world, which is the ever-purer motivation of love.

Any exercise of power apart from love leads to brutality and evil; but any claim to love that does not lead to using power for others is mere sentimentality and emotion. I must admit, it is rare to find people who hold both together in perfect balance - who have found their power and use it for others or people who have found love and use it for good purposes. I think the Reign of God includes both love and power in a lovely dance.

I think that it is what Jesus means when he tells us to be “cunning as serpents but gentle as doves” (Matthew 10:16). It is a beautiful combination of both authority and vulnerability.

Fr. Richard Rohr - adapted from *Jesus' Plan for a New World: The Sermon on the Mount*, p. 41.

## **Loving Humility**

At some thoughts one stands perplexed - especially at the sight of people's sin - and wonders whether one should use force or humble love. Always decide to use humble love. If you resolve on that, once and for all, you may subdue the whole world. Loving humility is marvelously strong, the strongest of all things, and there is nothing else like it.

Fyodor Dostoevsky from *The Brothers Karamazov*

## ***The Peace Prayer of Saint Francis***

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
Where there is error, truth;  
Where there is injury, pardon;  
Where there is doubt, faith;  
Where there is despair, hope;  
Where there is darkness, light;

And where there is sadness, joy.  
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek  
To be consoled as to console;  
To be understood as to understand;  
To be loved as to love.  
For it is in giving that we receive;  
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
It is in self-forgetting that we find;  
And it is in dying to ourselves that we are born to eternal life.  
Amen.

*Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226)*

*Saint Francis of Assisi (1182-1226) We do not know the author of this classic prayer, and it was not until the 1920s that it was even ascribed to Saint Francis. By one account the prayer was found in 1915 in Normandy, written on the back of a card of Saint Francis. But it certainly emulates his longing to be an instrument of peace, reconciliation and redemption in our fallen world.*