

Prayers for Peace Post-Election November 14, 2024 [Led by The Rev. Mary Blessing]

Opening: *God's power, working in us, does more than we imagine: Glory to God!*

Prayer: Creating God, your reign of love makes all things new: Plant seeds of confidence and gladness in our hearts so that, trusting in your word, we may live no longer for ourselves but for him who died and was raised for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Praise: The Song of Simeon (*Nunc dimittis*; Luke 2:29-32)

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised;

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,

Whom you have prepared for all the world to see:

A Light to enlighten the nations,

And the glory of your people Israel.

Scripture: Romans 8:34-39 [Read by Joanna Shreve]

Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written,

‘For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered.’

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Reflection: Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Letter from Prison* [Read by Bill Shreve]

“I discovered later, and am still discovering right up to this moment, that it is only by living completely in this world that one learns to have faith. . . . One must completely abandon any attempt to make something of oneself, whether it be a saint, or a converted sinner, or a churchman (a so-called priestly type), a righteous man or an unrighteous one, a sick man or a healthy one. By ‘this-worldliness’ I mean living unreservedly in life’s duties, problems, successes and failures, experiences and perplexities. In so doing we throw ourselves completely into the arms of God, taking seriously not our own sufferings, but those of God in the world—watching Christ in Gethsemane. That, I think, is faith, that is repentance, and that is how one becomes a person and a Christian. How can success make us arrogant, or failure lead us astray when we share in God’s sufferings through a life of this kind? . . . **May God in his mercy lead us through these times, but above all, may he lead us to himself**”.

From Eric Mataxas’ Book Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy, p.484

<https://vbs.lifeway.com/2011/03/31/bonhoeffer-where-faith-and-life-connect/>

How does this scripture or this reflection speak to you today? [Facilitated by Rev. Mary Blessing]

Prayers: [Deacon Kathey Crowe]

Adapted from Prayers of the People for an Election

By Rev. Shannon Kelly, Director Department of Faith Formation, The Episcopal Church

Loving God, creator of this world who is the source of wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of change. May reaction, resistance, joy and celebration be peaceful and free from violence. God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love.***

Guide us through this transition as a nation, state, and community. May those who have been elected work on our behalf and on the behalf of our communities for the highest good of all beings. God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love.***

Help us create communities that will build your kingdom here on earth – communities that will protect the poor, stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for those who are not seen and heard, and listen to everyone’s voice. God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love.***

We invite you to add particular intercessions or thanksgivings, silently or aloud. *[Allow time for responses]*
God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love***

We pray for this nation that is deeply divided. May we come together for the common good and do as you have called us to do – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation. God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love.***

Lord, continue to guide us as we work for the welfare of this world. We pray for places that are torn by violence, that they may know peace. God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love.***

We pray for communities who are struggling with inequality, unrest, and fear. May we all work toward reconciliation with one another and with God. God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love.***

Help us to listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world. God, our creator, ***Guide us in truth and love.***

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Prayer that Jesus Taught Us [Said in the Language/Translation of your choosing] [Deacon Kathey Lead]

Collect for the Nation: [Rev. Mary Blessing]

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. ***Amen.***

Going Out: [Deacon Kathey] God’s power, working in us, does more than we imagine: ***Glory to God!***