

Prayers for Peace Post-Election

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: Psalm 46

God is our refuge and strength, ♦

a very present help in trouble;

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, ♦

and though the mountains tremble in the heart of the sea;

Though the waters rage and swell, ♦

and though the mountains quake at the towering seas.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, ♦

the holy place of the dwelling of the Most High.

God is in the midst of her; therefore shall she not be removed; ♦

God shall help her at the break of day.

The nations are in uproar and the kingdoms are shaken, ♦

but God utters his voice and the earth shall melt away.

The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Come and behold the works of the Lord, ♦

what destruction he has wrought upon the earth.

He makes wars to cease in all the world; ♦

he shatters the bow and snaps the spear

and burns the chariots in the fire.

'Be still, and know that I am God; ♦

I will be exalted among the nations;

I will be exalted in the earth.'

The Lord of hosts is with us; ♦

the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

Scripture: Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

a time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

a time to tear, and a time to sew;

a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;

a time to love, and a time to hate;

a time for war, and a time for peace.

Reflection

Jesus hears us when we call, but he refuses to jump when we push the panic button. We are afraid to rely on that presence and the saving power. In our haste and our anxiety, we tend to rely on what we can see, count, touch, and feel. We forget that such things will pass away. We need, in the words of the old hymn, to “build our hopes on things eternal and hold to God’s unchanging hand.”

+Barbara Harris

How does this scripture or this reflection speak to you today?

Prayers:

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.**

Here, the people may add particular intercessions or thanksgivings.

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

Collect for the Nation:

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