

St. James' Episcopal Church  
A Service of Prayer  
on the Eve of an Election  
November 2, 2020

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Opening Prayer and Comments**

*Jesus said, "You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lampstand where it gives light for everyone in the house. And you, like the lamp, must shed light among your fellow men, so that they may see the good you do, and give glory to your Father in heaven."*  
*Matthew 5:14-16*

**A Litany for an American Election**

**Voice 1:**

Loving God, creator of this world who is our source of our wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of election. Help us to see how our faith informs our principles and actions.

God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.

**Voice 2:**

We give thanks for the right to vote. Help us to hold this privilege and responsibility with the care and awareness it merits, realizing that our vote matters and that it is an act of faith.

God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.

**Voice 1:**

Guide us through this election as a nation, state, and community as we vote for people to do work on our behalf and on the behalf of our communities. Help us to vote for people and ballot initiatives that will better our community and our world so it may reflect the values Christ taught us.

God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.

**Voice 2:**

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.

**Voice 1:**

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.

**Voice 2:**

Help us act out of love, mercy and justice rather than out of arrogance or fear.

God, our creator, guide us in truth and love.

**Voice 1:**

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.

**Voice 2:**

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.

**Voice 1:**

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.

*God our creator, hear our prayers in the midst of our national struggle and bring us to a place where all of our citizens can live in peace, concord, and unity. Amen.*

## **Prayers for the Election**

*Please add your own intentions during the pause after each prayer.*

### **Collect for Social Justice (BCP pg. 823)**

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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Collect For an Election (BCP pg. 822)**

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States 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; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### **Collect For the Nation (BCP pg. 207)**

Lord God Almighty, who has 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 thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

### **Collect For our Country (BCP pg. 820)**

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly ask that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought out of many kindreds and tongues. Give the spirit of wisdom to those whom we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, be ever present to us; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

## **Candle Lighting**

*Please come up to light your candle, symbolizing the light of this nation and of every citizen within. Let the flame of your candle remind you of the difference you can make as a citizen of this country.*

*For those worshipping in your cars,  
please light the candle given to you when you arrived.*

## **Musical Offering: God of All Peoples, Cultures and Nations**

## **Closing Prayer**

## **Dismissal**