

# PRAYER AT THE POLLS

## Welcome to Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church Election Day 2020

Before or after casting your vote today we invite you into our sacred space to hold vigil and pray.

### Interfaith Prayers for the Election 2020

I pray with my vote for a leader of our country and its government, who will carry out their responsibilities honestly and fairly.

I pray with my vote for a leader of our country and its government who understands that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom are achievable not only for the privileged few, but for all of us — citizen, immigrant, and refugee.

I pray with my vote for a leader of our country and its government, who banishes hatred and bigotry forging a common bond across our differences and uplifting the oppressed.

I pray with my vote for a leader who restores and safeguards the ideals and institutions that are the pride of our country that they may be our glory and an abiding influence for good throughout the world.

### A Novena for the Election 2020

#### Pray 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.

### **Pray for every human heart**

**G**rant, 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.

### **Pray for those who influence public opinion**

**A**lmighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Pray for these times of conflict**

**O** God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Pray for guidance**

**O** God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### **Pray for direction from God**

**D**irect us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Pray for discernment**

**O** Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### Pray for the election

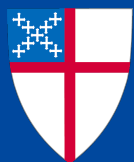
**A**lmighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Pray for our own work for the common good

**A**lmighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## The Great Litany

**L**ord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Lord, keep this nation under your care. To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. Give grace to your servants, O Lord. To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations. Give grace to your servants, O Lord. To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served. Give grace to your servants, O Lord. And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. **Amen.**



# PRAYER AT THE POLLS

T w e n t y   M i n u t e   S e r v i c e   f o r

## JUSTICE | PEACE | UNITY

Tuesday November 3, 2020

9:00 AM and 6:00 PM

[CLICK TO JOIN: http://bit.ly/prayerpolls](http://bit.ly/prayerpolls)

### INVOCATION

Let us join together to pray for our common life,  
and for the justice, peace, and prosperity of the nation.

### PSALM 119:89-96

Dear God, your eternal word of love  
endures for ever in the universe.

Your truth stands fast from one generation to another.

You have laid the foundations of the earth, and it abides.

In fulfillment of your purpose it continues to this very day,  
for all things serve you.

If my delight had not been in your wisdom,

I should have perished in my trouble.

I shall never forget your truths,  
for with them you have given me life.

I belong to you: save me;

for I have sought your counsel.

The ungodly laid wait for me to destroy me,  
but I will meditate on your law.

I see that all things come to an end,

but your commandment is exceeding broad.

## READING

*2 Chronicles 7:14*

**I**f my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

## A LITANY FOR OUR ELECTION

Let us now pray for our nation in this election season, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

God of peace and gentleness,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the strength of heart and mind to look beyond ourselves and address the needs of our siblings throughout the world; for the rural and urban poor; for the rebuilding of our communities; and for an end to the cycles of violence that threaten our future.

God of generosity and compassion,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

God of liberty and freedom,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

God of all gifts and blessings,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for an end to prejudice throughout our country and the world; that we will respect all people as precious children of God; and that racism, sexism, and all other forms of discrimination will be forever banished from our hearts, our society, and our laws.

God of fellowship and equality,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for a reverence of creation; that we will have the tools and the will to conserve it; that we will use its bountiful resources in the service of others; and that we will become better stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

God of nature and the universe,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all immigrants, refugees, and pilgrims from around the world, that they may be welcomed in our midst and be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

God of outcasts and wanderers,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the sick, the aged and the infirm; for those with physical or mental disabilities; that all may have access to proper health care; and that God's loving embrace may be felt by all who suffer.

God of comfort and healing,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all prisoners and captives; that a spirit of forgiveness may replace vengeance and retribution; and that we, with all the destitute, lonely, and oppressed, may be restored to the fullness of God's grace.

God of absolution and mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all children and families, and particularly for the orphaned, neglected, abused, and those who live in fear of violence or disease; that they may be relieved and protected.

God of children and families,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love.

God of outreach and restoration,  
**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart.

God of eternal life and resurrecting love,  
**Hear our prayer.**

### **Collect for an Election**

**A**lmighty 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. Watch over our country now and in the days ahead, guide our leaders and all who will vote, guide them in all knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people. In the passion of debate give them a quiet spirit; in the complexities of the issues give them courageous hearts. Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us.

**Amen.**

### **PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS**

*Free intercessions may be offered at this time.*

The divine Spirit dwells in us.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The service concludes. Blessings of peace and safety be upon you and yours this day.*