

## TIME FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION – January 19, 2021

*Leader* The Lord be with you.

*Response* **And also with you.**

*Leader* Let us pray.

Almighty God, we give you thanks for surrounding us, as daylight fades, with the brightness of the vesper light; and we implore you of your great mercy that, as you enfold us with the radiance of this light, so you would shine into our hearts the brightness of your Holy Spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*BCP, p.110*

Grant us, Lord, the lamp of charity which never fails, that it may burn in us and shed its light on those around us, and that by its brightness we may have a vision of that holy City, where dwells the true and never-failing Light, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*BCP, p.110*

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

*BCP, p. 111*

*Leader* Let us now pray for the needs of our community and our country as we settle our hearts in our knowledge and faith in God and as we prepare for a new dawn to rise over this nation.

*Leader* Let us pray.

*All* **God of ages, in your sight nations rise and fall and pass through times of peril and challenge. On this night our land is on the verge of a great change in leadership. Be near we pray, to give these new leaders courage and integrity in their work for the people of this nation. Fill them and us with hope and faith that together we can overcome all adversity. May these leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search for your will and see it clearly. Give them your light and your truth to guide us; with the help and guidance of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.**

*Inspired by the Rt. Rev. Mariann Budde (January 6, 2021)*

**Sound Government** *BCP, p. 821*

*Leader* O Lord 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.

*Response* **Lord, keep this nation under your care.**

*Leader* 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.

*Response* **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

*Leader* 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.

*Response* **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

*Leaders* To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

*Response* **Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

*Leader* 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.

*Response* **For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.**

### **For the Human Family** BCP, p. 815

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For Peace** BCP, p. 815

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Those For Whom We are Separated From by Conflict** BCP, p. 816

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our adversaries: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **For Social Justice** BCP, p.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.**

**In Times of Conflict**      BCP,p. 824

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.

**For the Parish**      BCP, p. 817

Almighty and ever living God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth, hear our prayers for this parish family. Strengthen the faithful, arouse the careless, and restore the penitent. Grant us all things necessary for our common life, and bring us all to be of one heart and mind within your holy Church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**For the Unity of our Church**      BCP, p. 818

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is but one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, of faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify thee; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Leader*      Let us now pray for our own needs and the needs of others.

**A Prayer for the new President and Vice President**

God, our eternal Creator, we pray particularly for our new President, Joseph Biden and our Vice President, Kamala Harris, as they assume leadership of this nation. Let them walk your path in humility and integrity. May they put the needs of others before themselves and be true servant leaders. May they not be so proud that they cannot hear the wisdom of others, but instead seek out good counsel and follow it. May they be modest and not self-promoting. May they be honest, morally upright, and hold the values imbued with your righteousness, moral courage, and right thinking. May they not work for their own ends, but for the benefit and service of all of God's people. **Amen.**

## Prayer from the Rt. Rev. Carol Joy Gallagher

O gracious God, Creator of day and night  
you set balance and compliment in everything  
the seasons turn for toil and for rest  
and we are made whole is our relationships.

Our present time is off balance and wobbling  
we are a country and people divided  
afraid of the violence in our neighbor's eyes  
not admitting the violence in our own hearts.

You have called us to be sisters and brothers  
sent daily to work for love and reconciliation  
yet we would judge others by race and background  
we rarely confess to our dominate others.

Creator, humble us and remake us today  
help us to be your servants of peace alone  
let all our work be healing and forgiveness  
strengthen us to stand together as one family. **Amen.**

*Leader* As we settle into this night we pray.

Guide us waking, O Lord, and guard us sleeping; that awake we may watch with Christ, and  
asleep we may rest in peace.

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.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and  
will be for ever. Amen.

BCP, p.135

## Blessing and Dismissal

May the Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious  
to you, and lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

BCP, p. 114

Go in Peace to love and serve the Lord.