

Holy Trinity Anglican Church

Prayer Guide for Our Nation as We Transition to a New Administration

Introduction:

We've designed a prayer guide for you to follow with five specific topics (Supplications). Each topic includes composed prayers (collects), bidding sentences (for extemporaneous prayer), and Scripture readings pertaining to each prayer topic for reflection and inspiration for further prayer.

This guide follows the A. C. T. S. model, which means your time in prayer will begin with Adoration (Praise), Confession, and Thanksgiving, followed by the specific Supplications. Following this order helps to keep one's focus on the Lord.

Additional Recommendations:

- Ask the Holy Spirit for direction before you begin and throughout your time in prayer.
- Pray humbly, seeking the Lord's perspective on each topic of prayer; be willing to surrender your own perspective.
- Pray boldly with confidence that God can do infinitely more than you can ask or imagine (Ephesians 3:20).

Start the Prayer Guide

Preparation for Prayer

Holy Spirit, breath of God and fire of love, I cannot pray without your aid: Kindle in me the fire of your love, and illumine me with your light; that with a steadfast will and holy thoughts I may approach the Father in spirit and in truth; through Jesus Christ my Lord, who reigns with you and the Father in eternal union. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

Begin with **Adoration**, which is about acknowledging God’s attributes, his works, and his role in our lives.

Suggestions for Adoration:

- Praise God for his might and power.
- Praise God for his enduring love.
- Praise God for the beauty of his creation.
- Praise God for his justice and holiness.
- Praise God for his tenderness.

Next, offer Confession. Confession is about acknowledging our sins before God, trusting in his steadfast love and mercy.

Suggested Confession:

Most merciful God, I confess that I have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what I have done, and by what I have left undone. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved my neighbors as myself. I am truly sorry and I humbly repent.

(Pause. Name anything the Holy Spirit brings to mind for you to confess. Then, continue)

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on me and forgive me; that I may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Declare the Assurance of Forgiveness:

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. (Psalm 103:12)

Next, offer Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is about acknowledging the Lord as the source of all good things in our life.

Suggestions for Thanksgiving:

- For forgiveness

- For answered prayer
- For the blessings in your life
- For things you take for granted
- For unmerited and undeserved grace

Supplication is about asking God for what we need or desire and asking for such things on behalf of others.

Here are the five Supplications for this prayer guide:

1. Pray for a peaceful transition of power and for Godly wisdom for the incoming administration.

A Prayer of Thanksgiving:

We thank you Lord, for your hand in establishing these United States, for the State of North Carolina, for the County of Wake, for the City of Raleigh, for our church home of fellow followers of Christ Jesus, and for the neighborhoods and the homes in which we live.

We thank you, Father, for the leaders who have been established in this land that we call our home.

We thank you, Lord, for the neighbors you have brought into our lives that you touch through each of us.

Lord Jesus, may we persevere in prayer for your will to be accomplished through these elections. You are a just and merciful God and we can trust you. We humbly ask that you would:

- Turn the hearts of the people to you, Lord Jesus, our hope and our healer. May you open our eyes to see and our ears to hear.
- Call forth public officials and judges who promote fairness and protection for all people, especially the vulnerable, that there may be peace and fairness throughout our local communities and throughout our land, according to your will.

- Give us grace to humbly and courageously accept the results of the election, no matter the outcome, and to lay before your throne any ensuing grievances we might have. Grant us your mercy and root your peace within the hearts of all people.
- Grant us your protection and cause your Holy Spirit not only to hover over this land and especially over our nation's capital, Washington, D.C., but to be ever present, doing a mighty work in and through us, our family and friends, our neighborhoods, our cities and counties, our states, and our federal government.
- Station your mighty angels, your messengers, around each city and municipality to protect our land from civil unrest and destruction. May the peace of your Holy Spirit quiet disruptive hearts and minds and bind the strikes of the evil one, the divider, against this nation.
- Be glorified through these elections, Almighty Three in One—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name. Amen.
- Please add your own petitions.

Father, have mercy on us and on the leaders of our country for any hurtful words we have said or thought and our selfish deeds committed against others. Make clean our hearts within us and fill us with the fruit of your Holy Spirit, giving us the direction, the motivation, and the heart to see through your eyes the vision you have not only for us, but also for our neighbors, our communities, and for our nation. Stir up within us steadfast hearts to serve you whatever the ultimate outcome of these elections, no matter our feelings of joy or despondency, and grant us words of encouragement and hope. Help us to put our trust in you alone, and, O Lord, we ask that you heal our land. Amen.

For Reflection: Isaiah 1:16-17

¹⁶Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, ¹⁷learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow's cause.

- Ask the Lord to show you, if in some way, you have not brought honor to his name in the midst of this election season -- and ask for the grace to honor him from this time forth.

For reflection:

Father, so guide these United States for service to its people and to other nations around the world that your Name might be praised and that the world would see the glory of the Lord, that at the Name of Jesus, every knee should bow in heaven and on earth and under the earth and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord (Phil. 2:10-11). Amen.

- Ask the Lord to show you how you can bring him glory by being his agent of healing and reconciliation in your neighborhood, city, and country.

Closing Prayer:

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, send down on those who hold public office the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the wellbeing of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

2. Pray for peace and reconciliation, along the lines of race in our country, and for the church to be an effective witness to the world in these matters.

Holy Lord, Who created all people in His image, Who has made Himself known to all the nations, help us to be reconciled to one another. Visit us here in a time of great division along the lines of race and help us to listen to you and to one another. Give us soft hearts and the humility to care more about others than ourselves (Philippians 2:3). Come to us and show us the way forward to unite all your people in love and mercy. In the name of Your Son we ask these things.

- Pray to understand the experiences of people of other races and especially the pain and worry they may feel at this time.

- Pray that we, as the Church, might be a model of racial reconciliation to the world around us.
- Pray that our country would be a place where people of all races are equal and free from discrimination.

For reflection: Colossians 3:11-15

Here there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all and in all. Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with a heart of mercy, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if someone happens to have a complaint against anyone else. Just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also forgive others. And to all these virtues add love, which is the perfect bond. Let the peace of Christ be in control in your heart (for you were in fact called as one body to this peace) and be thankful.

How might we, today, have unity in Christ that goes beyond our racial, social, and ethnic boundaries?

- Ask the Lord to show you how you could be an agent of this reconciliation and unity both in your immediate circle of friends and acquaintances and in the wider church.

Closing Prayer:

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, in your mercy hear our prayer and forgive us and heal the divisions between us, granting us the ability to live as one body united in you. Amen.

3. Pray for peace and reconciliation along political lines, in our country.

Merciful God, Who made us Your children by Your blood, help us to live in peace with those who differ from us politically. It grieves us to be so divided, and we pray that you would give us the grace to love even those we disagree with, and to trust in you, and not the powers of this world, for salvation. We lament how easily we can be persuaded to hate those who disagree with us politically, and how easily we can be distracted from your Kingdom by concerns about temporal power. Give us peace, calm our hearts, and help us to love one another no matter what comes of our politics.

- Pray that those in power would remember their duty to all Americans, and not just those of their own party.
- Pray that those who wish to exploit political division for evil ends would not succeed.
- Pray that those who are working for unity would be blessed and find success.
- Pray that the divisions in our nation will heal and not widen.

For reflection: Matthew 5:43-48

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor’ and ‘hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemy and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be like your Father in heaven, since he causes the sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Even the tax collectors do the same, don’t they? And if you only greet your brothers, what more do you do? Even the Gentiles do the same, don’t they? So then, be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

How might you live out this law of perfect love for those who are on the other side of political issues from you?

- Ask the Lord to forgive you for any hatred you have harbored in your heart and to give you love for even those whose politics you find scary or worrisome

Closing Prayer:

Almighty God, Who rules over all, hear our prayers and help us to love others as you loved us. We fail to love so often, but we know that you are forgiving and bless those who seek to make peace. Give us the grace to love one another despite our differences. Amen.

4. The coronavirus pandemic.

Most merciful Father, we lament the destructive effects of the coronavirus pandemic on our life together: the loss of intimacy and fellowship with friends and family members, the loss of jobs and financial security, and the loss of life among those who are most vulnerable. We also lament the divisiveness in our common life because of differing viewpoints about how best to handle this crisis. Only you know the way forward, O Lord. Help us, guide us, and show yourself mighty to save. In the name of your son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

- Pray for those in our church and in your community who are suffering due to a lack of contact with friends and family.
- Pray for those who are struggling financially.
- Pray for marriages and families under stress.
- Pray that we can find a way to work together for the common good despite our disagreements about how this crisis should be handled.

Heavenly Father, you are our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Our eyes are fixed on you as we ask you to halt the spread of Covid-19 and safeguard the health of those in our midst who are frail and vulnerable. Hide in the cover of your presence all who are caring for the sick; let no harm come to them. Guide the hearts and minds of our local, state, and national leaders so that they make wise decisions on behalf of the people they govern. And align our will with yours so that our efforts on behalf of those who are suffering as a result of this crisis become a fragrant offering to the glory of your name. In the name of your son, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

- Pray for an end to this pandemic.
- Pray for those who, because of their work, are putting their lives at risk to serve others.
- Pray for those who are sick with the virus and for those whose recovery is still ongoing, including our Bishop, Steve Wood.

For reflection: Acts 11:27-30

27 Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. 28 And one of them named Agabus stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world (this took place in the days of Claudius). 29 So the disciples determined, every one

according to his ability, to send relief to the brothers living in Judea. 30 And they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

How might the Lord be calling you, as one of his disciples, to respond in the midst of the crisis caused by the pandemic?

- Prayerfully ask the Lord how you can be useful to him as he seeks to answer your supplications concerning the Coronavirus.

Closing Prayer:

O Lord our God, accept the fervent prayers of your people; in the multitude of your mercies, look with compassion upon us and all who turn to you for help; for you are gracious, O lover of souls, and to you we give glory, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, now and for ever. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

5. Prayers for Outreach and Mission

A Prayer of Thanksgiving

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for all that you have done for us. We thank you for the splendor of the whole creation, for the beauty of this world, for the wonder of life, and for the mystery of love. We thank you for the blessing of family and friends, and for the loving care which surrounds us on every side. We thank you for setting us at tasks that demand our best efforts, and for leading us to accomplishments that satisfy and delight us. We thank you also for those disappointments and failures that lead us to acknowledge our dependence on you alone. Above all, we thank you for your Son Jesus Christ; for the truth of his Word and the example of his life; for his steadfast obedience, by which he overcame temptation; for his dying, through which he conquered death; and for his rising to life again, in which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Grant us the gift of your Spirit, that we may know Christ and make him known; and through him, at all times and in all places, may give thanks to you in all things. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

Prayers for Outreach and Mission

- **Pray for our witness among the cities in which we live and work.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your name. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

For reflection: Acts 18:1-4

“After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.”

Ask the Lord for opportunities to share about the kingdom of God with those with whom you live and work.

- **Pray for our witness to the world.**

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

For reflection:

Matthew 28:19-20

“Therefore, go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Who are the nations around you here in the U.S. to whom you can show the love of Jesus in word and deed?

- **Pray for guidance about being the hands and feet of Jesus in our neighborhoods that the needs of the poor would be met, that the hearts of the broken would be mended, and that those without hope would find it in the kingdom of God through our witness.**

Almighty God our Savior, you desire that none should perish, and you have taught us through your Son that there is great joy in heaven over every sinner who repents: Grant that our hearts may ache for a lost and broken world. May your Holy Spirit work through our words, deeds, and prayers, that the lost may be found and the dead made alive, and that all your redeemed may rejoice around your throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

For reflection: James 1:22, 27

“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says. ... Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: To look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.” How can you be the hands and feet of Jesus to those around you in need?

- **Pray for the wisdom and courage to lean in and step up.**

O God, our heavenly Father, you manifested your love by sending your only-begotten Son into the world, that all might live through him: Pour out your Spirit on your Church, that we may fulfill his command to preach the Gospel to all people. Send forth laborers into your harvest; defend them in all dangers and temptations; and hasten the time when the fullness of the Gentiles shall be gathered in, and faithful Israel shall be saved; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

For reflection: Joshua 1:9

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord our God will be with you wherever you go.”

Ask the Lord to give you courage to follow him wherever he may lead you to reach those who do not know him.

Closing Prayer:

Hasten, O Father, the coming of your kingdom; and grant that we your servants, who now live by faith, may with joy behold your Son at his coming in glorious majesty; even Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

Closing Prayers and Benediction

- Give thanks that no matter how difficult this current season of life is, God reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords.
- Thank the Lord for listening.
- Ask him to do in you whatever needs to be done so that you can be a means, in some way, of his answer to your prayers.

Almighty God, you have promised to hear the petitions of those who ask in the Name of your Son: Mercifully incline your ear to us as we make our prayers and supplications to you; and grant that what we ask faithfully, according to your will, we may obtain effectually, for the relief of our necessities and the setting forth of your glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (2019 Book of Common Prayer, Anglican Church in North America)

Benediction

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip me with everything good that I may do his will, working in me that which is pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21)