

**Prayers for the Healing of the Nation
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
Fall, 2020**

Leader: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Leader: Your love is as high as the heavens, O God,
your faithfulness soars through the skies.

**All: Your righteousness reaches the towering peaks;
your justice the depths of the sea.**

Leader: We shelter beneath your wings;
We feast on the food you provide.

**All: We open our eyes to drink in your goodness;
For you are the source of all life,
and in your light we see light. Amen.**

Let's take sixty seconds of silence just to "drink in God's goodness."

Opening Collect

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us pray.

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of the United States, 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.**

Another 60 seconds of silence—maybe find a phrase that resonates with you and meditate on it.

A reading from the gospel of John

[14:15-16; 25-27]

Jesus said, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever." "I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid."

Reader: Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

2 minutes of silence to hear what God might be saying to you in this reading.

For Sound Government

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.

All: **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.

All: **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.

All: **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.

All: **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.

All: **Give grace to your servants, O Lord. Amen.**

Three minutes to name, silently or aloud, particular concerns and hopes you have for our nation at this time.

A Collect For COVID

Source of Life, enfold with your mercy the more than 200,000 people in this nation who have died from Covid or complications, for all living with Covid and its aftermath, and all facing harmful consequences of social isolation: depression, addiction, domestic violence, and suicide, and those who care for them. Amen.

Collect for an end to racism

Lord Jesus Christ, who reached across the ethnic boundaries between Samaritan, Roman and Jew and who offered fresh sight to the blind and freedom to captives, help us to break down the barriers in our community, enable us to see the reality of racism and bigotry, and free us to challenge and uproot it from ourselves, our society and our world; in Jesus' name. Amen.

A Collect for police work

Merciful God, we pray for healing in communities that carry the weight of generations of broken relationships between law enforcement and the people they are called to serve. Grant police officers protection and empower them to serve justly. Give wisdom and courage to those who are fashioning new programs for police departments as we seek new ways to promote public safety and secure the well-being of all of your people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A collect for the unemployed (and underemployed)

Heavenly Father, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our public and private wealth that all may find suitable and fulfilling employment, and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

3 more minutes to name, silently or aloud, whatever is on your heart.

Leader: Let us pray together as Jesus taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.

**Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.
Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Blessing and Dismissal

Leader: Creator Spirit, wellspring of our lives,
as the refreshing rain falls on the just and unjust alike

**All: refresh us with your mercy,
and bless our struggle towards justice.**

Leader: As the stream flows steadily on,
defying all the odds of stone and water

**All: flow over every boundary and border
that separates us from each other.**

Leader: as the waters of our baptism washed us and welcomed us

All: renew us now in newness of life and unity of love.

Leader: as we were once held in the waters of our mother's womb

All: hold us in the power and peace of your abiding presence.

Leader: The blessing of the Trinity, who makes us, who loves us, and who
frees us to love, be with us all evermore.

All: Amen.

Sources:

Iona Abbey Worship Book, Evening Prayer

New Zealand Prayer Book

Book of Common Prayer

"O God of Love, Power and Justice" from *Conversations with God: Two
Centuries of African American Prayers*, James Washington, editor

Prayer to end police brutality and for police officers:
<http://dojustice.crcna.org/article/prayer-love-face-violence>