



# Peace in our Time

September 1, 2024

*For Christ himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.*  
Ephesians 2:14-16

## Lighting of the Paschal Candle

The Light of Christ has come into the world.  
**May it shine in our hearts and our land.**

## Statement of Purpose

**We gather together in the presence of God,  
to remember that our identity is rooted not in  
political affiliations,  
but in our covenant with God established in the death and  
resurrection of Christ Jesus.**

**We acknowledge and celebrate the transforming truth that  
that we are one in him and members of his body;  
We confess and rejoice that the Holy Spirit binds us together  
into one diverse family.**

## Call to Prayer

If this election season has left you feeling anxious  
and heart-sick,  
Come, hear God's word of peace and hope.  
If political views and rhetoric have damaged your relationships,  
Come to the place where all are forgiven and reconciled.  
If the brokenness of the world, the nation, and our city seem  
beyond repair,  
Come and pray for the arrival of God's realm.

## Reading of the Theme Scripture

Silent meditation on today's Theme Scripture – Eph. 2:14-16

### Prayer

**God of all peoples and nations, we have gathered in this place at your invitation to pray for our country. We come from varied backgrounds and political beliefs that often put us at odds with our friends, our families and our neighbors. In this time of prayer inspire us through your Spirit to a renewed sense of unity in Christ. Move us beyond the things that would divide to a deep awareness of all that we share, through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.**

### Litany

*Each section of prayer is followed by silence, during which people offer their own prayers or meditate on the theme. At the end of each silence the leader prays for the theme of that section.*

*This prayer ends with:*

Lord in your mercy

**Hear our prayer.**

### Prayer for the democratic process

*Silence*

Pray that God will protect our poll workers around the country.

Pray that God will stir up gratitude in us for the voting rights we enjoy.

Pray that God will help voters take their responsibility seriously and vote for what's good, right, and true.

### Prayer for the candidates

*Silence*

Pray that God will protect the candidates running for office, keeping them safe and healthy as they travel and campaign

around the country.

Pray that God will protect the candidates' families.

Pray that candidates will desire to exhibit high character, speak truthfully, and conduct themselves with honor.

Pray that the most competent, highest character candidates will win their respective races.

### Pray for our community

*Silence*

Pray that our churches will be unified, even where political disagreements exist.

Pray that the members of our churches will conduct themselves in a Christlike manner in public, private, and online.

Pray that our churches will be a beacon of hope in a cultural-political environment that sometimes feels hopeless.

### Pray for yourself

*Silence*

Pray that God will empower you to live with grace even when your convictions are criticized.

Pray that God will empower you to take the initiative in cultivating relationships “across the aisle.”

Pray that God will help you maintain your integrity and obey your conscience whether you're in the voting booth or on social media.

Pray that God will empower you to treat others in a Christlike manner, with dignity, respect, and charity.

### Lighting of votive candles

*If they wish, people may walk to the chancel step and take a votive candle, which is lit by the leader. They then place their candle in the candle station and return to their seats. This is an act of surrender of oneself to the Lordship of Christ and the perspective of God's kingdom.*

## Blessing

May the peace of Christ go with you,  
wherever He may send you.

May He guide you through the wilderness,  
protect you through the storm.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
at the wonders He has shown you.

May He bring you home rejoicing  
once again into our doors.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

## Sending out

God, who created you in the divine image, sends you out:  
go, to reflect the presence of our Creator to  
everyone you meet.

Jesus, who has redeemed you, has established the  
reign of God in our midst:  
go, to bring healing to the broken of the world.

The Holy Spirit, who calls you to be God's people, goes with  
you to many places:  
go, to tear down the walls that divide us, and to build lives  
of hope for all of God's children.

### **Dates of Future Peace in our Time prayer services**

*all services start at 4 p.m.*

September 8

September 29

October 13

October 27

November 3

