



Peace in our Time

September 8, 2024

“Woe to me!” I cried. “I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips, and I live among a people of unclean lips, and my eyes have seen the King, the Lord Almighty.” -*Isaiah 6:5*

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.

Prayer

Though we may be inclined to brag,
let us come together with humility.

**How good a thing it is when all of God’s people live together
in unity.**

Though we may be tempted to use harsh words,
let us come together with gentleness.

**How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together
in unity.**

Though we may want everything to happen quickly,
let us come together with patience.

**How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together
in unity.**

Though the world around often encourages division,
let us come together in love.

**How good a thing it is when all of God's people live together
in unity.**

In humility, gentleness, patience, love, and unity,
**Let us worship the God who has called us together.
Amen.**

Reading of the Theme Scripture

Silent meditation on today's Theme Scripture – Isaiah 6:5

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 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 meditate on the cleansing nature of God's fire, which is at the heart of tonight's scripture reading, using the votive candle in their pew.

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

Go in the knowledge that your lips have been cleaned and your sin is atoned for.

Go in the faith that your words can give life and your prayers can make free.

Go in the hope that you will shed light and will scatter the darkness.

Go with assurance that God goes with you.

Dates of future Peace in our Time prayer services

all services start at 4 p.m.

September 29

October 13

October 27

November 3

