

Prayer for Our Nation

A Prayer of Confession

James 5:16-18

16 Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. 17 Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. 18 Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

-As we ask the Lord to hear our prayers, let us invite the Holy Spirit to examine our hearts and bring to mind our own failings

-How have we as individual Christians failed to show God's love to others in the community?

-How have we individually failed to respectfully listen and speak with others?

Personal Prayer of Confession

- Forgive us for the times we have lost sight of our First Love - Christ
- Forgive us for the times when we have failed to love you with all our heart, mind, soul and strength
- Forgive us for the times when we have failed to love others as ourselves

A Prayer for Unity

I Corinthians 1:10

10 I appeal to you, brothers, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same judgment.

- We can all be united in wanting to see:
 - our communities thrive
 - our families healthy
 - our friends and neighbors come to know Christ as Savior
 - believers grow in their relationship with Christ
 - a Church that helps people Find Hope in the midst of whatever challenges they are facing

Personal Prayer for Unity in the church

- By Your grace, let your Holy Spirit build unity among believers
- Help us avoid the temptation to let politics, or personal opinion consume our minds in place of preferring one-another
- Help us be patient and extend grace to others who think differently than we do

A Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation

Hebrews 12:14-15

14 Strive for peace with everyone, and for the holiness without which no one will see the Lord. 15 See to it that no one fails to obtain the grace of God; that no "root of bitterness" springs up and causes trouble, and by it many become defiled...

- as a community of believers, we need to be quick to listen, slow to anger, and gracious in forgiving
- help is to understand one-another, to value one-another, and to confess our faults one to another
- help us to be agents of the peace we have received in Jesus

Personal Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation

We pray for peace and reconciliation in:

- our families
- our church
- our community
- our nation
- our world

A Prayer for Wise Leadership

Proverbs 2:6-8

6 For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, 8 guarding the paths of justice and watching over the way of His saints.

- our nation faces challenges that are beyond the ability of one person or one political party to solve
- human wisdom is limited; we need divine help
- God's wisdom is infinite and unconstrained by any present circumstance
- guide those in authority over us

Personal Prayer for Wise Leadership

We pray that You would give wisdom to:

- our pastors and Governing Board
- our local community leaders
- our state governments
- our country's leaders
- leaders around the world

God's Will in the Election

Daniel 2:20-21

20 ...Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, to whom belong wisdom and might. 21 He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to those who have understanding;

- the outcome of the election is within God's sovereign will to be direct
- what happens will be no surprise to God
- we pray for His will to be done; His name to be glorified; His purpose to be fulfilled
- we pray for His Church to submit to His will in all godliness

Personal Prayer for God's Will in the Election

- we trust that God is in control, regardless of the outcome of the election
- help us to accept the outcome with grace as we seek to be examples for others
- help us to maintain our Christian witness during this season, finding our identity in Christ, placing our trust in Him

A Prayer for Justice

Isaiah 1:16-17

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

- the world is full of hurting people
- we can ask God for eyes to see and hearts to help:
 - people in poverty
 - widows and orphans in their affliction
 - refugees and those displaced through no fault of their own
 - broken families
 - people who have faced discrimination and injustice

Personal Prayer for Justice

- we ask for discernment and courage to address problems of injustice in our society when we see them
- may we maintain love and justice in equal parts
- we pray for boldness and unity amongst our nation's leaders in protecting those who are vulnerable within our society
- may justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a never-failing stream

Deliverance from Natural Disasters

Psalm 65:5-10

5 By awesome deeds You answer us with righteousness, O God of our salvation, the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas; 6 the One who by His strength established the mountains, being girded with might; 7 who stills the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples, 8 so that those who dwell at the ends of the earth are in awe at your signs. You make the going out of the morning and the evening to shout for joy. 9 You visit the earth and water it; You greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water; You provide their grain, for so You have prepared it. 10 You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges, softening it with showers, and blessing its growth.

- natural disasters have exacted a heavy toll on people, communities and our economy
- deliverance from hurricanes, floods, wildfires, tornados, droughts and COVID
- ask for God's protection for our communities around the nation who are affected or at risk
- that the Church will be the hands and feet of Jesus to those in need

Pernal prayer for Deliverance

- we pray for protection for our firefighters in California
- we pray for those in regions affected by hurricanes and extreme weather
- we pray for an end to COVID and a vaccine for our people
- we pray for safety for our first responders
- we pray for restoration for people who have suffered financially because of these disasters

A Prayer for Spiritual Protection

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the whole armor of God, that You may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. 12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. 13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and have done all, to stand firm.

- as we heard from David's message last Sunday, we have one common enemy
- pray that our faith is strong, grounded in the Word
- pray that we put on the full armor of God
- pray against spiritual attacks through isolation and loss, depression and hopelessness

Personal Prayer for Spiritual Protection

- protect Your Church
- equip us with the Armor of God to stand strong in the evil day
- increase our faith and devotion to You
- call us to prayer for one-another, to lift one-another up
- empower us to persevere, trusting in the author and finisher of our faith