



HOUR OF PRAYER  
FOR PEACE AND UNITY  
ELECTION DAY 2020

# Call to Prayer

**Leader:** On this Election Day 2020, let us pray for the soul of our nation, and for the strength and courage to recommit our hearts and hands to building a more perfect union, a more peaceful world.

## **Opening Song:** Peace Is Flowing Like a River

Peace is flowing like a river,  
Flowing out through you and me,  
Spreading out into the desert,  
Setting all the people free.

Love is flowing like a river,  
Flowing out through you and me,  
Spreading out into the desert,  
Setting all the people free.

Joy is flowing like a river,  
Flowing out through you and me,  
Spreading out into the desert,  
Setting all the people free.

Hope is flowing like a river,  
Flowing out through you and me,  
Spreading out into the desert,  
Setting all the people free.

**All:** God of all, in this year of election, in these days of discernment, IGNITE us with the fire of your love. ENFLAME our hearts with courage to embrace dialogue that transforms and truth that frees. KINDLE our love with kindness to heal divisions and reconcile relationships. LIGHT our imaginations with insight to envision and create a world where all are one. STIR our actions with justice and peace to engage critical concerns and cherish all of life. FIRE our lives with audacity and hope to risk all for God's mission. Amen. - *Roxanne Schares, SSND*

## **Litany for Peace in Our Communities Based on Psalm 88**

(Suggested response: **God of peace, hear us and help us.**)

By night we cry out, by day we rage at each other, God of peace, hear us and help us.  
Calm us, quiet us, settle us, to hear the cry of those who are hurting, **God of peace, ...**

Steady us, balance us, ground us, let us listen to the troubles around us, **God of peace, ...**

Root us in patience, embed your love within us, **God of peace...**

Plant us in the soil of sorrow, and re-create us in empathy, **God of peace...**

Forgive us, pardon us, free us from bigotry and blindness, **God of peace...**

Support us, sustain us, protect us, as we find words to begin dialogue, **God of peace...**

Restore us in charity, refresh us with hope, **God of peace...**

Enfold us with unity, enrich us in love, **God of peace...**

Embrace us with courage, temper us with gentleness, **God of peace...**

Help us see You in those around us, **God of peace...**

Help us build communities of unity and justice, **God of peace...**

So that someday we may rejoice in your welcome, and enter your Kingdom singing your praise, for ever and ever.

**R. Amen.**

**Scripture reading:** The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; God's mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:22-23)

From Maya Angelou's poem:

**ON THE PULSE OF MORNING**

*(entire poem PDF is attached if you are interested)*

Here on the pulse of this new day

You may have the grace to look up and out

And into your sister's eyes, into

Your brother's face, your country

And say simply

Very simply

With hope

Good morning

**Scripture reading:** Be still before the Lord, wait for God. (Psalm 37:7)

**Time for quiet prayer and reflection  
on the readings above**

**Scripture reading:** May they all be one as You are in me and I am in You; may they be one in us... (John 17:21)

**Short Reflection on Dr. Martin Luther King's Beloved Community:** Dr. King's Beloved Community is a global vision, in which all people can share in the wealth of the Earth. In the *Beloved Community*, poverty, hunger, and homelessness will not be tolerated. Racism and all forms of discrimination, bigotry and prejudice will be replaced by an all-inclusive spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood...Love and trust will triumph over fear and hatred. Peace with justice will prevail...

The core value of the quest for Dr. King's *Beloved Community* was agape love...which he described as "understanding, redeeming goodwill for all," an "overflowing love which is purely spontaneous, unmotivated, groundless and creative... the love of God operating in the human heart." He said that "Agape does not begin by discriminating between worthy and unworthy people...It begins by loving others for their sakes" and "makes no distinction between a friend and enemy; it is directed toward both... Agape is love seeking to preserve and create community." (from The King Center, "The King Philosophy")

**Time for quiet prayer and reflection  
on the readings above**

**St. Francis Prayer for Peace**

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace,  
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;  
where there is injury, pardon;  
where there is doubt, faith;  
where there is despair, hope;  
where there is darkness, light;  
where there is sadness, joy;

O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;  
to be understood as to understand;  
to be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive;  
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;  
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

**Closing Prayer:**

Let us pray . . .

- For the world and its leaders,
  - may all those in authority have the courage to walk the path of peace.

- For our nation in this time of election and transition,
  - may we be gifted with a spirit of reverence for what is right, charity for those with whom we disagree and concern for the common good.
- For all who serve in our national and local governments,
  - may they commit themselves to building a more perfect union.
- For reconciliation among families and friends,
  - may we learn to love each other not despite but because of our differences and may we focus fully on the work that continues beyond this election--the work of building God's beloved community.
- For those most affected by the choices we make, those who are made poor, those seeking safety in our land, those who are ill or without homes, those without food or meaningful work, and for all whose lives are undervalued,
  - may they find welcome in our hearts and in our country. Amen.

**Closing Song: Let There Be Peace on Earth**

Let there be peace on earth  
 And let it begin with me.  
 Let there be peace on earth  
 The peace that was meant to be.  
 With God our Creator,  
 We are family.  
 Let us walk with each other  
 In perfect harmony.  
 Let peace begin with me  
 Let this be the moment now.  
 With every step I take  
 Let this be my solemn vow.  
 To take each moment  
 And live each moment  
 With peace eternally.  
 Let there be peace on earth,  
 And let it begin with me.