

Prayer Service for Election, 2016



*We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing
Witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.*

*On November 8, we have the opportunity to exercise
our right to vote.*

We will make different choices for different reasons.

*Tonight, while our nation turns its attention to the outcome of the
presidential election, we turn to prayer for our country.*

Worcester
City Hall Plaza
November 6, 2016
7:00 pm

Opening Salutation and Response

Leader: Come to us this night, O God

All: *Come to us with Light*

(Candles are lit)

Leader: Speak to us this night, O God

All: *Speak to us your Truth*

Leader: Dwell with us this night, O God

All: *Dwell with us in Love*

Hymn: *My Country Tis of Thee*

Collects:

Leader: O Lord, 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: *Lords, keep this nation under your care*

Leader: Lord God, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever.

All: *Amen*

Leader: Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the right of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes.

All: *Amen.*

Confession

Leader: Holy God, Maker of all

All: *have mercy on us.*

Leader: Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor

All: *have mercy on us.*

Leader: Holy Spirit, Breath of life

All: *have mercy on us.*

Leader: Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

Silence

Leader:

Before God, with the people of God,

I confess my brokenness:

to the ways I wound my life,

the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

All: *May God forgive us, Christ renew us,
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.*

Leader: Amen.

All: *Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.*

Leader: May God forgive us, Christ renew us,
and the Spirit enable us to grow in love.

All: *Amen.*

Prayer for God's help

Leader: Move among us, O God; give us life:

All: *let your people rejoice in you.*

Leader: Make our hearts clean within us:

All: *renew us in mind and in spirit.*

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help:

All: *with your spirit of freedom sustain us.*

Leader: And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

All: *Our father who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as 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
and deliver us from evil,
for thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.*

First Lesson Micah 6: 6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my first-born for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has showed you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?”

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

All: *Thanks be to God.*

Psalm 37: 27-33 said in unison

**Turn from evil and do good;
then you will dwell in the land forever.
For the Lord loves the just
and will not forsake his faithful ones.
Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed;
the offspring of the wicked will perish.
The righteous will inherit the land
and dwell in it forever.
The mouths of the righteous utter wisdom,
and their tongues speak what is just.
The law of their God is in their hearts;
their feet do not slip.
The wicked lie in wait for the righteous,
intent on putting them to death;
but the Lord will not leave them in the power of the wicked
or let them be condemned when brought to trial.**

Second Lesson – 1 Timothy 2: 1-4

First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life, godly and respectful in every way. This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all people to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

All: Thanks be to God.

Hymn – Peace Be With Us

David Haas

Gospel

Luke 14:12- 24

Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

When one of those who sat at table with him heard this, he said to him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and

therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: *Praise to you, Lord Christ.*

Affirmation of Faith

*All: We believe that God is present
In the darkness before dawn:
In the waiting and uncertainty
Where fear and courage join hands,
Conflict and caring link arms,
And the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God
Who sits down in our midst
To share our humanity.
We affirm a faith
That takes us beyond the safe place;
Into action, into vulnerability
And into the streets.
We commit ourselves to work for change
And put ourselves on the line;
To bear responsibility, take risks,
Live powerfully and face humiliation;
To stand with those on the edge;
To choose life
And be used by the spirit
For God’s new community of hope
AMEN*

The Prayers of the People

Leader: We pray for our Country as we approach the national election of a new President and other officials.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: We pray for a safe election filled with dignity and peace.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader: We pray that all who are eligible, and wish to vote, are able to vote.

All: Lord, hear our prayer

Leader, We pray that our leaders will strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Leader: We pray for eyes that are free from blindness so that all might see each other as brothers and sisters.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Leader: We pray that after the election, divisions may cease and we come together to work toward a beloved community.

All: *Lord, hear our prayer*

Leader: May the God of all people and the Lord Jesus Christ give us grace and peace, this night and every night.

All: *Amen*

Leader: O Christ, you are within each of us.
It is not just the interior of the many church walls:
it is our own inner being you have renewed.
We are your temple not made with hands.
We are your body.
If every wall should crumble, and every church decay,
we are your habitation.
Nearer are you than breathing,
closer than hands and feet.
Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
look out with compassion on the world.
Yet we bless you for this place,
for your directing of us, your redeeming of us,
and your indwelling.
Take us outside our walls, O Christ,
out to where your people are hungry, poor, homeless,
at the crossroads of the world.
We ask it for your own name's sake.
Amen.

All: *Lord God, as the Election approaches us on Tuesday, we seek to better understand the issues and concerns that confront our country, and how the gospel compels us to respond as faithful citizens in our community. We ask your help so we see all as one and equal in dignity, especially those who are victims of abuse, violence, and poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of children, of men and women who are oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender. We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us closer to your kingdom. We pray for discernment that we may choose leaders who hear your word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus and his Apostles, Guide us to your kingdom of justice and peace.*

We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

The Peace

Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And also with you.

Final Hymn 719

O beautiful for spacious skies

Samuel Augustus Ward

The Dismissal

The Leader dismisses the people and the *People* respond:

Thanks be to God.

(St. Francis prayer placed on back of the booklet)

All: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.

Where there is hatred, let us sow love,

Where there is injury, pardon

Where there is doubt, faith,

Where there is despair, hope,

Where there is sadness, joy,

O Divine Master,

Grant that we 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,

It is in dying that we are born again

To everlasting life

we will rejoice and be glad in it.