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**PRESIDENTIAL
ELECTION**
2020

A Call to the Church to Prayer

Join us from October 4 through November 3 to pray for our nation as we anticipate the upcoming election.

This prayer guide is an invitation to pray for our upcoming election from several important perspectives. Each day of the week you will be invited to pray for a specific component of the election process, engage in a prayer exercise rooted in Scripture, and take some time to listen to the Lord's guidance as we approach November 3. The guide offers these directives for each day of the week, inviting you to circle back around during each of the four weeks to engage again the prayers and Scripture offered here.

Sunday: A Call to Prayer for the Church and its leadership in our community.

Guiding Scripture: Galatians 5:13-16; Psalm 31:15

Old and New Testaments state clearly to follow the command to love the Lord and others. As followers of Jesus we are to be Christ centered; Christ is the head of the church and we are called to act in His will. Paul states, "Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord" (Colossians 3:23). The Biblical account records over and over how God's people have cried out to God for discernment, help, and mercy. In all times it is imperative that we neither despair nor shrug our shoulders but continue to lift our prayers and supplications to God. Let us each look into our hearts and confess our sins to God and our need for His righteousness. Regularly let us seek the Holy Spirit to guide, illumine, and direct us in our thoughts, words, and deeds. Rest in assurance! Our times are in the capable and wise hands of the Sovereign God.

Prayer Exercise: Read through the lyrics for the African-American spiritual, "Guide My Feet While I Run This Race." Read the words aloud. Write additional phrases for the petitions and declarations of this hymn such as, "Keep me focused" or, "I will trust You while I run this race."

Guide My Feet

Text: African American Spiritual

Music: African American Spiritual; harm. by Wendell Whalum

Tune: GUIDE MY FEET, Meter: 88.8 10

1. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

2. Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race.
Hold my hand while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

3. Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race.
Stand by me while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

4. I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race.
I'm your child while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

5. Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race.
Search my heart while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

6. Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain!

Monday: A Call to Prayer for the integrity of the election process.

Guiding Scripture: Proverbs 4:5-6, Romans 12:9-10, 1 Samuel 16:7

Did you know that the Poll Workers at the local precinct where you vote have to complete hours of training before each election? There are more than thirty pages of instructions they follow, and there are at least twenty-five forms that cross-reference and report the numbers and activities of the day. There is a considerable cost to our counties and states for our privilege of voting. And voting with the assurance that the integrity of the process has been carefully observed allows each registered voter to cast a vote with confidence it will be counted.

Pray for God to preserve our process with integrity and inclusion.

Pray for God to help poll workers guard against voter fraud or suppression.

Read again passage in 1 Samuel, praying for divine guidance in your choice of candidates on the local and national level.

Pray for grace to accept the outcome of the vote.

Pray for Nancy, Maureen, Joan and Claire who are some of the NAPC members who serve as Poll Workers.

Thank God for this privilege and responsibility to vote.

Pray for countries across the globe where citizens do not have the right to vote.

Choose one of the verses for today and meditate on it, thinking of all the places where your vote gives you an opportunity to positively influence the schools, jobs, and future of our community for yourself and your neighbors.

Tuesday: A Call to Prayer for our local government.

Guiding Scripture: Ephesians 4:1-16

Along with the privilege of exercising our American right to vote is educating ourselves about the people for whom we are voting and the offices to which they are hoping to be elected. While our local government offices get very little media attention, those officials often make decisions that directly impact our lives far more than the office of the President does. As part of the discipline of stewardship, grateful for the freedom to exercise our right to vote, take five minutes today to learn something new about your city or county government that will better prepare you for election day. Do you know about [https://www.usa.gov/local-governments?](https://www.usa.gov/local-governments) This site allows you can type in your city and learn about the elected offices where you live.

Prayer exercise: Take the time today to write out the Ephesians passage by hand, listening to the Lord as you write. You will need to take care that you are hearing the words as you write them, not allowing your mind to wander. Feel free to linger on a particular verse, perhaps writing it over again as a prayer for the leaders of your local government and for your role as a citizen of your town.

Wednesday: A Call to Prayer for our state government

Guiding Scripture: Psalm 73

Psalm 73 can be thought of as a prayer for a leader. The expectations expressed are that the one with authority practices compassion and exercises righteousness and justice. With this type of leadership, blessings abound. If, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it (Psalm 24:1),"

then any leader is God's servant for the good of the people. Prayer exercise: Have in mind any servant in government, but in particular this morning, those who serve in state office: the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, congressional district representatives and the staff who serve these officials. You can access the list of all of Georgia's elected officials here: <https://georgia.gov/elected-officials>.

As you read Psalm 73 a second or third time, record phrases which describe the characteristics needed in leaders in order to tend to the welfare of a governed people with integrity.

Thursday: A Call to Prayer for our national government.

Guiding scripture: 1 Timothy 2:1-8

In 2 Timothy 2:1-2, God's word urges that "supplications, prayers, intercessions and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings, and for all who are in high positions." However, when political tensions rise, we may be tempted to pray according to our own desires instead of praying according to God's Word and God's will.

Let us seek God's will for the next President of the United States, for our Supreme Court Justices, and for new and returning legislators.

Adore: Praise the Lord for our nation ~ both our land and our people.

Confess: your own sins and the sins of the nation. Confess our neglect, rebellion, indifference and pride. Confess our unthankful hearts and foolish ways.

Thank the Lord for His mercy and forgiveness and grace to heal the land where we can vote according to conscience.

Supplication: Using 1 Timothy 2:1-8, read through the verses, taking time to write out a list of everything you see in the passage that is pleasing to God and that God desires. Ask God for these things for our leaders and for our people, according to His good and perfect will.

Friday: A Call to Prayer for our Judiciary.

Guiding Scriptures: Proverbs 3:21-23; Zechariah 7:8-10

Today we pray for the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court, the third branch of our national government and the highest court of the land. The nine justices are appointed for life to serve. Because of its power of judicial review, it plays an essential role in ensuring that each branch of government recognizes the limits of its own power.

Prayer: Pray for divine wisdom to prevail over this high court at all times, that justice may reign in our land and that the court may properly oversee the limitations of power in each branch of government.

Pray for each justice by name: John Roberts, Clarence Thomas, Stephen Breyer, Samuel Alito, Sonia Sotomayor, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch, and the vacant seat on the court.

Pray for all of the courts and judges who serve justice in local towns, in state courts and in the courts of appeal.

As you think about these prayers, ask yourself, "Where do I go for justice? What does God say about justice?"

Saturday: A Call to Prayer for the peaceful transition of power

Guiding Scripture: James 3:13-18

The Inauguration of Thomas Jefferson, our third President, marked the first peaceful transition of power between two common citizens (former president John Adams was leaving office) in United States history. George Washington chose to leave office after two terms, but John Adams was defeated prior to a second term by Thomas Jefferson. Since then, from President to President, the US has enjoyed a dignified and noteworthy change in leadership throughout our two plus centuries as a nation.

As you pray: Adore God for His preserving power over America's peaceful succession ever since the birth of our nation and for the wisdom given to the founders. Confess our sinfulness in how quickly we accuse those with whom we disagree while excusing those whom we favor. Thank God for the freedom we enjoy as citizens of the United States, asking that God would make us aware of those in our country who do not experience such freedom. Ask God to Supply us with the peaceful transfer of executive, legislative and judicial power and supply peace in the land thereafter.

Read again the passage from James as a prayer, asking for God's wisdom for all the people of the land beginning with yourself. Write down the descriptions of our ungodly conduct James describes and sit with this before the Lord. Pray that those we favor will demonstrate meek conduct and godly wisdom in their decisions. Pray that the "Harvest of righteousness will be sown in peace by those who make peace (James 3:18)."