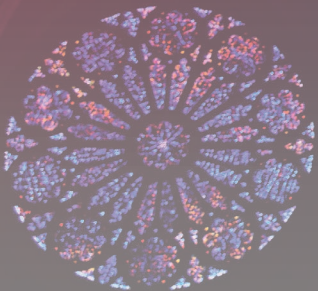




WASHINGTON
NATIONAL
CATHEDRAL

Interfaith Service of Prayer for the Nation

NOVEMBER 5, 2024





INTERFAITH SERVICE OF PRAYER FOR THE NATION

NOVEMBER 5, 2024 • NOON

The people's responses are in bold.

PRELUDE

Great Are You, Lord

Jason Ingram (b. 1974), Leslie Jordan, David Leonard (b. 1985)

The people stand as able at the introduction to the hymn.

HYMN AT THE PROCESSION • 645 (STANZAS 1-2, 5-6)

The King of Love My Shepherd Is

Sung by all.

St. Columba



1. The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness fail - eth nev - er;
2. Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed soul he lead - eth,
5. Thou spread'st a ta - ble in my sight; thy unc - tion grace be - stow - eth;
6. And so through all the length of days thy good - ness fail - eth nev - er:



I noth - ing lack if I am his, and he is mine for ev - er.
 and where the ver - dant pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.
 and oh, what trans - port of de - light from thy pure chal - ice flow - eth!
 Good Shep - herd, may I sing thy praise with - in thy house for ev - er.

THE OPENING ACCLAMATION

Let the peoples praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy;
for you rule the world with justice.

With fairness you rule the peoples,
and guide all the nations upon earth.

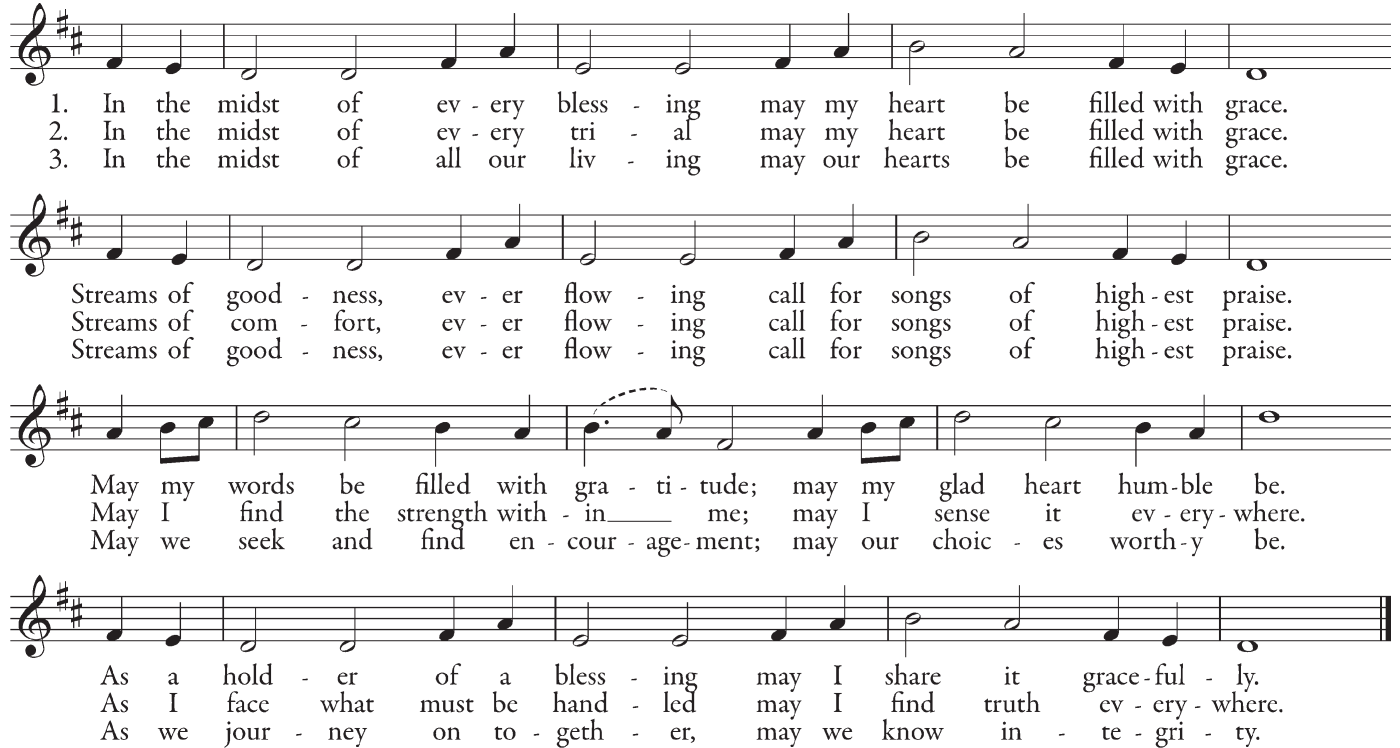
Let the people praise you, O God;
let all the peoples praise you.

HYMN OF PRAISE

In the Midst of Every Blessing

Sung by all.

Nettleton



1. In the midst of ev - ery bless - ing may my heart be filled with grace.
2. In the midst of ev - ery tri - al may my heart be filled with grace.
3. In the midst of all our liv - ing may our hearts be filled with grace.

Streams of good - ness, ev - er flow - ing call for songs of high - est praise.
Streams of com - fort, ev - er flow - ing call for songs of high - est praise.
Streams of good - ness, ev - er flow - ing call for songs of high - est praise.

May my words be filled with gra - ti - tude; may my glad heart hum - ble be.
May I find the strength with - in me; may I sense it ev - ery - where.
May we seek and find en - cour - age - ment; may our choic - es worth - y be.

As a hold - er of a bless - ing may I share it grace - ful - ly.
As I face what must be hand - led may I find truth ev - ery - where.
As we jour - ney on to - geth - er, may we know in - te - gri - ty.

PRAYERS FOR THE DAY

God of all peoples and nations, we have gathered in this place to pray for our country. We come from varied backgrounds and political beliefs that often put us at odds with our friends, our family, and our neighbors. In this time of prayer, inspire us through your Spirit to a renewed sense of unity. Move us beyond the things that would divide to a deep awareness of all that we share. In your holy Name, we pray. **Amen.**

God of eternity, you have called us to live in peace, love, and unity. During this time of divisiveness, we pray for your intervention to bring about unity and love. May they be the rock on which we stand as we continue to glorify your Name. **Amen.**

God of all power, on this election day be with us as we vote guided by prayer. We hold before you our country, candidates for election, their families and staffs, voters, and all election officials that we may have a safe, free, and fair process. **Amen.**

The people are seated.

SACRED READING

Jewish Tradition

Deuteronomy 16:18-20

You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people. You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

PRAYER

Our God and God of our ancestors,
with hope and humility we approach
on this Election Day,
the day on which We the People
will choose the individuals
who will govern our nation, our states,
and our communities.

You have abundantly blessed
the United States of America
with freedom, security, prosperity,
and the right to democratic self-government.

You made it possible for the founders of our country
to fulfill the command of Your Torah,
to “proclaim liberty throughout the land,
and unto all the inhabitants thereof.” (*Leviticus 25:10*)

Daily we pray to You
to restore our leaders as in former times.
On this Election Day,
help us to remember
that in America we are responsible
for choosing our own leaders,
and that the survival of our democracy,
and the well-being of generations of
Americans to come,
depend upon the care we take in those choices.

Daily we pray to You
for knowledge, discernment, and wisdom.
On this Election Day
grant us those blessings in full,
so that we may consider our choices with knowledge
and vote with discernment and wisdom,
with the best interests of our country
and our communities in mind.

Daily we pray to You
to subdue the arrogant in our time.
On this Election Day, and every day,
help us to subdue the arrogance within ourselves.

Open our hearts and minds
to consider the opinions of our fellow citizens,
as we call upon them to consider ours.
Strengthen our will
to fulfill our duties to our country
and to one another.

To exercise our precious right to vote.
And to do all we can to ensure
that every legal vote is counted,
regardless of the candidate or party
for whom it is cast.

May it be Your will
that our decisions this Election Day
will preserve this country
as a wellspring of liberty
and a beacon of tolerance and democracy
for the entire world.

And let us say **Amen**.

ANTHEM

God Be in My Head

Sung by the choir.

John Rutter (b. 1945)

God be in my head, and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in mine heart, and in my thinking;
God be at my end, and at my departing.

(from Sarum Primer, 1514)

SACRED READING

Muslim Tradition

Qur'an 49:13

“O humanity! Indeed, We created you from a male and a female, and made you into peoples and tribes so that you may get to know one another. Surely the most noble of you in the sight of God is the most righteous among you. God is truly All-Knowing, All-Aware.”

Qur'an 4:114

“There is no good in most of their secret talks—except those encouraging charity, kindness, or reconciliation between people. And whoever does this seeking God's pleasure, will be granted a great reward.”

PRAYER

Living God, repair the souls of our fellow citizens, so that they may echo the voice of reason, wisdom, and sanity in our country and all over the world, with unwavering respect for human rights and commitment to dignity and security for all people.

God, for the sake of those children dying out of pain, for the sake of the mothers crying out of despair, for the sake of those seeking a dignified home to claim for themselves and their families, and for the sake of the earth suffering out of destruction, make this a moment with full commitment to dignity of all people and all citizens of this country of ours, and to the earth.

With sincere hearts, we ask that You inspire our leaders elected or about to be, with the ability to love unconditionally, to serve passionately, and to become a voice of truth and justice vigorously.

God, restore their faith in you so that they may continue to be agents of goodness, harmony, peace, optimism, and tranquility here in the United States and around the world.

God, we pray for a new path of reconciliation between all races, all religions, and all nations.

God, inspire these leaders graduating with the ability to turn fears to love, to inspire us to break the swords of war, to put off the fires of hate, and to march together in the gardens of kindness, justice, and liberty.

We praise you O God! Ever living... Ever giving... Ever Loving... Ever Kind... Ever Holy...

ANTHEM

Make Us One

Sung by the ensemble.

Carol Cymbala (b. 1947)

Make us one Lord,
Make us one.
Holy Spirit, make us one.
Let your love show,
So the world will know,
We are one in you.

SACRED READING

Christian Tradition

John 12:27-28

Jesus said, “Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.”

PRAYER

Almighty and eternal God, source of all wisdom and understanding, bless this nation and all who dwell within it. In a time when so many feel alienated, fearful, and angry, grant us courage and compassion to respect neighbors whose views differ from our own. Enable us to see one another not as enemies, but, in all our diversity, as beloved children created in your image. Remove any hatred and malice from our hearts and sow love and goodwill in their place. Guide us to heal our fractured and divided nation, that we may find reconciliation rather than recrimination. In the midst of our struggle for justice and truth, help us uphold our devotion to democracy and the rule of law. Let us never take for granted the freedoms won in generations past and may your wisdom lead us to better ways to live together with humility, civility, and generosity of spirit. We ask all this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

REFLECTION

The Right Reverend Mariann Edgar Budde

ANTHEM

We Will Stand

Sung by the ensemble.

Russ Taff (b. 1953)

Sometimes it's hard for me to understand,
Why we pull away from each other so easily.
Even though we're all walking the same road,
Yet we build dividing walls between
Our brothers and ourselves.
But I, I don't care what label you may wear,
If you believe in Jesus you belong with me.
The bond we share is all I care to see.
And we can change this world forever
if you will join with me,
Join and sing, sing.

Refrain You're my brother, you're my sister,
So take me by the hand.
Together we will work until He comes.
There's no foe that can defeat us,
When we're walking side by side.
As long as there is love,
We will stand.

The day will come when we will be as one,
And with a mighty voice together
We will proclaim, that Jesus,
Jesus is King.
And it will echo through the earth,
It will shake the nations,
And the world will see, see that

Refrain

The time is here, the time is now,
To take a stand, to make a vow.
I won't let go, you're not alone,
Now and forever, we'll sing together.

Refrain

The people stand as able.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each intercession,

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Said by all.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

THE CLOSING PRAYERS

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lord God Almighty, 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, one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

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 rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Eternal and loving God, we thank you for our great nation. Thank you for the liberties we have through our Constitution. We thank you for the right to vote freely without fear. Thank you for giving us the wisdom, discernment and knowledge to vote for the benefit of the nation. **Amen.**

Almighty God, who has given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly ask that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of your favor and glad to do your will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought forth out of many peoples and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in your Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to your law, we may show forth your praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in you to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

The bishop blesses the people, and the people respond, Amen.

THE DISMISSAL

Go out into the world to be people of love, justice, peace, and hope.
Thanks be to God.

HYMN AT THE CLOSING • 680

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

Sung by all.

St. Anne



1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2. un - der the sha - dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
4. A thou - sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone;
5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way;
6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,



1. our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
2. suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
3. from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
4. short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
5. they fly, for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the o - pening day.
6. be thou our guide while life shall last, and our e - ter - nal home.

POSTLUDE

“Praeludium” from *Suite circulaire*, Op. 1289

Carson Cooman (b. 1982)

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