

Prayers
before the Inauguration of the
46th President of the
United States of America

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PRAYERS BEFORE THE INAUGURATION

Prelude

The People stand for the
Processional Hymn *O God of every nation*

HYMN 607 P. 9 LEAFLET

Presider Blessed be God, who Creates, Redeems and Sanctifies.
People **And blessed be the Realm of God, now and forever.**

BIDDING PRAYER:

Hear the words of The Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776:
“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

As Christians who are Americans, we gather this day to thank God for the gifts of our freedom and liberty, to honor those whose vision, wisdom and sacrifice secured these ‘unalienable Rights’ for us and every generation, to confess that while we believe that all are created equal, we have not always allowed others to enjoy that freedom or those rights; we ask God’s forgiveness and call upon God’s unconditional love and boundless mercy to grant that we may be given the strength and courage to live more fully into our faith and beliefs.

Let us pray:

O Lord our Governor, 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.

Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

To Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that

human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord.

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

**For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all.
Amen.**

Presider Let us now remember our history, that our past may inform our future.
A Reading from The Rev. John Lewis, U.S. Representative, 1987-2020:

You are a light. You are the light. Never let anyone—any person or any force—dampen, dim or diminish your light. Study the path of others to make your way easier and more abundant. Lean toward the whispers of your own heart, discover the universal truth, and follow its dictates. [...] Release the need to hate, to harbor division, and the enticement of revenge. Release all bitterness. Hold only love, only peace in your heart, knowing that the battle of good to overcome evil is already won. Choose confrontation wisely, but when it is your time don't be afraid to stand up, speak up, and speak out against injustice. And if you follow your truth down the road to peace and the affirmation of love, if you shine like a beacon for all to see, then the poetry of all the great dreamers and philosophers is yours to manifest in a nation, a world community, and a Beloved Community that is finally at peace with itself.

Hymn O day of God, draw nigh

HYMN 601 P. 10 LEAFLET

Collect

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**

A Reading from President John F. Kennedy's Inaugural Address, 1961:

The world is very different now. For man holds in his mortal hands the power to abolish all forms of human poverty and all forms of human life. And yet the same revolutionary beliefs for which our forebears fought are still at issue around the globe--the belief that the rights of man come not from the generosity of the state but from the hand of God.

We dare not forget today that we are the heirs of that first revolution. Let the word go forth from this time and place, to friend and foe alike, that the torch

has been passed to a new generation of Americans--born in this century, tempered by war, disciplined by a hard and bitter peace, proud of our ancient heritage--and unwilling to witness or permit the slow undoing of those human rights to which this nation has always been committed, and to which we are committed today at home and around the world....

So let us begin anew--remembering on both sides that civility is not a sign of weakness, and sincerity is always subject to proof. Let us never negotiate out of fear. But let us never fear to negotiate.... Let both sides explore what problems unite us instead of belaboring those problems which divide us.... Let both sides unite to heed in all corners of the earth the command of Isaiah--to "undo the heavy burdens . . . (and) let the oppressed go free."

And if a beachhead of cooperation may push back the jungle of suspicion, let both sides join in creating a new endeavor, not a new balance of power, but a new world of law, where the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved. In your hands, my fellow citizens, more than mine, will rest the final success or failure of our course....

Now the trumpet summons us again--not as a call to bear arms, though arms we need--not as a call to battle, though embattled we are-- but a call to bear the burden of

a long twilight struggle, year in and year out, "rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation"--a struggle against the common enemies of man: tyranny, poverty, disease and war itself. Can we forge against these enemies a grand and global alliance, North and South, East and West, that can assure a more fruitful life for all mankind? Will you join in that historic effort?

...The energy, the faith, the devotion which we bring to this endeavor will light our country and all who serve it--and the glow from that fire can truly light the world. And so, my fellow Americans: ask not what your country can do for you--ask what you can do for your country....

Hymn *What does the Lord require for praise and offering?* HYMN 605 P. 11 LEAFLET

Collect

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Archbishop Desmond Tutu on Peace and Reconciliation

All South Africans were less than whole because of apartheid. Blacks suffered years of cruelty and oppression, while many privileged whites became more uncaring, less compassionate, less humane, and therefore less human. Yet during these years of suffering and inequality, each South African's humanity was still tied to that of all others, white or black, friend or enemy. For our own dignity can only be measured in the way we treat others.....For our nation to heal and become a more humane place, we had to embrace our enemies as well as our friends. The same is true the world over. True enduring peace—between countries, within a country, within a community, within a family—requires real reconciliation between former enemies and even between loved ones who have struggled with one another.... If you want to make peace, you don't talk to your friends, you talk with your enemies.

Hymn *O day of peace*

HYMN 597 P. 12 LEAFLET

Collect

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength is known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of the one God, to whom be sovereignty and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

The People stand

The Gospel

Gospeller The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew (5:43-48).

People **Glory to you, O Christ**

Jesus said, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

Gospeller The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Affirmation of Faith

(from "Daily Prayer for All Seasons" General Convention 2014)

We believe in God, who loves us and wants us to love each other. This is our God.

We believe in Jesus, who cared for children and held them in his arms. He wanted a world where everyone could live together in peace.

This is Jesus Christ.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, who keeps working with us until everything is good and true.

This is the Holy Spirit.

We can be the church, which reminds people of God because we love each other. This we believe. Amen.

Prayers of the People

(adapted from the Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music of the Episcopal Church)

Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

God of love, we pray for your church: For Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Scott, our bishop provisional; for all lay and ordained ministers; and for all who seek you in the community of the faithful. Equip us with compassion and love, to carry out your work of reconciliation in the world.

God of love,
Hear our prayers for the church.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of freedom, we pray for our nation, and all the nations of the world: For peace and unity across barriers of language, color, and creed; for elected and appointed leaders, that they would serve the common good. Inspire all people with courage to speak out against hatred, to actively resist evil, to unite the human family in bonds of the Beloved Community.

God of freedom,
Hear our prayers for the world.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of creation, we pray for the earth, your creation entrusted to our care: For the animals and birds, the mountains and oceans, and all parts of your creation that have no voice of their own. Stir up in us a thirst for stewardship to protect the earth and all its resources, that we may leave to our children's children the legacy of beauty and abundance that you have given us.

God of creation,
Hear our prayers for the earth.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of peace, we pray for this community: For our local leaders; for our schools and markets; for our neighborhoods and workplaces. Kindle in every heart a desire for equality, respect, and opportunity for all. Give us courage to strive for justice and peace among all people, beginning here at home.

God of peace,
Hear our prayers for this community.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of mercy, we pray for all in any kind of need or trouble: For those whose lives are closely linked with ours, and those connected to us as part of the human family. For refugees and prisoners; for the sick and suffering, the lonely and despairing; for those facing violence; for all held down by prejudice or injustice. Awaken in us compassion and humility of spirit, as we seek and serve Christ in all persons.

God of mercy,
Hear our prayers for all who are in need.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

God of grace, we pray for those who have died: For the faithful in every generation who have worked for justice; for prophets who called us to racial reconciliation; for martyrs who died because of hatred; and for all the communion of saints. Make us faithful to your call to proclaim your Good News, by word and example, and bring us at last into the glorious company of the saints in light.

God of grace,
Hear our prayers for those who have died.

Silence — Add your prayers, silently or in your hearts

Concluding Collect

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart in our country, 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.** (BCP p. 823)

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, together we pray,
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 Peace

Presider The Peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

The Blessing (Numbers 6:24–26)

God bless you
 and keep you;
God's face shine upon you
 and be gracious to you;
God's face turn towards (our nation)
 and give (us) peace.

The Dismissal

Presider Let us go forth as a Beloved Community certain in the power of God,
 through whom all things are possible.

People **Thanks be to God**

Hymn *When Christ was lifted*

Hymn 603 P. 12 Leaflet

1 O God of ev - ery na - tion, of ev - ery race and land,
 2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,
 3 Lord, strength-en all who la - bor that we may find re - lease
 4 Keep bright in us the vi - sion of days when war shall cease,

re - deem the whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;
 from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,
 from fear of rat - tling sa - ber, from dread of war's in - crease;
 when ha - tred and di - vi - sion give way to love and peace,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,
 from pride of race and na - tion and blind - ness to your way,
 when hope and cour - age fal - ter, your still small voice be heard;
 till dawns the morn - ing glo - rious when truth and jus - tice reign

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.
 de - liv - er ev - ery na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray!
 with faith that none can al - ter, your ser - vants un - der - gird.
 and Christ shall rule vic - to - rious o'er all the world's do - main.

Words: William Watkins Reid, Jr. (b. 1923), alt.

Music: *Llanglofan*, melody from *Hymnau a Thosau er Gwasanaeth yr Eglwys yng Nghymru*, 1865;
 harm. *The English Hymnal*, 1906

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1 O day of God, draw nigh in beau - ty and in power, come
 2 Bring to our trou - bled minds, un - cer - tain and a - fraid, the
 3 Bring jus - tice to our land, that all may dwell se - cure, and
 4 Bring to our world of strife thy sov - ereign word of peace, that
 5 O day of God, draw nigh as at cre - a - tion's birth, let

1 with thy time - less judg - ment now to match our pres - ent hour.
 2 qui - et of a stead - fast faith, calm of a call o - beyed.
 3 fine - ly build for days to come foun - da - tions that en - dure.
 4 war may haunt the earth no more and des - o - la - tion cease.
 5 there be light a - gain, and set thy judg - ments in the earth.

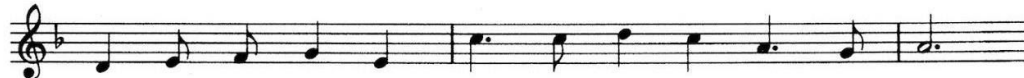
Words: Robert Balgarnie Young Scott (b. 1899)

Music: *St. Michael*, Louis Bourgeois (1510?-1561?); harm. William Henry Monk (1823-1889)

SM



1 What does the Lord re - quire for praise and of - fer - ing?
 2 Rul - ers of earth, give ear! Should you not jus - tice show?
 3 Still down the a - ges ring the pro - phet's stern com-mands.
 4 How shall my soul ful - fill God's law so hard and high?



What sac - ri - fice de - sire, or trib - ute bid you bring?
 Will God your plead - ing hear, while crime and cruel - ty grow?
 To mer - chant, work - er, king he brings God's high de - mands.
 Let Christ en - due our will with grace to for - ti - fy.



Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
 Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
 Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk hum - bly with your God.
 Then just - ly, in mer - cy we'll (hum - bly walk with God.)



hum - bly walk with God.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984), alt.

Music: *Sharphorne*, Erik Routley (1917-1982)

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1 O day of peace that dim - ly shines through all our
2 Then shall the wolf dwell with the lamb, nor shall the



hopes and prayers and dreams, guide us to jus - tice, truth, and
fierce de - vour the small; as beasts and cat - tle calm - ly



love, de - liv - ered from our self - ish schemes. May swords of
graze, a lit - tle child shall lead them all. Then en - e -



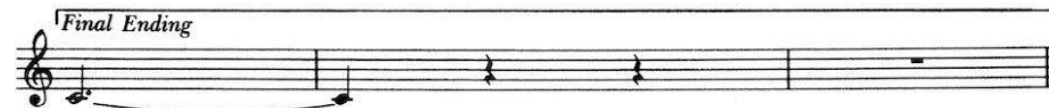
hate fall from our hands, our hearts from en - vy find re -
mies shall learn to love, all crea - tures find their true ac -



lease, till by God's grace our war - ring world shall see Christ's
cord; the hope of peace shall be ful - filled, for all the



prom-ised reign of peace.
earth shall know the (Lord.)



Lord. _____

1 When Christ was lift - ed from the earth, his
 2 Still east and west his love ex - tends and
 3 Where gen - er - a - tion, class, or race di -
 4 Thus free - ly loved, though ful - ly known, may

arms stretched out a - bove through ev - ery cul - ture,
 al - ways, near or far, he calls and claims us
 vide us to our shame, he sees not la - bels
 I in Christ be free to wel - come and ac -

ev - ery birth, to draw an an - swering love.
 as his friends and loves us as we are.
 but a face, a per - son, and a name.
 cept his own as Christ ac - cept - ed me.

Words: Brian A. Wren (b. 1936)

Music: *St. Botolph*, Gordon Slater (1896-1979)

CM

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