

A Litany for Good Government

*A re-crafting by Pastor Melanie Oommen of the Litany for Good Government,
The Book of Common Prayer*

Creator of the Universe, in this time of leadership transition in our nation, at this moment when many of our brothers and sisters in this nation rejoice in this transition even as many are weighted with fear and animated by outrage, all of us aware that no matter how we experience this transition there are more questions than answers of what the future will bring, O God, in this and in all times, we worship you today because, no matter the changing political landscape, we affirm that you still have the whole world in your holy hands. When the ground beneath us shifts and changes, help us to know that you are the source of strength, courage, compassion from which we can always draw . . .

We ask: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Holy One, send a revival of compassion and a spirit of love and generosity across this united and divided nation. Empower us to listen well, to speak with wisdom, to stand in unity, to serve with love, and to intercede in prayer and action for our communities and our political officials. Empower us to be advocates for just economic and community development and wholeness. Let your dream for all creation be realized, let your will be done, in and through us and the systems in which we participate . . .

We ask: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Blessed Hope, you made us in your own image and redeem us through your abiding love. By your grace, take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and transform and reconcile our struggles, our fears, our ignorance and confusion so that your will for justice on this earth might be accomplished . . .

We ask: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Living Christ, who commands us to love our enemies: Lead our nation from prejudice to truth: deliver us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; teach us anew to advocate and care for the outcast, the stranger, the forgotten, the despised, for those who feel alone and unheard. . . show us how to embody a love that defies human understanding, a love whose source is you. . .

We ask: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Author and Sustainer of Life, Bless the leaders of our land, that they may help us be a people at peace among ourselves, living out in public policy and practice our highest values, that we would be a blessing to other nations of the earth. We give thanks for the faithful service of Barak Obama and his family, and we pray for President Trump, Vice President Mike Pence, and members of the Cabinet, governors, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. And we pray for the families of our elected officials honoring the sacrifices they make in support of the greater good.

We ask: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

To Senators and Representatives of Congress, for members of the Oregon state legislature and City Councils, to all those who make laws in our nation, give courage, wisdom, and compassion to provide for the needs of all people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations and to our planet.

We ask: in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Author of Life, teach us to rely on your strength and to accept our profound responsibilities to neighbors near and far, that we engage in our democracy and advocate for wise decisions for the well-being of our planet and all things living; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation, in this moment of our life together, so that future generations and our planet might thrive and be made whole.

We ask all this and for the silent prayers of our hearts : in your mercy, hear our prayer. Amen.