29 Days of Prayer

for the 2016 Presidential Election

In the midst of headline news, social media tirades, uncertain times and constant disagreements about who we are and who we should be, it’s hard to even know where to begin. We just know that we have a deep ache in our hearts that cries out for God’s mercy and a longing to see healing in our land.

In all of the battles about the Presidential election - defending our views, pointing out our differences, scoffing at the opposing side and claiming that our side is the “Christian” side, we might ask ourselves this: Have we prayed about it as much as we have talked about it, worried about it, posted about it, and debated about it?

You are invited to join in an intentional time of prayer leading up to our national election as well as for the state and local elections. Here are 29 Bible passages and prayer points for you to consider. Feel free to use, share or formulate your own prayers. But, pray, we must! Blessings on you and yours as we journey towards the next election.

*Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. – Colossians 4:2*

**Day 1 (10/11/16)**

*The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it,
    the world, and all who live in it;**for he founded it on the seas
    and established it on the waters. – Psalm 24:1-2*

Loving God, all of the earth belongs to you. We praise you, Mighty Creator, and we give thanks for the gift of this great creation. Help us to look up in awe at the beauty of the skies, the changing colors of the trees, and know your majestic countenance. Help us to look around and take note of your creation in nature, in people and in ourselves. Help us to look down, and be mindful of where we are and of whose we are.

**Day 2 (10/12/16)**

*Show me your ways, Lord,
    teach me your paths.**Guide me in your truth and teach me,
    for you are God my Savior,
    and my hope is in you all day long. – Psalm 25:4-5*

Loving and Gracious God, we come to you in humility. Show us the way to pray. Open up our hearts to truth. Rather than giving into fear, anger, and bewilderment, help us to turn to you. For our hope is in you alone, all day long.

**Day 3 (10/13/16)**

*For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,neither the present nor the future, nor any powers,**neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. – Romans 8:38-39*

Awesome God, we live in the promise of your faithful love; knowing that there is nothing that we can do or say - or can be done or said to us, which will separate us from your love. Thank you, God! Living in this assurance allows us to live courageously, seeking to do your will in all matters.

**Day 4 (10/14/16)**

*Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord,
    the people he chose for his inheritance.**From heaven the Lord looks down
    and sees all humankind;
from his dwelling place he watches
    all who live on earth—**he who forms the hearts of all,
    who considers everything they do. – Psalm 33:12-15*

Lord, we pray for these United States – which don’t feel very united these days. Help us, O Lord, turn to you. Stir up a longing in our hearts for peace and for compassion. We pray for the Holy Spirit to sweep the land and light a fire of humility and repentance – beginning with me. Change our hearts, O God.

**Day 5 (10/15/16)**

*My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one.****16****They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. – John 17: 15-17*

O Lord, what is truth? That word is being bantered back and forth! And the opposite of truth – lies – is also being bantered back and forth. Where is the truth and where are the falsehoods in this election? Help us, O Lord, seek the truth; first in your scriptures and then in the world. Protect us, our loved ones, and all of your children from the evil one. Help us to lean into you and your truth.

**Day 6 (10/16/16)**

*I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people— for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.**This is good, and pleases God our Savior,**who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.*

 *- 1 Timothy 2:1-3*

Lord God, help us be faithful in praying for our leaders and for those in authority. We pray for President Obama and for his family. We pray for the Colorado Governor, John Hickenlooper. And we pray for all of our representatives in our nation’s capital, state capital and here at home. Help them to be wise, making good choices, discerning what is best for all people. We do pray for “peace and quiet” – not just the absence of war; but a peace that is born of justice and goodness.

**Day 7 (10/17/16)**

*And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.” – Mark 11:25*

Abba God, I can forgive in general; but the specific acts of forgiveness are hard. You know those people I am talking about – and what they have done and what they have said! Forgive them, you command? Only with your help, O Lord. Help me to take the needed action to forgive those who have sinned against me, as I have sinned against you.

**Day 8 (10/18/16)**

*When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice;
    when the wicked rule, the people groan. – Proverbs 20:2*

Dear Lord, after each election, there is rejoicing and there is groaning. We are so sure that our side is righteous – and that the other side is…if not “wicked”, certainly we see them as on the wrong side. Help us, Lord, to be humble and steadfast no matter who is voted in as president. We do pray for righteousness to be evident in our country, in our churches, and in our homes.

**Day 9 (10/19/16)**

*But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” – 2 Corinthians 12:9*

We pray for Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein, that you may bless them according to your will; that your will may be done in their lives; that where they are in error, you may guide and correct them; and that where they are wise, you may strengthen them. Stir in each of their hearts a love for truth, for liberty and justice, and for the common good.

**Day 10 (10/20/16)**

*Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.**And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. – Philippians 4:6-7*

Faithful One, Thank you for the promise of your peace at this time when so many are living with fear and worry. You tell us not to be anxious and to come to you in prayer. Here we are, Lord, once again handing over our worries and fears and concerns. Thank you for granting your peace to guard our hearts and minds.

**Day 11 (10/21/16)**

*Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!**Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. –Philippians 4:4-5*

Thank you, Loving God, for the gift of joy. When we become distracted by the animosity and crazy confusion, help us to stop, breathe, and rejoice in you. Gentleness is not an easy trait in these harsh times, but gentle we will strive to be. Thank you for being near, O Lord.

**Day 12 (10/22/16)**

*Turn to me and be gracious to me,
    for I am lonely and afflicted.
Relieve the troubles of my heart
    and free me from my anguish. – Psalm 25:16-18*

Dear Lord, there are many people in this world who are lonely and afflicted. There are people in my family, my church, and even my neighborhood who are lonely and suffering for one reason or another. Help me to seek these people out and offer a helping hand and a word of grace. Don’t let me be so tied up in knots over what is being reported on the news, that I forget to seek out those near me, who need graciousness.

**Day 13 (10/23/16)**

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” -Joshua 1:9*

Loving God, Thank you for these words encouraging, even commanding us to be strong and courageous. Lord, you know that there are times that we are anything but! We feel scared – frightened by what is happening around us and in the world. Help us not to give into fear; but to be **bold** (see what I did there?) because we can trust in you.

**Day 14 (10/24/16)**

*People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.” -Luke 13:29-30*

God of all nations, what a beautiful image you have given us of people coming from all regions of the earth – to join in the feast of the kingdom of God! Help us to welcome your children from the east and the west and from the south and the north – today, now. Sometimes we think that this means a heavenly feast, so we don’t have to deal with “those” people today. And, yet, you immediately point out that the last will be first and the first will be last. Help us to humbly usher those “in the back” to join those in the front. Help us to love and respect all of your children.

**Day 15 (10/25/16)**

*I love you Lord, my strength. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. I call to the Lord, who is worth of praise, and I am saved from my enemies. – Psalm 18:1-3*

Rock of Ages, you are our fortress. You won’t crumble even if it feels like the ground beneath is quaking as if on a fault line. Help us to acknowledge our weakness so that we might cling to you. You are our refuge and our strength!

**Day 16 (10/26/16)**

*“They also will answer, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or needing clothes or sick or in prison, and did not help you?’ “He will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.’ –Matthew 25:44-45*

Awesome God, Help us to be generous with our words, our talents, and our possessions. For these are all from you, signs of your gracious love. It’s easy to want to keep things for myself and for my family – and yet, you repeatedly teach that when we give to others, we are giving to you. Set us free from possessions and stinginess and instill in us a desire to bless others.

**Day 17 (10/27/16)**

*I will praise the Lord, who counsels me;
    even at night my heart instructs me.
I keep my eyes always on the Lord.
    With him at my right hand, I will not be shaken. – Psalm 16: 7-8*

Gracious God, we pray for Donald Trump, Hilary Clinton, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein as well as the rulers of all nations. We pray that they do seek guidance from you. We pray that they ask the counsel of the wise and discerning. Being the President of the United States is a huge responsibility and gift. Instill in them the awe and the mindfulness that this position requires.

**Day 18 (10/28/16)**

*Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.  -1Timothy 4:12*

Holy One, thank you for the youth of today! Thank you for their imagination, knowledge, their creativity, their desire and tenacity to choose to live differently. Forgive those of us who have looked down upon the millenials, the teenagers, and the children who don’t meet our expectations. Let us look at them through your eyes, Beloved Creator, and include them in the important decisions of this world.

**Day 19 (10/29/16)**

*Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body—whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but of many. (1 Corinthians 12:12-14)*

O Lord, in you we are all one. It is so hard to realize this sometime! For there are Christians who act and think and speak in ways that don’t match up with my own beliefs. It is much easier to be “one body” when we are with like-minded people. Help us to remember that the “one body” isn’t of our doing; but of yours. Help us to recognize that it is through you that we all belong.

**Day 20 (10/30/16)**

*“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.**Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.**For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” –Matthew 11:29-30*

Happy Reformation Sunday, God! Thank you for the reformers who bravely moved against the institutional church, calling into question the heavy burdens that were being placed upon your people. Lord Jesus, you taught us that faith in you should be gentle and light. Why, then do we keep making it so hard on ourselves? Forgive us for choosing to lead rather than be yoked with you.

**Day 21 (10/31/16)**

*God is our refuge and strength,
    an ever-present help in trouble.**Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
    and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea,
though its waters roar and foam
    and the mountains quake with their surging. –Psalm 46:1-3*

Dear God, thank you for being an ever-present help in time of trouble. There is trouble all around! Floods, droughts, famines, earthquakes, hurricanes in the west and typhoons in the east; graft and corruption; violence on so many levels and in every place; the list could go on and on. And even if we feel safe in our environment, there are other troubles that cause worry: job security, health, broken relationships, grades, and our future. Help remind us, Lord, that we are not alone and don’t have to do this life alone. You are present – forever and always.

**Day 22 (11/1/16)**

*When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them. The foreigner residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt. -Leviticus 19:33-34*

Holy One, give us wisdom. Throughout the scriptures, we read of how we are to treat the foreigner with respect and compassion and godly hospitality. This has become such a lightening rod issue in the US and throughout Europe. We know that by our birth, we have been born in a land of plenty. And we also know that there are many suffering throughout this world. It’s complicated, Lord. Help make it clear how we should live and give in your gracious love.

**Day 23 (11/2/16)**

*Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. – Romans 8:26*

Holy Spirit, thank you for helping us in our weakness (physically, mentally and spiritually). For you surely know that there are times we don’t even know for what to pray or how to pray. Thank you for understanding our sighs and deep breaths and filling them with your prayers.

**Day 24 (11/3/16)**

*I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands;**for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline. -2 Timothy 1*

Emmanuel, God with us, rekindle in all of us the spirit of love, power and self-discipline. Let us boldly be the people you call us to be – loving God with all of our hearts, soul and might and our neighbor as ourselves.

**Day 25 (11/4/16)**

*“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God” -Psalm 20:7*

Awesome God, our strength is in you. We sometimes forget this. As we are persuaded to buy more and more, surrounding ourselves with things we consider to be of beauty, usefulness, and protection, remind us it is you, O Lord, in whom we gain our worth.

**Day 26 (11/5/16)**

*Give ear to my words, O Lord;
    give heed to my sighing.
Listen to the sound of my cry,
    my King and my God,
    for to you I pray.
O Lord, in the morning you hear my voice;
    in the morning I plead my case to you, and wait in expectation. –Psalm 5:1-3*

Gracious God, we come before you today with thanksgiving and praise. You continue to hear the prayers of our hearts. We pray for those, Loving God, who don’t turn to you for help, for comfort, for peace. Pour your grace upon them, Lord, so that they, too, have the desire to know you.

**Day 27 (11/6/16)**

*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been testedas we are, yet without sin.**Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. –Hebrews 4:15-16*

Jesus, who is our High Priest, we come before you today knowing that you have walked this earth, the subject of political upheaval. Those were confusing days with the infighting in the government and in the synagogue. Some people today are confused by the infighting, the wide variety of stories and accusations, and the decisions that must be made soon. Some are tempted not to vote. Lord, we are coming to you with boldness, asking for help in these matters, and seeking your mercy and grace.

**Day 28 (11/7/16)**

*Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.**Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me—put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. – Philippians 4:8-9*

Holy God, on the eve of Election Day, hold us all in the palm of your hand. We pray for the candidates, for their staff, and for all of the volunteers. We pray for our relationship with one another and with you.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

**Election Day (11/8/16)**

*For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it. –Isaiah 55:8-11*

"Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace.
Where there is hatred, let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
Where there is sadness, joy.

O Divine Master, grant that I 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 to self that we are born to eternal life."