

A Prayer for the Nation

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Dora, FL on November 8, 2020

By Rev. Dr. Thomas J. Biery

Context: Most of the prayer was written in the days before the final outcome of the Presidential election was clear.

Lord God, as you well know, this has been a hard, long, stressful, and anxious week in our country. It has been an uncertain week, an unprecedented week, and an historic week.

We are glad it is over! Today, some of us are still anxious (maybe even fearful or angry!) While others are relieved, hopeful, and celebratory.

We know that as Christians, you would have us “weep/empathize with those who weep and rejoice with those who rejoice.” But that is difficult for us. We are so divided, so polarized. We have always, in this nation, differed over policies & priorities (whether as Federalists and Whigs or as Republicans and Democrats) but we need not do it with hate and animosity and demonizing those who differ from us...

As Abraham Lincoln said so long ago, we need to “listen to our better angels”, “for a house divided against itself can not stand.” (quoting Jesus).

May we move from red & blue to red, white & blue.

Help us to see that those with whom we may differ (significantly) are also people who love their country deeply...and people whom you love...and would have us love.

Take away animosity and help us be reconciled.

The future, the health and soul and integrity of our nation is at stake.

We have been handed such a great heritage of freedom and rule by law, given a constitution with checks and balances, and equality under the law and no one is above the law. Deliver us from any injustice in the streets or in the counting of ballots, and from falsehoods and fear mongering.

This has been a week where “We the People” have voted and participated in our democratic republic like no other time in over a century. It has been a hands-on civics lesson for many! (even those with a strong civics/social studies/history background!)

May the season of rancor be replaced by the season of peace /healing/coming together”. E Pluribus Unum.” (One composed of many...) “One nation under God, indivisible with liberty & justice for all!!!”

We prayed last Sunday and every Sunday, “Your will be done...” And it may well be that you have now raised up someone “for such a time as this.” We pray for him and for all elected officials at every level. (And may we always remember that you are the Sovereign One.)

And so now, Lord, we move to a new season...a season of thanksgiving...a season of harvest...a season of stewardship.

A season when we recognize that “all good gifts” come from you...!! And thank you for them all: food and shelter and community/nation and family and church.

And most of all for your inexpressible gift of Jesus Christ, our Lord & Savior...Amen.