



ST. THOMAS
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

We, the baptized ministers,
declare Christ's Mission for us:
to grow as a Church
in the spiritual strength
of community,
and to care, reach out,
and include all people in Christ's love.

A Prayer Vigil for our Election



VOTE FAITHFULLY



Monday November 4, 2024
7:30 PM on Zoom

Introduction

Opening Music [*Make me a channel of your peace*](#)

Scripture

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said, “You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot. You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.” [NRSV]

Reflection

Rev. Fran

Prayers

Following the introduction of each petition, you are invited to offer your own prayers in the silence that follows, either silently or aloud.

Intercessor Let us pray for the world and all its leaders [*silence*]:

May leaders of nations have the courage to walk the path of peace together so that the most vulnerable in their lands may live with dignity and hope. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for the places of war and conflict around the world [*silence*]:

May the God who instructed us to turn our swords into ploughshares bring peace to those places of conflict and help us all to work for peace. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for our nation in this time of discernment, election, and transition [*silence*]:

May all citizens cast their vote in a spirit of reverence for this right, charity for those with whom they disagree, and concern for the good of all as we strive for a more perfect and peaceful union. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all people of faith and goodwill [*silence*]:

May the God of all grant us a spirit of wisdom and understanding, counsel and knowledge, fortitude, right judgment, patience, and kindness, as we discern what is good and just and follow our conscience. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for our presidential candidates, Donald Trump and Kamala Harris [*silence*]:

May Donald and Kamala, who seek the immense responsibility of the highest office of the United States, know the peace that comes from God alone. May they and their families be protected from harm. May the hearts of their opponents be softened by mercy. May the people they seek to lead show them respect. And may God forgive them and each of us our faults. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for all candidates who desire to serve in our national and local government, especially Senate Candidates Tim Kaine and Lan Cao and House Candidates Jerry Connelly and Mike VanMeter and other candidates you would name. [*silence*]:
May all seeking election commit themselves to the common good and encourage a peaceful response so that our nation may be faithful to its pledge of liberty and justice for all. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for reconciliation among families and friends where there is division [*silence*]:
May we learn to love each other despite our differences and focus on the work that continues beyond this election: the work of unity, respect for one another and for all life, and peace in our land. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Intercessor Let us pray for the ones most affected by the choices we make [*silence*]:
In all we do, may we keep before us the merciful face of Christ, who is seen in those who are poor, refugees and migrants, those who are sick, those affected by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, those without homes, those without food or meaningful work, and those whose lives are not valued in our society. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

These prayers were written by Diana Macalintal, and were adapted by The Rev. Fran Gardner-Smith in 2020 and 2024.

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence

**God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you,
opposing your will in our lives.
We have denied your goodness in each other,
in ourselves, and in the world you have created.
We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We repent of the evil that enslaves us,
the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf.
Forgive, restore, and strengthen us
through our Savior Jesus Christ,
that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.**

Absolution

Exchanging the Peace of Christ

Closing Hymn [*Be Not Afraid*](#)

*Voting and participation in our government is a way of participating in our common life
and that is a Christian obligation.” – Former Presiding Bishop Michael Curry*