

A PRAYER:

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We pray to you, our Father in heaven, ruler and judge of all nations, for our nation, the United States of America. We confess that we are a sinful nation, and have no right to expect your blessing. We have abandoned your laws and truth about mortality, approving and even celebrating what you condemn. We continue to kill the unborn by the thousands. We elect no longer to acknowledge God to be our Creator. We admit that the slogans "In God we trust" and "One nation under God" are but vestiges of faith to which we once aspired, ever so imperfectly, to espouse. You have blessed us with such a diverse population, but we have fostered division, suspicion, hatred and oppression. But we plead that you will hear our confessions. Have regard for the prayers of us in this land who pray to you in the name our Lord Jesus Christ, and bless and heal our land and our people.

Bless the families, friends and loved ones of those who have been killed, either by unfortunate tragic turn of events or by murderous intent. Please hold accountable those who are guilty and exonerate the innocent. Please hinder and thwart all those who deliberately seek to spread terror and hatred. Bless those in minority groups who have been mistreated and victimized in the past by unjust and oppressive laws and social structures. Thank you, Lord, for the progress that has been made in our nation to insure freedoms, rights and opportunities to all groups within our diverse nation. Bless, convict and guide us as we strive to identify, understand and correct ways in which current laws or conditions continue to oppress or encumber any persons or groups so as to deprive them of the benefits that all who live in this land should enjoy. Our nation consists of so many different kinds of people, various racial groups, ethnic or national origins, native born or immigrant, varying economic status. Please give us respect, acceptance, justice, and kindness toward one another, that our diversity always be an opportunity for strength and peace and not an occasion for strife and division.

We pray for our police and all law enforcement. We thank you for them and for the safety and peace we have because of them. May they always be to us not a terror to good conduct, but to bad, God's servants for good, who carry out God's wrath on wrongdoers. While we respect and appreciate our public servants who protect us so faithfully and courageously, we acknowledge that among them, as among every profession, are a certain few who are not fit to serve; please expose and remove them before they do more harm. Give our people the good sense not to judge the many others by the misconduct of those few. And finally, we ask that as these brave servants go out daily into our communities to do their peace-preserving work that you protect them and bring them home safely at the end of the day.

We plead and intercede for our nation, for our leaders and our governing authorities that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way. Please direct our course as our nation elects new leaders this year. We pray not only for their wisdom to lead our nation as it should be led, but that they and all our fellow citizens might be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.

O Lord, we ask that in our land, in these United States of America, that justice might roll down

like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. We pray that kindness, tolerance, peace and love might fall upon this dry and sin-parched land like refreshing, life-giving showers. We pray that faith in Jesus Christ and obedience to him as Lord of all might fill our land like a cleansing flood.

For all of us who are Christians, who pray for this nation, we ask that you protect us from evil and keep us safe. More than that, we ask that you bless us with faith to put our trust in you and not in our nationality, our economy, or our own resources. Let us treasure our citizenship in the kingdom of our Lord Jesus Christ and may that be our hope, our refuge and our comfort. Fill us with your light that we might shed abroad true light in this world of darkness, and radiate around us the light of faith in God and his word, of righteousness and truth. May your Spirit within us ever make us produce the fruit of sincere love for God, and toward our neighbors, whether they affirm us or attack us, love and compassion.