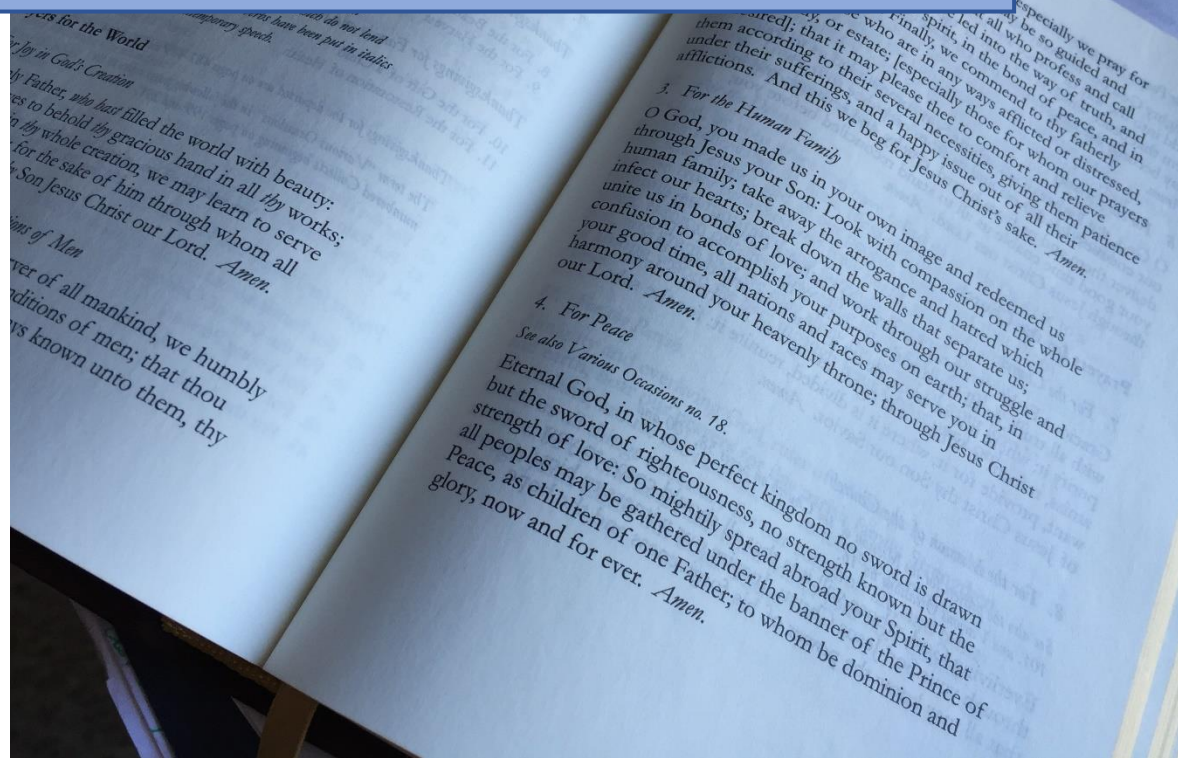


2024

Prayers for the Election



St. Thomas Episcopal Church
Savannah, Georgia

Friends,

I created this booklet for our use before the 2020 election because I believe it is important for people of faith to pray for our nation and for those who have offered themselves to run for all elected offices. I hope you will use this resource in the spirit it is offered to pray for our country and for all sorts and conditions of people.

As our country has become more and more polarized, I have realized that prayer must also be accompanied by action and that action begins with each individual doing our own inner work. We are stronger than the forces that divide us, and we do not have to be victim to division. It is helpful for me to remember that we are united by our common humanity, and if enough individuals pray and act for change, then we can move forward all together.

I've been reading the book High Conflict by Amanda Ripley recently, and she offers a list of questions to identify if individuals might be caught in a high conflict situation. (Note: I've modified them slightly to make them applicable to this election.) Consider this list of questions: "Do you lose sleep thinking about this election? Do you feel good when something bad happens to the other side, even if it doesn't directly benefit you? If the other side were to do something you actually agreed with, some small act, would it feel very uncomfortable to acknowledge this out loud? Does it feel like the other side is brain-washed, like a cult member, beyond the reach of moral reasoning? Do you ever feel stuck?...When you talk about the election with people who agree with you, do you same the same thing over and over-and leave the conversation feeling slightly worse than when you started talking? Has someone who knows you very well told you they don't recognize you anymore? Do you ever find yourself defending your own side by pointing out that the other side does the same thing-or worse? Do you see different people on the other side as essentially interchangeable?...Do you use words like 'always,' 'good,' 'bad,' 'us,' and 'them,' or 'war' when you talk about the election? Do you find it hard to remember the last time you felt genuine curiosity about the other side's thoughts, intentions, or actions?"

If you answered yes to five or more of these questions, you may be in high conflict as a result of this election. The question is do you want to stay there? If you answered yes, you may want to check in with yourself periodically to monitor the toll that it may be taking on you. Make a list. Is the cost still worth the gains? If you don't want to stay in this conflict or you become ready to move out of it, look for openings or create them yourself, ways to disrupt the conflict. This may mean opting out of the 24-hour news cycle, deleting your X/Twitter account, or other ways of creating space for yourself. If you answered yes to four or fewer questions, then you are probably not in high conflict. That means you have a lot more choices now than you might later...Try to stay in that space by remaining curious and by being unwilling to let our culture take away complexity that makes up each of us as individuals.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing through the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen. (Romans 15:13)

Peace, Reverend Melanie+

A LITURGY FOR AN ELECTION SEASON¹

Jesus said, “Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.” (*John 13:34-35*)

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Insert prayer for the day here. See following pages.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Let us confess our sins to God.

Silence may be kept. Minister and People pray together, saying,

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 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.

The Priest says

Almighty God have mercy on you (us), forgive you (us) all your (our) sins through the grace of Jesus Christ, strengthen you (us) in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you (us) in eternal life. Amen.

A deacon or lay person using the preceding form substitutes “us” for “you.”

LITANY FOR THE ELECTION

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of our president, officials, and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Donald, Melania, and the Trump family, that you would bless them, O Lord, and give them all the good things we want in our own lives and the lives of those we love.

Silence

For Kamala, Doug, and the Harris/Emhoff family, that you would bless them, O Lord, and give them all the good things we want in our own lives and the lives of those we love.

Silence

For all who are running for public office, that you would bless them, O Lord, and give them all the good things we want in our own lives and the lives of those we love.

Silence

For those with whom we disagree and are in conflict, with whom we struggle to understand and be in relationship, and from whom we are divided, that you would bless them, O Lord, and give them all the good things we want in our own lives and the lives of those we love.

Silence

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

People and Officiant

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy Name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those

who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power, and the glory,

for ever and ever. Amen.

The Officiant concludes

The almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us and keep us. Amen.

A SEASON OF PRAYER FOR AN ELECTIONⁱⁱ

Oct 6: Pray the prayer attributed to St. Francis

Lord, make us instruments of your peace. Where there is hatred, let us sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is discord, union; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy. Grant that we 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; and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. Amen.

Oct 7: Pray for elections at the national, state, and local level

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 8: Pray for our leaders and all in civil authority

O Lord our Governor, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Oct 9: Pray for the mission of the Church, especially in this time of division

O God, you have made of one blood all the peoples of the earth, and sent your blessed Son to preach peace to those who are far off and to those who are near: Grant that people everywhere may seek after you and find you; bring the nations into your fold; pour out your Spirit upon all flesh; and hasten the coming of your kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 10: Pray for national and state leaders

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We beseech thee so to guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled (or in the Legislature of this State), that they may enact such laws as shall please thee, to the glory of thy Name and the welfare of this people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 11: Pray for peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Oct 12: Pray for judges, magistrates, and courts of justice

Almighty God, who sittest in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech thee to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of thee alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Oct 13: Pray for local leaders

Almighty God our heavenly Father, send down upon those who hold office in this State, City, and County the spirit of wisdom, charity, and justice; that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their offices to promote the well-being of all people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 14: Pray for the nation

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Oct 15: Pray for justice for all people

Almighty God, who created us in your image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Oct 16: Pray for those who suffer for the sake of conscience

O God our Father, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. Amen.

Oct 17: Pray for peace in the world and in our nation

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Oct 18: Pray for our enemies

O God, the Father of all, whose Son commanded us to love our enemies: Lead them and us from prejudice to truth: deliver them and us from hatred, cruelty, and revenge; and in your good time enable us all to stand reconciled before you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 19: Pray for those who serve others

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be served but to serve: Bless all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his Name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Oct 20: Pray for peace among the nations

Almighty God our heavenly Father, guide the nations of the world into the way of justice and truth, and establish among them that peace which is the fruit of righteousness, that they may become the kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Oct 21: Pray for every human heart

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 22: Pray for those who influence public opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 23: Pray for these times of conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 24: Pray for the nation

Almighty God, who hast given us this good land for our heritage: We humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will. Bless our land with honorable industry, sound learning, and pure manners. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance, and from every evil way. Defend our liberties, and fashion into one united people the multitudes brought hither out of many kindreds and tongues. Endue with the spirit of wisdom those to whom in thy Name we entrust the authority of government, that there may be justice and peace at home, and that, through obedience to thy law, we may show forth thy praise among the nations of the earth. In the time of prosperity, fill our hearts with thankfulness, and in the day of trouble, suffer not our trust in thee to fail; all which we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 25: Pray for guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldest have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 26: Pray for the unity of the Church in this time of division

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that your Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Oct 27: Pray for direction from God

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 28: Pray for joy in God's creation

O heavenly Father, who hast filled the world with beauty: Open our eyes to behold thy gracious hand in all thy works; that, rejoicing in thy whole creation, we may learn to serve thee with gladness; for the sake of him through whom all things were made, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Oct 29: Pray for our own work for the common good

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Oct 30: Pray for discernment

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Oct 31: Pray for our hearts to be fixed on true joy

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Nov 1: Pray for the Saints and Faithful Departed

We give thanks to you, O Lord our God, for all your servants and witnesses of time past: for Abraham, the father of believers, and Sarah his wife; for Moses, the lawgiver, and Aaron, the priest; for Miriam and Joshua, Deborah and Gideon, and Samuel with Hannah his mother; for Isaiah and all the prophets; for Mary, the mother of our Lord; for Peter and Paul and all the apostles; for Mary and Martha, and Mary Magdalene; for Stephen, the first martyr, and all the martyrs; for Anna Alexander, deaconess in Georgia who ministered through teaching and evangelism, and all others who quietly serve with all the saints in every age and in every land. In your mercy, O Lord our God, give us, as you gave to them, the hope of salvation and the promise of eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the first-born of many from the dead. Amen.

Nov 2: Pray for the indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Almighty and most merciful God, grant that by the indwelling of your Holy Spirit we may be enlightened and strengthened for your service; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Nov 3: Pray for deliverance from faithless fear and worldly anxiety

Most loving Father, whose will it is for us to give thanks for all things, to fear nothing but the loss of you, and to cast all our care on you who care for us: Preserve us from faithless fears and worldly anxieties, that no clouds of this mortal life may hide from us the light of that love which is immortal, and which you have manifested to us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Nov 4: Pray for the nation

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Nov 5: (Election Day) Pray for the election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nov 6: (Day After Election) Pray to live as a disciple of Jesus Christ today, no matter the election results

O God: Give me strength to live another day. Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties. Let me not lose faith in other people. Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness. Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them. Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity. Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things. Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth. Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness, and make me the cup of salvation to suffering souls, in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Nov 7: Pray for quiet confidence

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nov 8: Pray for the diversity of races and cultures

O God, who created all peoples in your image, we thank you for the wonderful diversity of races and cultures in this country. Enrich our lives by ever-widening circles of fellowship, and show us your presence in those who differ most from us, until our knowledge of your love is made perfect in our love for all your children; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nov 9: Pray for the whole human family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Nov 10: Pray for veterans and military men and women

Gracious God, we give thanks for military men and women, both from the past and present, and for their courageous service and sacrifice to our country and its people to secure the blessings of life, liberty, and justice for all. May our remembrance be a timely reminder that our freedom was purchased at high cost, and should not be taken for granted. Give us resolve to labor in faithful service to you until all share the benefits of freedom, justice, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Thomas' Worship Times



Sunday

8:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist (Rite 1) - Chapel

10:00 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Church

Live Streamed, Children's Chapel & Nursery Provided

11:30 A.M. Holy Eucharist - Chapel

Wednesday

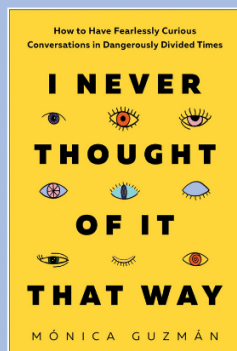
11:30 A.M. Healing Service - Chapel

St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

BOOK STUDY

I Never Thought of It That Way:

How to Have Fearlessly Curious
Conversations in Dangerously Divided Times



First meeting:
Monday, October 7th
5:30 p.m.
Discussing the Intro & Part 1

The study will meet every Monday at in the Parish Hall
up until the November election

ⁱAdapted from the prayer created for St. Philip's Episcopal Church, Uvalde, Texas
<https://interruptingthesilence.com/2020/09/30/a-prayer-and-a-pledge-for-the-2020-presidential-election/>

ⁱⁱ Adapted from Forward Movement's guide from 2016. All prayers are from the Book of Common Prayer.
<https://news.forwardmovement.org/2016/09/a-season-of-prayer-for-an-election/>