

**Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Memphis, Tennessee**  
**Service of Healing Prayers in a Season of an Election**  
**Wednesday, November 4, 8:00-8:30 a.m.**  
**Offered via livestream by the Rev. Ollie V. Rencher, Rector**

On the day after Election Day, November 3, we gather both in this sacred space at Grace-St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Midtown Memphis and connect remotely with other members of the human family joining us via livestream for healing prayers. Mindful of the heaviness, divisions, and reactions that are being carried in the hearts of all sorts and conditions of beloved children of God throughout this city, the nation, and the world, we are called to pray in the name of love, faith, justice, and peace.

Today, as people of faith who may be weary, we also are called to have hope and to act, always remembering God's abundance and our baptismal vows to follow in the footsteps of Jesus who is the Way of the Love and our Healer. Our prayers on this new morning invite us to be introspective and to partner with God in making life better for this present condition of an unreconciled world and for the good of the human spirit.

This morning, I will light candles, invite moments of silence, and offer a variety of prayers, including ones for life, the nation, peace, social order, and guidance from The Book of Common Prayer, and some poetry graciously provided by my associate rector, the Rev. Laura Gettys. The Episcopal tradition celebrates common prayer as one of many gifts for faith and spiritual journeys and the road to healing. If you have easy access to a candle to be lighted during our prayer time, please light it as we begin or at any point. Throughout our time, I will light candles to illuminate our prayers. Let us pray.

LIGHT CANDLE

**In the Morning**

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. *Amen.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**For an 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.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**For the 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.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**Poem: Where The Mind Is Without Fear** by Rabindranath Tagore

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high  
Where knowledge is free  
Where the world has not been broken up into fragments  
By narrow domestic walls  
Where words come out from the depth of truth  
Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection  
Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way  
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit  
Where the mind is led forward by thee  
Into ever-widening thought and action  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

LIGHT CANDLE

**For the Nation**

Almighty God, giver of all good things: We thank you for the natural majesty and beauty of this land. They restore us, though we often destroy them. *Heal us.*  
We thank you for the great resources of this nation. They make us rich, though we often exploit them. *Forgive us.*  
We thank you for the men and women who have made this country strong. They are models for us, though we often fall short of them. *Inspire us.*  
We thank you for the torch of liberty which has been lit in this land. It has drawn people from every nation, though we have often hidden from its light. *Enlighten us.*  
We thank you for the faith we have inherited in all its rich variety. It sustains our life, though we have been faithless again and again. *Renew us.*  
Help us, O Lord, to finish the good work here begun. Strengthen our efforts to blot out ignorance and prejudice, and to abolish poverty and crime. And hasten the day when all our people, with many voices in one united chorus, will glorify your holy Name. *Amen.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**For the President of the United States and all in Civil Authority**

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

LIGHT CANDLE

**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*

LIGHT CANDLE

**Poem: God Speaks To Each Of Us As He Makes Us** by *Rainer Maria Rilke*

God speaks to each of us as he makes us,  
then walks with us silently out of the night.

These are the words we dimly hear:  
You, sent out beyond your recall,  
go to the limits of your longing.  
Embody me.

Flare up like a flame  
and make big shadows I can move in.

Let everything happen to you: beauty and terror.  
Just keep going. No feeling is final.  
Don't let yourself lose me.

Nearby is the country they call life.  
You will know it by its seriousness.

Give me your hand.

LIGHT CANDLE

**In 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.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**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 world. 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.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**For Social Justice**

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.*

LIGHT CANDLE

**A 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.*