

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:
Sunday, November 8, 2020

God Most High as we come to you this morning, we remember who you are. You are Alpha and Omega, beginning and end. You are our Provider, our Redeemer and our Rock. In a world that has seemed upside down for so long now you have not changed. You remain the same and continue to hold all things together.

Gracious God we admit that many of us are tired. We are weary from a season of fear, strife and division. From a pandemic that continues to rage, a political climate so riddled with division, and natural disasters rising over and over. It has been difficult to see so much pain. Our hearts are anxious and tired. We long for your presence. We long for you. As the election season comes to a close we earnestly pray for peace. Heavenly father, you alone can calm storms, so calm the storm in our hearts and in our communities. Your word invites us to come to you in our exhaustion. You tell us: "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls." Father we come before you today to do just that. We lay our burdens at your feet and find our rest and hope in you.

Lord, we thank you for the ability to voice our beliefs and participate in electing our leaders. We admit that in this season we have not loved our neighbors well. In the midst of political division we too have become divided and mistrustful of others. We pray today for unity. In the days beyond this election we pray for reconciliation. Help people on all sides to grow in love and grace. Work in our hearts that we may not regard others as the enemy but as fellow brothers and sisters. Help us to listen to people with humble hearts, to recognize the goodness in others and humbly acknowledge that we can learn from one another. Bring unity and peace to our cities and nation.

Holy God, whatever the outcome, some of us will be happy and some disappointed. But no matter our feelings, help us to remember that you are all powerful and all knowing. You will not be surprised by the outcome. Your word reminds us that you reign and your kingdom is never ending. We have hope and peace because you are in control and above all. We pray today for our president. Guide and bless him. Give him wisdom to make decisions that build your kingdom. Help all of our leaders: governors, representatives and senators, to promote love not fear, to act out of mercy and to work for justice.

Heavenly Father, outside of the election there are still many situations heavy on our hearts. We pray for refugees all over the world seeking safety and a new life, surround them with your hedge of protection. As this pandemic continues we pray for the doctors and nurses who continue to work tirelessly to help those affected. Bring healing to those acutely sick with this virus or other ailments. We pray for those who are battling mental illness in the midst of everything. Lord when they feel overwhelmed by anxiety or depressive thoughts shine your light into their lives. Reveal your presence and love and fill them with hope.

Faithful God we trust in you today and hope in your everlasting goodness. Thank you for your continued graces in these difficult times. Thank you for days filled with sunshine, the laughter of children, technology to stay connected, and for your church that continues to declare your praise all over the world. Help us not to forget your goodness and continue to bring you praise and worship each day. As we go through this week fill us with your grace and love and help us to share it with those we come into contact with. Guide us in our words and actions so that all we do and say may bring you glory and honor. We pray this in the name of your son, our Lord Jesus Christ who taught us to pray: **Our Father....**