

## ***“Beginning 2021...On Our Knees”***



### ***“Healing Prayer”***

I just turned off the television set after watching the Inauguration the 46<sup>th</sup> President and Vice President of the United States on the steps of the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. The images of hope and healing captured in that moment were a stark contrast to the images of despair and destruction captured on those same hallowed steps only two weeks ago. As I turned off the television, the words of *Ezra the Priest* came to mind.

*“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”*

*(II Chronicles 7:14)*

Often, people of faith quote this verse erroneously to promote a Christian Nationalism. Ezra’s words from II Chronicles are a timeless invitation from the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to the **church** in every age, serving as the conscience to the state, to lead the way in rebuilding hope and bringing healing to the brokenness in the world in which we live. Healing begins with humility, prayer and repentance from *our* words and actions that have led to our collective brokenness. Can we, the People of God, open our souls to this high calling rather than allow our hearts to be hardened over past hurts? As the great writer Ernest Hemingway said, *“The world breaks everyone, and afterward, some are stronger at all the broken places.”* As people of faith, may we humble ourselves, seek the Lord’s face, turn from our hurtful ways and respond to this divine invitation. I am confident our Lord will make us stronger in all the broken places in our lives, and heal our land.

Like Ezra, the challenges the church faces at such a time as this are enormous. Skeptics for rebuilding hope and healing are many. Opposition is great. So is hope in a God who heals. The hill to climb is much too difficult for any one person or any one church to accomplish alone. Ezra knew that rebuilding hope and healing was the challenge and the opportunity of all the people of God. Richard Foster, in his classic book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*, offers a prayer for a miraculous healing to occur at such a time as this...

***My Lord and my God, I have a thousand arguments against Healing Prayer. You are the argument for it... You win. Help me to be a conduit through which your healing love can flow to others.***

***For Jesus sake, Amen***