

Week of May 31 – June 6, 2020

CASTING OUR NET

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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Prayer from the Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church and the Presiding Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:

Through the first Sunday in September, Presiding Bishop Curry and his Lutheran counterpart Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton welcome congregations and individuals to regularly pray "A Prayer for the Power of the Spirit among the People of God." This prayer – crafted by a team of Lutheran and Episcopal prayer leaders in light of the COVID pandemic – is meant to unite us in common prayer and revive us for common mission, wherever and however we may be gathered.

Congregations might wish to incorporate the prayer into worship alongside the Collect of the Day, as part of the Prayers of the People, or at the conclusion of worship before the Blessing or Dismissal. Individuals may pray it anytime as part of their own personal prayer discipline.

This movement for ecumenical prayer is especially significant as we approach the 20-year anniversary of the Call to Common Mission, the Lutheran-Episcopal agreement to share full communion for the sake of God's greater purpose in the world. The concord was signed on January 6, 2001.



God of all power and love,
we give thanks for your unfailing presence
and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss.
Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire.
Revive us to live as Christ's body in the world:
a people who pray, worship, learn,
break bread, share life, heal neighbors,
bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit.
Wherever and however we gather,
unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission,
that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

View full text and download this prayer video from Presiding Bishop Michael B. Curry for use in local contexts here: <https://episcopalchurch.org/concerning-covid19/worship-formation>

God's peace,
Beth+



EPISCOPAL
DIOCESE *of*
INDIANAPOLIS

From Bishop Jennifer

Dear ones:

There are moments these days--long, agonizing moments--when it seems like what St. Paul called the powers and principalities may overcome the saints of God and take us under. Yet my hope is founded on the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the many, many examples of bold witness offered by so many of brave and humble Episcopalians throughout our history and across our diocese who are tirelessly working to bring God's peace and transformation to a wounded world.

Earlier this evening, Bishop Mariann Budde of the Diocese of Washington expressed the outrage many Episcopalians and other Christians felt when peaceful protestors in front of the White House were tear gassed to clear the way for President Trump to walk across the street to have his photo taken holding a Bible in front of the parish house of St. John's Episcopal Church. There are too many things wrong with this scenario to recount here, but because we value "standing with the vulnerable and marginalized to transform systems of injustice" the events of today and this past week have left my soul deeply troubled.

I am grateful for Bishop Budde's leadership and her proclamation of what our church stands for. In part, she wrote, "In faithfulness to our Savior who lived a life of non-violence and sacrificial love, we align ourselves with those seeking justice for the death of George Floyd and countless others through the sacred act of peaceful protest." As I was writing this brief message, I received word that the protests in Indianapolis in front of the Governor's mansion--just a few blocks from my home--ended peacefully with Indianapolis Metropolitan Police joining the protesters in an act of solidarity. Let us all pray for more moments of reconciliation as we continue to do the long and hard work of bringing an end to police brutality, violence, economic injustice and racial strife. Stay strong in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. And to quote another mentor, the Rev. Canon Ed Rodman, "Let there be peace among us, and let us not be instruments of our own or other's oppression."

Faithfully,



We ask for Continued Prayers:
Barbara Macke; Mary Yuan; Family of Robert Gregg; Sheila; Briel; Charles, Sally & Scotty; Mary Ellen & Gary; Tom & Odessa; Sheila, Greg & Ivy; Karen, Rachel & Trevor; Peggy Stewart; Lisa; Those involved in the protests across the nation; All healthcare workers & medical researchers; The tired, the frustrated, & the scared

And for those serving in the Military:
EB; Alex; Caitlyn; Brady; All who serve

And for Safety in Travel for:
All truck drivers and delivery persons

And we pray for those who have Died:
Robert Gregg; George Floyd; Ahmaud Arbery; Breona Taylor; All who have Died from COVID-19

For those who celebrate Birthdays in June:
June 6 – Sue Helsmann
June 7 – Gary Gerard
June 7 – Odessa Straw
June 23 – Darrell Harris

For those who celebrate Anniversaries in June:
June 9 – Karen & Rachel Seal

And for those serving in our Diocese, Including Bishop Jennifer Bakservill-Burrows, our companion Diocese Brasillia, their Bishop Mauricio, and the people and Diocese of Haiti and St. Andre's in Mithon

Bessings:
Our green earth & blue skies; Our families & Friends; Shelter; Our St. Stephen's community; All caregivers

EDUCATION

Liturgical calendar

June 7, 2020

Trinity Sunday

Psalm 8

Genesis 1:1-2; 4a

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

Matthew 28:16-20

June 14, 2020

Psalm 116:1, 10-17

Genesis 18:1-15

Romans 5:1-8

Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 21, 2020

Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

Genesis 21:8-21

Romans 6:1b-11

Matthew 10:24-39

June 28, 2020

Psalm 13

Genesis 22:1-14

Romans 6:12-23

Matthew 10:40-42

