

a. As we come to the cusp of this national election, we pause together...

b. In a spirit of solidarity, we turn to each other, and we face the Divine.

We focus ourselves on all that is Holy, in hopes of receiving Intimations of Love; Echoes of the eternal; Soundings of the Sacred.

For the gift of these shared minutes, we still our minds, and open our hearts. And we pray, may it be on earth as it is in heaven.

b. Loving God Beyond all Names, Crafter of the Cosmos, Eternal Here and Now, hear and receive our prayers. We lift into your light this planet, our one common, blue-green home. We ask your blessing on oceans deep, sequoias tall, chickadees swift, and pollinators abuzz. As we pray for a calming balm for earth's climate – we pray for a healing across all landscapes. For humans diverse, whose feet call lands home, we pray. Linked like never before in the facing of a pandemic with global reach, we ask for wholeness of bodies, and healing of divisions.

c. We turn our gaze upon Turtle Island and all first peoples who first imprinted upon this so-called “North American” continental plate. For their sovereignty and dignity, we pray. For their voices to be heard as decisions are made, we pray. For their health and the sanctity of the Sacred Waters that are life that they protect, we pray. For native seeds to grow, especially now, we pray.

d. And for the patchwork diversity that has emerged, now connected to the imperfect name “United States”, we pray. For forgiveness for the original sins of genocides, broken treaties, displacements, slavery's forced middle passage and atrocities – we lament, repent, and pray. And for its long-unrealized confession that all are to be treated as if created equal – we lament, repent, and pray. For the ongoing violence against black and brown bodies at the hands of police brutality and nationally sanctioned white supremacy – we lament, repent, and pray. To all of these things – a big prayer, O God – bring reckoning, bring truth, bring conversion, bring reparations, and some day, bring reconciliation.

e. For the election before us, we pray. May it be free. May it be fair. May all voices be heard. May every vote count and be counted. May the results bring deeper healing, love, justice, equality and peace across this land. Healing that emerges in contrast to its tainted history and painful racist present.

f. For every polling place, we pray for safety. May there be no intimidation – no exclusion. For every poll watcher, poll worker, poll protector and for every vote carrier, deliverer and vote counter, we pray for clarity, poise, and protection.

g. For post offices to deliver. For technology to work. For machines to accurately count. And for each voter, we pray for nothing short of the shielding of Christ. For patience waiting in lines, for easy access to the polls. May all forms of suppression be defeated. And may all voices be heard.

h. And for those who ponder not voting – their voices too long painfully ignored – bring the blessing of new solidarity, new accompaniment, new amplification. Bring to all who feel despair, hope. To all who feel despondent, encouragement. All who feel lost, a loving hand. May unexpected

encouragement arrive in the form of postcard, email, text, phone call or knock on the door – so that empowerment may rise, and disenfranchisement die.

i. For those who would have voted if not for COVID's terrible toll – we lament, and pray. For those too sick to vote – we pray.

j. For those who harbor violence in their minds, for those who plan to respond to disappointing results with a turning toward the cowardice of guns – we pray for radical conversions to the ways of peace. Distract, confuse, scatter, and confound all plans born with violence in mind. May white terrorism, white supremacy, and white rage find their swift and sure downfall. May the plans of all who wish to interfere in this election – homegrown, foreign, or from those currently in power – utterly fail. And instead, may justice and peace rise up across this land.

k. We pray that the results in all races in this election will lead us to leadership committed to truth, empathy and solidarity. May those who win, be filled with compassion. May those who lose, leave office peacefully.

l. Should the results of the election be unclear or contested unjustly – may power rise up in people. May clarity of information counter the cacophony of intentional lies and distraction. And may leaders, politicians and judges speak and act with moral courage and clarity for the collective good of the commons. In the face of uncertainty, may resilience, patience, and collective strength be felt across this land. Keep us from a coup – and lead us to into a new tomorrow of clarity and peace.

m. For those preparing to put their bodies on the line in hopes of preserving and improving upon the ideal of democracy (too often not realized), we pray courage, resolve, and clarity. May the spirit of fierce non-violence spread more powerfully than the fires of hatred. May that spirit be rooted and grounded in love of neighbor, love of enemy, love of stranger.

n. For clergy gathering at polls as witnesses;

o. For organizers poised to march in solidarity;

p. For faith communities praying and protecting the disenfranchised;

q. For children whose future we hold in our hearts;

r. For all who can't vote, but who call this nation home;

s. For so-called migrants, refugees, and those without homes;

t. For those currently or previously incarcerated who may be without hope;

u. For all given the great responsibility to serve people in positions of elected office;

v. And, for those who vote differently than us;

w. For all these your beloved children, and all who we have forgotten to name – we pray that your blessings would abound – the blessings of heaven, the blessings of earth, the blessings of sea and of sky – upon all in this season.

x. May your love sustain us in these days, and may peace abound.

y. In the name of the Great I Am, in the name of universal Christ, in the name of the Sweet Great Spirit, prayers are lifted.

z. May it be so. AMEN.

~Rev. Rob Mark