



The Diocese of Fond du Lac

The Episcopal Church in northeast and northcentral Wisconsin

The Rt. Rev. Matthew A. Gunter, Bishop

mgunter@diofdl.org

15 January 2021

A Call to Prayer for the Episcopal Dioceses in Wisconsin

On January 6, with appalled disbelief, we witnessed a mob overrun the United States Capitol Building and disrupt our elected leaders as they sought to perform their constitutional duty. This assault on our democracy and the rhetoric that encouraged it are contrary to the principles we claim to value as a nation. More significantly for us as Christians, it was utterly contrary to the way of Jesus Christ.

In these perilous times, with the potential for more violence as we approach the inauguration of the next president and the transition of power, I call on Episcopalians of the three dioceses in Wisconsin to prayer. I encourage you to pray daily from Sunday, January 17 through Sunday, January 24, the prayers below, also found in our Book of Common Prayer (820-824).

You are encouraged also to join virtually an overnight prayer vigil held in the Cathedral of each Wisconsin diocese. From 8:00 p.m. Tuesday to 12:00 Noon Wednesday. There will be a livestream the entire time, with prayers offered each hour on the hour from Christ Church Cathedral (Eau Claire, episcopaldioceseofeauclaire.com), St. Paul's Cathedral (Fond du Lac, diofdl.org) and All Saints' Cathedral (Milwaukee, diomil.org).

In these distressing times, it is fitting for Christians to lift our voices together to God. It is also fitting for us to engage in ways small and large as we seek to bear witness to the way of Jesus which is the way of love and to play our part in the healing and restoration of what is broken.

Under the Mercy.

The Rt. Rev. Matthew Gunter
Bishop of Fond du Lac
Bishop Provisional of Eau Claire
Visiting Bishop for Milwaukee

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 thy merciful care, that, being guided by thy Providence, we may dwell secure in thy peace. Grant to the President of the United States, the Governor of this State, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and to do thy will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness, and make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in thy fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

For Congress or a State Legislature

O God, the fountain of wisdom, whose will is good and gracious, and whose law is truth: We beseech thee so to guide and bless our Senators and Representatives in Congress assembled (or in the Legislature of this State, or Commonwealth), that they may enact such laws as shall please thee, to the glory of thy Name and the welfare of this people; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For Courts of Justice

Almighty God, who sittest in the throne judging right: We humbly beseech thee to bless the courts of justice and the magistrates in all this land; and give unto them the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that they may discern the truth, and impartially administer the law in the fear of thee alone; through him who shall come to be our Judge, thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

For Sound Government

O Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. *Lord, keep this nation under your care.*

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties. *Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations. *Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served. *Give grace to your servants, O Lord.*

And finally, teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name. *For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. Amen.*

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.

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.

Prayer for the Government Transition

(Anglican Fellowship of Prayer)

God of justice, truth, and concord, you have instilled the people of this land with a passion for the common good, yet with diverse understandings of the most expedient means of attaining that good. Grant us, we pray, such a spirit of tenderness toward one another during this period of transition in government, that we may put away needless strife and contention, that all may enjoy the blessings of tranquility, prosperity, and equity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.