Election Evening Prayer

November 7, 2016
7PM
On the Lawn at Christ Church Cathedral
37 Chestnut Street
Springfield, MA.
We seek to be instruments of God's peace, bearing Witness to the love of God in Jesus Christ for all people.

On November 8, 2016, Election Day, we will exercise our right to choose.

Some of us will chose to vote for Hillary Rodham Clinton.
Some of us will chose to vote for Donald Trump.
Some of us will chose to vote for another candidate.
Some of us will choose not to vote.

We will make different choices for different reasons, hoping for different results. But tonight, while our nation turns its attention to the outcome of the presidential election, let's again choose differently. But this time, let's do it together.

Welcome to this Place!
Announcements & Welcome

Opening Hymn 717  “America”  Musicus

Opening Salutation and Response

Leader:  Come to us this night, O God
All:  *Come to us with Light*  
      (Candle is lit)
Leader:  Speak to us this night, O God
All:  *Speak to us your Truth*  
      (Bible is placed amongst us)
Leader:  Dwell with us this night, O God
All:  *Dwell with us in Love*  
      (Cross is placed amongst us)

Hymn of Praise (sung in unison)

    Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of Glory, Lord of Love;
    hearts unfold like flowers before thee, praising thee, their sun above.
    Melt the clouds of sin and sadness drive the dark of doubt away;
    giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.
    Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
    wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
    Thou our Father, Christ our Brother: all who live in love are thine;
    teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

Confession

Leader:  Holy God, Maker of all
All:  *have mercy on us.*
Leader:  Jesus Christ, Servant of the poor
All: **have mercy on us.**
Leader: Holy Spirit, Breath of life
All: **have mercy on us.**
Leader: Let us in silence confess our faults and admit our frailty.

*Silence*

Leader: Before God, with the people of God,
I confess my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

All: *May God forgive you, Christ renew you,*
*and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.*

Leader: Amen.

All: *Before God, with the people of God,*
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others,
and the life of the world.

Leader: May God forgive you, Christ renew you,
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.

All: **Amen.**

**Prayer for God’s help**

Leader: Move among us, O God; give us life:

All: *let your people rejoice in you.*

Leader: Make our hearts clean within us:

All: *renew us in mind and in spirit.*

Leader: Give us again the joy of your help:

All: *with your spirit of freedom sustain us.*

Leader: And now, as Jesus taught us, we say:

All: *Our father in heaven,*
*hallowed be your name,*
your kingdom come,
your will be done on Earth as in Heaven,
give us today our daily bread,
forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us,
save us in the time of trial
and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Affirmation of Faith
Leader: With the whole church

All: We believe that God is present
In the darkness before dawn:
In the waiting and uncertainty
Where fear and courage join hands,
Conflict and caring link arms,
And the sun rises over barbed wire.
We believe in a with-us God
Who sits down in our midst
To share our humanity.
We affirm a faith
That takes us beyond the safe place;
Into action, into vulnerability
And into the streets.
We commit ourselves to work for change
And put ourselves on the line;
To bear responsibility, take risks,
Live powerfully and face humiliation;
To stand with those on the edge;
To choose life
And be used by the spirit
For God’s new community of hope
AMEN

First Lesson Joel 2:12-19
Leader: A reading from the Prophet Joel

“Yet even now,” says the LORD,
“return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;  
and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

Return to the LORD, you’re God,  
for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,  
and repents of evil.  
Who knows whether he will not turn and repent,  
and leave a blessing behind him,  
a cereal offering and a drink offering  
for the LORD, you’re God?

Blow the trumpet in Zion;  
sanctify a fast;  
call a solemn assembly;  
gather the people.  
Sanctify the congregation;  
assemble the elders;  
gather the children,  
even nursing infants.  
Let the bridegroom leave his room,  
and the bride her chamber.

Between the vestibule and the altar  
let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep  
and say, “Spare thy people, O LORD,  
and make not thy heritage a reproach,  
a byword among the nations.  
Why should they say among the peoples,  
‘Where is their God?’”

Then the LORD became jealous for his land,  
and had pity on his people.  
The LORD answered and said to his people,  
“Behold, I am sending to you  
grain, wine, and oil,  
and you will be satisfied;
and I will no more make you
a reproach among the nations.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

_All:_ Thanks be to God.

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**Psalm 98 (spoken in unison)**

O sing to the LORD a new song,
for he has done marvelous things!
His right hand and his holy arm
    have gotten him victory.
The LORD has made known his victory;
    he has revealed his vindication in the sight of the nations.
He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness
    to the house of Israel.
All the ends of the earth have seen
    the victory of our God.

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth;
    break forth into joyous song and sing praises!
Sing praises to the LORD with the lyre,
    with the lyre and the sound of melody!
With trumpets and the sound of the horn
    make a joyful noise before the King, the LORD!

Let the sea roar, and all that fills it;
    the world and those who dwell in it!
Let the floods clap their hands;
    let the hills sing for joy together
before the LORD, for he comes
Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, for his judgments are true and just; he has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication, and he has avenged on her the blood of his servants.”

And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who is seated on the throne, saying, “Amen. Hallelujah!” And from the throne came a voice crying,

“Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.”

Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty thunder peals, crying,

“Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to be clothed with fine linen, bright and pure”—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
And the angel said to me, “Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb.” And he said to me, “These are true words of God.” Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, “You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus. Worship God.” For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us

All: Thanks be to God.

Second Hymn 686 “Come thou fount of every blessing” Nettleton


Deacon: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.

He said also to the man who had invited him, “When you give a dinner or a banquet, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your kinsmen or rich neighbors, lest they also invite you in return, and you be repaid. But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.”

When one of those who sat at table with him heard this, he said to him, “Blessed is he who shall eat bread in the kingdom of God!” But he said to him, “A man once gave a great banquet, and invited many; and at the time for the banquet he sent his servant to say to those who had been invited, ‘Come; for all is now ready.’ But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said to him, ‘I have bought a field, and I must go out and see it; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to examine them; I pray you, have me excused.’ And another said, ‘I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come.’ So the servant came and reported this to his master. Then the householder in anger said to his servant, ‘Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.’ And the servant said, ‘Sir, what you commanded has been done, and still there is room.’ And the master said to the servant, ‘Go out to the highways and hedges, and compel people to come in, that my house may be filled. For I tell you, none of those men who were invited shall taste my banquet.’”
All:  Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily

The Rev. Deacon

The Prayers of the People

Leader:  People of the United States,  
torn and tired of being torn  
All:  God’s peace is for you.
Leader:  People of Africa,  
exploited and tired of being exploited  
All:  God’s peace is for you.
Leader:  People of the Middle East,  
turbulent and tired of being turbulent  
All:  God’s peace is for you.
Leader:  People of South America,  
silenced and tired of being silenced  
All:  God’s peace is for you.
Leader:  People of India,  
divided and tired of being divided  
All:  God’s peace is for you.
Leader:  People of Eastern Europe,  
anxious and tired of being anxious  
All:  God’s peace is for you.
Leader:  People of the West,  
privileged and tired of being privileged  
All:  God’s peace is for you.
Leader:  May the God of all people and the Lord Jesus Christ  
give us grace and peace this night and every night.
All:  Amen.

Prayers of gratitude and concern

Leader:  I invite your prayers, either silently or aloud.
(People pray in silence or aloud)

Leader: O Christ, you are within each of us.
       It is not just the interior of the many church walls:
       it is our own inner being you have renewed.
       We are your temple not made with hands.
       We are your body.
       If every wall should crumble, and every church decay,
       we are your habitation.
       Nearer are you than breathing,
       closer than hands and feet.
       Ours are the eyes with which you, in the mystery,
       look out with compassion on the world.
       Yet we bless you for this place,
       for your directing of us, you’re redeeming of us,
       and your indwelling.
       Take us outside our walls, O Christ, outside holiness,
       out to where soldiers curse and nations clash
       at the crossroads of the world,
       We ask it for your own name’s sake.
       Amen.

All: Lord God, as the Election approaches us tomorrow, we seek to better understand
the issues and concerns that confront our country, and how the gospel compels us to respond
as faithful citizens in our community. We ask for the eyes that free us from blindness so that
we might see each other as brothers and sisters, one and equal in dignity, especially those
who are victims of abuse, and violence, poverty. We ask for ears that will hear the cries of
children, of men and women who are oppressed because of race or creed, religion or gender.
We ask for minds and hearts that are open to hearing the voice of leaders who will bring us
closer to your kingdom. We pray for discernment that we may choose leaders who hear your
word, live your love, and keep in the ways of your truth as they follow in the steps of Jesus
and his Apostles, Guide us to your kingdom of justice and peace.
We ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

Final Prayer

All: Lord, make us instruments of your peace.
Where there is hatred, let us sow love,
Where there is injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith,
Where there is despair, hope,
Where there is sadness, joy,
O Divine Master,
Grant that we may not so much seek to be consoled as to console,
To be understood as to understand,
To be loved as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
It is in dying that we are born again
To everlasting life
we will rejoice and be glad in it.

The Peace
Leader: The peace of the Lord be always with you.
All: And also with you.

Final Hymn 719 “Materna” Samuel Augustus Ward

The Dismissal
The Deacon dismisses the people and the People respond:
Thanks be to God.

Assisting at worship tonight:
Acolyte
Lectors
Musicians

The Community of Deacons of the Diocese of Western Massachusetts wishes to thank everyone for the support in making this night a gathering of God’s people possible.

The Cathedral will remain open for 30 minutes after the service for those wishing to reflect, pray and listen for God.