

PRAY  
AND ACT  
FOR  
PEACE



**Prayer for a country hoping for change**

Sovereign of the nations,  
Lord of the sea, the sky, the earth and our hearts,  
**We confess that our only hope and salvation is in you.**

We thank you that our elections were peaceful and fair.  
Now we ask that you heal our divisions and calm our fears.  
**May the transition months be a time of cooperation.**

We are a nation of a few rich and 36.5 million poor people,  
Of 45.7 million people without health insurance  
of 11.7 million hungry children  
and a school system that fails too many.  
May we become a nation that cares for the poorest not only here,  
but also around the globe.  
**Teach us to share, God.**

We are a country at war, spending \$720 million dollars a day  
on destruction and death.  
Nearly 100,000 Iraqis have died,  
almost 4200 American military personnel have been killed  
and daily dozens of our soldiers commit suicide or attempt it.  
May we learn ways to solve international conflicts that do not kill,  
maim or make homeless.  
**Teach us diplomacy, God.**

We do not respect the gift of life.  
Yearly we perform 1.21 million abortions,  
punish people with the death penalty  
commit more than 1.4 million violent crimes  
and allow genocide of millions in other countries.  
May we stop abortions, the death penalty, genocide and torture.  
**Teach us reverence for life, God.**

We do not care for your earth.  
Worldwide, more than one in three of us must breathe polluted air,  
one billion people lack safe water and basic sanitation,  
over 15,000 species face extinction  
and sixty percent of the world's ecosystems are damaged.  
May we commit to using less, wanting less and caring more.  
**Teach us your stewardship, God.**

*Continued on page 2*

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We commit ourselves to prayer for our government leaders.  
Keep them safe.

**Grant them wisdom, courage and humility.**

And we pray for ourselves and our congregations,  
Open our eyes to the injustice around us,

**Give us time and courage to act in your name.**

God of the universe,

Keep us awake to watch for your kingdom that is among us, and is to come,  
Knowing that it is Jesus who saves us and not politicians or government.

**Give us peace and teach us to be peacemakers**

**As we pray as you have taught us:**

**Our Father, who art in Heaven . . . .**

**Note:** The congregation may read the bold.

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**Credits:**

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