

## 2014 National Prayer

By Anne Graham Lotz

*Lord of the Universe. Lord of this planet. Lord of the nations. Lord of our hearts. On this National Day of Prayer, we look to You...*

*In the darkness, You are our Light. In the storm, You are our Anchor. In our weakness, You are our Strength. In our grief, You are our Comfort.*

*In our despair, You are our Hope. In our confusion, You are our Wisdom. In time of terrorism, You are our Shield.*

*In time of war, You are our Peace. In times of uncertainty, You are the Rock on which we stand.*

*We make our prayer to You using the words of the prophet Daniel: O Lord, You are the great and awesome God, who keeps His covenant of love with those who love Him and keep His commandments. You are merciful and forgiving. You are righteous, but this day we are covered with shame because we have sinned against You, and done wrong. We have turned away from Your commands and principles. We have turned away from You. Yet You have promised in 2 Chronicles 7, that if we—a people identified with You—would humble ourselves, pray, seek Your face, and turn from our wicked ways, then You would hear our prayer, forgive our sin and heal our land. So we choose to stop pointing our finger at the sins of others, and examine our own hearts and lives.*

*We choose to acknowledge our own sin—our neglect and defiance and ignorance and even rejection of You. This day we choose to repent.*

*In response to our heartfelt repentance, God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, Father of Jesus Christ, in keeping with all Your righteous acts and according to Your promise, turn away Your anger and Your wrath from the United States of America. Hear the prayers and petitions offered to You on this National Day of Prayer, as we give You our full attention. Give ear, our God, and hear; open Your eyes and see. We do not make requests of You because we are righteous, but because of Your great mercy. For the glory of Your Name hear our prayer, forgive our sin, and heal our land.*

*We ask this in the name of Your Son Jesus Christ who offers us salvation from Your judgment, forgiveness for our sin, and reconciliation with You through His own blood shed on the Cross. Amen.*

# National Day of Prayer Prayer Guide



**Thursday, May 1, 2014**

**7:00 am - 7:00 pm**

**First United Methodist Church**

**Richardson, Texas**

# National Day of Prayer Prayer Guide

## Hymn

*Sweet Hour of Prayer*

**Sweet hour of prayer, sweet hour of prayer  
That calls me from a world of care  
And bids me at my Father's throne  
Make all my wants and wishes known  
In seasons of distress and grief  
My soul has often found relief  
And oft escaped the tempter's snare  
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer**

## Prayers for Government

High God, holy God: you rule the ways of peoples, and govern every earthly government. Work with those who work for peace. Make every person in authority an agent of your reconciliation, and every diplomat an ambassador of hope. Bring peace and goodwill among people, fulfilling among us the promise made in Jesus Christ, who was born to save the world. Bless those who hold office in our country, the government of this state, this city and this town that they may do their work in a spirit of wisdom, kindness and justice. Help them use their authority to serve faithfully and to promote the general welfare; through your son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*From the Book of Common Worship

## Prayers for Military

Righteous God, you rule the nations. Guard brave men and women who risk themselves in battle for their country. Give them compassion for enemies who also fight for patriotic causes. Keep our sons and daughters from hate that hardens or from scorekeeping with human lives. Though they must be at war, let them live for peace, as eager for agreement as for victory. Encourage them as they encourage one another, and never let hard duty separate them from loyalty to your Son, our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

\*From the Book of Common Worship

## Hymn

*America, the Beautiful*

**O Beautiful for spacious skies, for amber waves of grain;  
for purple mountain majesties above the fruited plain!  
America! America! God shed his grace on thee, and crown thy good  
with brotherhood from sea to shining sea.**

**O beautiful for heroes proved in liberating strife,  
who more than self their country loved, and mercy more than life!  
America! America! May God thy gold refine, till all success be  
nobleness, and every gain divine.**

## Prayers for Business

God of the covenant: you give love without return and lavish gifts without looking for gain. Watch over the ways of business, so that those who buy or sell, get or lend, may live justly and show mercy and walk in your ways. May profits be fair and contracts kept. In our dealings with each other may we display true charity. We remember those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our resources that all persons may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor; through Jesus Christ who has loved us with mercy. Amen.

\*Adapted from the Book of Common Worship

## Prayers for Media

God who spoke the world into being and communicates with us still today; We give you thanks for writers, producers, broadcasters and journalists, and all who work in the media. We thank you for their creative skills and technical abilities, and their persistence in seeking after truth. We ask that they may have wisdom, integrity, insight and judgment in their work. May they be a voice for the powerless, a challenge to the powerful; bringers of knowledge and clarity to an uncertain and confused world. Help them to reach for the highest professional standards, especially when budgets are stretched, time is tight, and competition increasing. May they resist the temptation to follow the consensus, jump to easy conclusions, pander to prejudice or cut corners. Help us, who read, watch, listen and contribute to the media, to play our part by being wise and discerning, so that truth and beauty will be the hallmarks of our media. We offer these prayers in the Name of the One who brought the Good News, declared himself as the Truth, and gave Himself for a world in need. Amen.

By Peter Crumpler

## Prayer for Church

**O gracious God, we pray for your holy Church universal, that you would be pleased to fill it with all truth, in all peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where in any thing it is amiss, reform it; where it is right, establish it; where it is in want, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of him who died and rose again, and ever lives to make intercession for us, Jesus Christ, your son, our Lord. Amen.**

\*From United Methodist Book of Worship

## Hymn

*The Church's One Foundation*

**The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;  
she is his new creation by water and the Word.  
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;  
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.**

**Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;  
Till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.**

## Prayers for Education

O Eternal God, bless all schools, colleges, universities and learning centers – whether online, in homes or in communities, that they may be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery and the pursuit of wisdom; and grant that those who teach and those who learn may find you to be the source of all truth, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Adapted from the Book of Common Prayer

## Prayers for Families

Eternal God, we commend to your care our families and all the homes where your people live. Keep our homes free from bitterness, from the thirst of personal victory, and from pride in self. Fill our homes with faith, virtue, knowledge, moderation, patience and godliness. Knit together in enduring affection those who have become one in marriage. Grant that those who live alone may not be lonely in their solitude, but may find fulfillment in loving you and their neighbors. Let children and parents have full respect for one another; and give us calm strength and patient wisdom to act in love. Look with mercy on all whose increasing years bring them weakness, distress or isolation. Provide for them homes of dignity and peace; give them understanding helpers and as strength diminishes, increase their faith and their assurance of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

\*Adapted from the Book of Common Worship

## Hymn

*Let There Be Peace On Earth*

**Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me;  
let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.  
With God our creator, children all are we. Let us walk with each other  
in perfect harmony. Let peace begin with me; let this be the moment now.  
With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow:  
to take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.  
Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.**