

ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

A SERVICE OF PRAYER: REPENTANCE & RENEWAL

Anno Domini, January 21, 2011

If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves,
And pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways,
Then I will hear from heaven,
And will forgive their sin and heal their land
(2 Chronicles 7:14)

Introduction & Explanation

Tomorrow marks the 38th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, when, in 1973, the highest court in our land—the Supreme Court—approved and legislated the culture of death in our country by legalizing abortion on demand, and this, throughout a woman’s pregnancy, and throughout the young and shortened life of the child, or children within the womb.

This is our country, and this tragedy is one in which we all share. Tonight, we shall pray to the Lord in repentance for the sins of our time and beg the Lord for renewal of ourselves and of our land. This service is a service of prayer, and we shall pray for our nation, our state, our neighborhoods, and the Church. Each time of prayer will be preceded by readings from the Bible, and then an elder will lead us in prayer. During this prayer, there will be a time when silent prayers to be offered, or when you will be led in “bidding prayers” in which the elder will present various subjects in order to guide you in your own prayers. Each section will be concluded with a corporate prayer that we will recite together.



Through Prayer Let us Prepare Ourselves to Pray

Pastor Jeffrey Niell

† Scripture Reading: *Isaiah 59:1-15*

‡ Prayer

Silent Prayer or Bidding Prayers are offered...

Corporate Prayer:

Heavenly Father, according to Your kindness You have chosen and adopted us, and we are Your people. We bear Your Name, we are Your Body, the Church, and we come before You through the only mediator, Jesus Christ. We confess that we have not been before You in prayer as we ought. In our neglect, we have shown our dependence on ourselves and not on You. We have trusted more in legislative policies, candidates, and propositions, than we have in You and Your Son, Jesus Christ. In this, we have sinned, and we have not shown the way of obedience to others, including our nation, state, and neighbors. In this, we have sinned, and we have not led the way in showing the light of the Gospel in a dark and dying world. For all of this that we have done, and for all that we have left undone in the pursuit of righteousness, we confess our sin and ask for Your pardon in Jesus Christ. Amen.

† The congregation is invited to stand

‡ The congregation is welcome to kneel

Benediction

God be merciful to us and bless us,
And cause His face to shine upon us, Selah.
That Your way may be known on earth,
Your salvation among all nations.
Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
Oh, let the nations be glad and sing for joy!
For You shall judge the people righteously,
And govern the nations on earth. Selah.
Let the peoples praise You, O God;
Let all the peoples praise You.
Then the earth shall yield her increase;
God, our own God, shall bless us.
God shall bless us,
And all the ends of the earth shall fear Him.

Psalm 67

Dismissal

ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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We are members of the Confederation of Reformed Evangelical Churches

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Let us Pray for Our Nation

Elder Tony Douglas

† Scripture Reading: *Proverbs 14:34; Psalm 2*

‡ Prayer

Silent Prayer or Bidding Prayers are offered...

Corporate Prayer:

Almighty God, You have blessed us with this land and country and a heritage that reveals Your kindness. Your kindness is supposed to lead us to repentance, and we request the spirit and the fruit of repentance to come upon our nation. We confess that, as a nation, we have not acknowledged You as the giver of every good gift, we have not been thankful for Your abundant blessings, and we have not acknowledged You throughout our nation. We confess that this has led us—as a people—to embrace death instead of life and has opened the floodgates for policies and laws of legalized bloodshed. We confess that our rulers and judges have not been wise, that they have not served You in fear, and that they have not displayed the fearful joy that is appropriate for those appointed by You. All of this shows that our leaders have not bowed in allegiance before You and Your Son, Jesus Christ. We ask for Your mercy to be upon us. We ask for Your Holy Spirit to convict our national leaders of sin and lead them to repentance. Blessed are all those who put their trust in You. All of this we ask through Jesus Christ, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. Amen.



Let us Pray for the State of Texas

Elder John Lundelius

† Scripture Reading: *Proverbs 31:4-5, 8-9; Jeremiah 22:3; Ecclesiastes 8:11-13*

‡ Prayer

Silent Prayer or Bidding Prayers are offered...

Corporate Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we approach You through Jesus Christ and by Your Holy Spirit. We acknowledge that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are found in Jesus Christ, and we confess that Your Son is consistently neglected in the formation of policies and in the practices of our state officials. We ask for Your favor to come upon our state and our elected officials and that Your favor be seen in genuine repentance from sin and the granting of true faith in Jesus Christ. We ask that You so guide and bless the Legislature of the State of Texas that it may ordain for our governance such things as are pleasing to You. We ask for Your blessing to come upon our courts of justice and all the magistrates of our state—blessing in repentance and faith, wisdom and courage—that they may discern the truth as it is found in Your wise statutes and so conduct their affairs with impartiality. May they do this with appropriate fear and trembling; and may this contribute to the peace and tranquility of our state, the preservation of godliness, and the promotion of right worship through Jesus Christ. According to Your power and mercy, we ask that our state begin to show leadership to the entire nation in the overturning of *Roe v. Wade* and the crushing of all such policies that contribute to the despising of Your kindness, the slaughter of the innocent, and the rejection of the Gospel. Blessed are all those who put their trust in You. All of this we ask through Jesus Christ, the Ruler of the kings of the earth. Amen.

† The congregation is invited to stand

‡ The congregation is welcome to kneel



Let us Pray for Our Neighborhoods

Pastor Jeffrey Niell

† Scripture Reading: *Psalm 68:1-6; Psalm 8*

‡ Prayer

Silent Prayer or Bidding Prayers are offered...

Corporate Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge our dependence upon you, and our deep need of your grace in our lives. We humbly ask by Your Spirit that you call many sinners in this city to repentance. May our neighbors, our co-workers, our extended families, and acquaintances come to the knowledge of, and faith in, Jesus Christ, the King of kings, the Savior of the world. We ask that You would stretch out Your strong hand against those who rebel against Your law by sinfully invading the womb. We plead, according to Your mercy and justice, that You would bring an end to abortion in our land in our time. Plead Your cause O Lord for the fatherless, for the helpless, for the many infants who are unwanted and discarded as useless. Give us both opportunity and utterance, that we may be ready to speak of You and Your ways. In the name of Jesus, the Light of the world, we pray. Amen.



Let Us Pray for the Church

Pastor Jeffrey Niell

† Scripture Reading: *Exodus 20:1-17; Matthew 5:13-16*

‡ Prayer

Silent Prayer or Bidding Prayers are offered...

Corporate Prayer:

Heavenly Father, we come to You through Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church, the Great Shepherd of the Sheep; we come to You by the Holy Spirit and ask You to hear us for we are Your children. We approach with confidence for You, like a tender father, have mercy on Your children. We know of Your love for Your body, and we joyfully confess that You have promised to build Your Church and cherish Your bride. We rejoice that we are Your people. We also confess that although we have relished a low view of You and Your bride, we ask that You refresh us with a deep hungering and thirsting for righteousness. Invigorate our worship by Your presence; cause in us, and satisfy in us, a longing for You, Your Word, and Your ways throughout this congregation, our neighborhoods, this state, and the entire country. Spirit of God, we ask that You empower Your ministers, strengthen the pulpits, and enliven the congregations of Your Triune Name throughout this country. Display Your power in this, and may Your ministers be filled with courage laced with Your mercy; may Your pulpits be filled with the thunder of Your Word in true holiness; and may the service of the saints be filled with joyful sacrifice, displaying Jesus, our Lord, our Elder Brother, and our Kinsman-Redeemer. We ask all of this because we know that judgment begins at the house of God and because the Church is Your bride and should be adorned in this way for Your honor. We pray through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

† The congregation is invited to stand

‡ The congregation is welcome to kneel