The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost
October 11, 2020 • 5 p.m.

Newcomers and visitors, welcome! We are a servant church in the heart of the city. May you find here, by God’s grace, that which feeds your soul, and leave here with a heart prepared to serve.
Holy Eucharist

Service Notes

- Page numbers listed are from The Book of Common Prayer.
- Please rise, as able, for portions of the service marked with an asterisk (*).
- Please remember to wear your mask, covering your mouth and nose, at all times (except when actively consuming Communion).
- We also ask you to observe proper physical distancing (staying at least six feet apart), for the safety of everyone attending.

The Word of God

* Opening Acclamation and Collect for Purity page 355

Presider  Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People  And blessed be God’s kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider  Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* The Collect of the Day

Presider  The Lord be with you.

People  And also with you.

Presider  Let us pray.

Lord, we pray that your grace may always precede and follow us, that we may continually be given to good works; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

First Reading: Exodus 32:1–14

Lector  When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron, and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.” Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters, and bring them to me.” So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears, and brought them to Aaron. He took the gold from them, formed it in a mold, and cast an image of a calf; and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!” When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the Lord.” They rose early the next day, and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being; and the people sat down to eat and drink, and rose up to revel.

The Lord said to Moses, “Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf, and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it, and said, ‘These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!’” The Lord said to Moses, “I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone, so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them; and of you I will make a great nation.”
But Moses implored the Lord his God, and said, “O Lord, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, ‘It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains, and to consume them from the face of the earth’? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, ‘I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.’” And the Lord changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Psalm 106:1–6, 19–23

Hallelujah!
Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, *
for his mercy endures for ever.

Who can declare the mighty acts of the Lord *
or show forth all his praise?

Happy are those who act with justice *
and always do what is right!

Remember me, O Lord, with the favor you have for your people, *
and visit me with your saving help;

That I may see the prosperity of your elect 
and be glad with the gladness of your people, *
that I may glory with your inheritance.

We have sinned as our forebears did; *
we have done wrong and dealt wickedly.

Israel made a bull-calf at Horeb *
and worshiped a molten image;

And so they exchanged their Glory *
for the image of an ox that feeds on grass.

They forgot God their Savior, *
who had done great things in Egypt,

Wonderful deeds in the land of Ham, *
and fearful things at the Red Sea.

So he would have destroyed them, 
had not Moses his chosen stood before him in the breach, *
to turn away his wrath from consuming them.
Second Reading: Philippians 4:1–9

My brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be of the same mind in the Lord. Yes, and I ask you also, my loyal companion, help these women, for they have struggled beside me in the work of the gospel, together with Clement and the rest of my co-workers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

* The Holy Gospel: Matthew 22:1–14

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Once more Jesus spoke to the people in parables, saying: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come. Again he sent other slaves, saying, ‘Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner, my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet.’ But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his slaves, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city. Then he said to his slaves, ‘The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets, and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet.’ Those slaves went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so the wedding hall was filled with guests.

“But when the king came in to see the guests, he noticed a man there who was not wearing a wedding robe, and he said to him, ‘Friend, how did you get in here without a wedding robe?’ And he was speechless. Then the king said to the attendants, ‘Bind him hand and foot, and throw him into the outer darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.’ For many are called, but few are chosen.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon
All
We believe in one God,
   the Father, the Almighty,
   maker of heaven and earth,
   of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
   the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
   God from God, Light from Light,
   true God from true God, begotten, not made,
   of one Being with the Father.
   Through him all things were made.
   For us and for our salvation
      he came down from heaven:
   by the power of the Holy Spirit
      he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,
      and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
   he suffered death and was buried.
   On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
   he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
   He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
      and his kingdom will have no end.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
   who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
   With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
   He has spoken through the Prophets.
   We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
   We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
   We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
Let us pray for the Church and for the world.

Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray especially for Michael, our Presiding Bishop; Marty, our Bishop; Andy, our Dean; and Jerry, our Deacon.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. We pray especially for Donald, our President; Mike, our Governor; Quinton, our Mayor; and all the mayors and city councils of our communities.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. We pray especially for those on our Cathedral Prayer List, and for any others ...

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. We pray especially for those we now name.

Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.
**Concluding Collect**

All God of all power and love, we give thanks for your unfailing presence and the hope you provide in times of uncertainty and loss. Send your Holy Spirit to enkindle in us your holy fire. Revive us to live as Christ’s body in the world; a people who pray, worship, learn, break bread, share life, heal neighbors, bear good news, seek justice, rest and grow in the Spirit. Wherever and however we gather, unite us in common prayer and send us in common mission; that we and the whole creation might be restored and renewed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.


---

**Confession and Absolution**

Presider Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
People Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Presider Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

---

**The Peace**

Presider The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

---

**Announcements**

**A Prayer for Stewardship**

All Almighty, ever loving and giving God, from whom comes every good and healthful gift, help us through our faithful stewardship to acknowledge that all things come of you, and to learn that truly it is in giving that we receive; give us grateful hearts, and make us cheerful givers who experience joy and grace as we come to you in faith, asking you to renew, restore, and return a right spirit within us; guide us and strengthen us as we make our gifts of time, talent, and treasure to Grace and Holy Trinity Cathedral for the spread of your kingdom; all of which we ask in the name of your greatest gift, your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.
Celebration Prayer

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant(s) as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Holy Communion

* The Great Thanksgiving

Presider  The Lord be with you.
People    And also with you.

Presider  Lift up your hearts.
People    We lift them to the Lord.
Presider  Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People    It is right to give God thanks and praise.
Presider  It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Here a Proper Preface is sung or said on all Sundays, and on other occasions as appointed.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

All   Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Presider  Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, “Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, “Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me.”

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

All    Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.
We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. Amen.

Presider And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

All Our Father, who art in heaven,
    hallowed be thy Name,
    thy kingdom come,
    thy will be done,
    on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
    as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
    but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
    and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

* BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Presider Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.
Presider The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

COMMUNION

A note on receiving Communion: We have two aisles in our outside setup. We will administer bread from the top of both aisles. Please come up one person/family unit at a time to receive the bread. Once you have received it, please carry it back to your seat before you lift your mask to consume it. The ushers will help direct you when to come up the aisle. We will begin with the people seated between the aisles, then move to the outside of the aisles.

* POSTCOMMUNION PRAYER

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

* BLESSING
*Dismissal*

The Officiant dismisses the people.

People Thanks be to God.

The Very Rev. Dr. Andrew C. Keyse, Officiant
Chris Morrison, Lector
Robin Rusconi, Eucharistic Minister
Leticia Porter, Greeter/Check-In

For your convenience, we offer the option of online giving. You may make or pay on a pledge, give a gift, or make a donation. Or you may use the QR code to the right. Thank you for your generosity.

---

All Saints’ Sunday

November 1

On this day, we will be honoring all those who have died within the past year. Please email names of your personal friends and family who have passed away in the last twelve months to communications@kccathedral.org. Emails must be received no later than Tuesday, October 27. Those names will be included in the bulletin and listed in our Book of Remembrance. If you wish to honor someone who passed away beyond the last year, there will be a moment in the service where you will be invited to say their name(s) aloud.
Announcements for the Week of October 11, 2020

Onsite Prayer & Worship

We are currently offering two opportunities each week for onsite prayer and worship. **Registration is required for both.**

**Wednesdays—Onsite Prayer & Meditation:** Times are available from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Details, and registration links, are available on our website's **Covid-19** page.

**Sundays—Outdoor Worship • 5 p.m.:** Get all the details and sign up on our website’s **From the Dean** page.

*All onsite visits require facemasks to be worn and proper physical distancing to be observed.*

Worship

**Sundays:** Morning Prayer/Holy Eucharist—Livestreamed • 10:15 a.m.  
Holy Eucharist—Outdoor Service • 5 p.m. (**Registration Required**)

**Wednesdays:** Noonday Prayer—Prerecorded • 12 noon.

Online services are recorded in the Nave and are available to watch on **Facebook** or **YouTube**. The outdoor service takes place on the north lawn (corner of 13th & Broadway). Bulletins are **here**. Sunday mornings, join us after the service for virtual Coffee Hour **via Zoom**!

Children

**Children’s Ministry**  
**Sundays • 9:15 a.m. **There will be no Zoom session October 18 or 25!**

Each session will include a short time for greeting and sharing, a question of the day, music activity, a story based on the lectionary text of the day, prayer and a virtual 3 “H” goodbye (hugs, handshakes and high fives). Contact **Linda Martin** for more information.
**Youth**

**Bible & Bingo**  
**Thursdays • 8 p.m.**  
Bible and Bingo with Madi and Meredith continues on Thursday evenings from 8–9 p.m. in the **WEMO Youth Zoom Room**.

**GHTC Youth Group**  
**Sundays • 3:30 p.m.**  
Your Youth Ministry Team can’t wait to see you this Sunday for our hybrid in person/Zoom youth group. Youth group will meet each Sunday from 3:30–4:45 p.m. in the Diocesan Close and **on Zoom**. From now through early December we will be making our way through the *Chronicles of Narnia!* We will be reading *The Magician’s Nephew* and *The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe* and discussing the presence of God, scripture and faith in our daily lives.

**Regional Ministry Giving Bags**  
**November 8 and 15**  
During a season when gratitude is at top of mind, activity bags with options for community service and prayer projects will be available for pickup on November 8. Complete the activities during that week and return the bags the following week!

Contact Alexandra Connors for more information.

---

**College & Careers**

**College & Careers Gathering**  
**Fourth Sundays—Next: October 25 • 7:30 p.m.**  
If you have just graduated high school, please join us for a monthly, online, casual way to connect with other people your age and other people who are in similar stages of life. This group is facilitated by Katie Mansfield and will meet **via Zoom** on the fourth Sunday of the month. Visit our **College & Careers** page for more info.

---

**Young Adults**

**Young Adults Meet Up**  
**Third Thursdays—Next: October 15 • 8 p.m.**  
Gather **via Zoom** with other Cathedral Young Adults for connection, community and prayer. Contact Nick Smith for more details.
Sunday Formation: *The Minor Prophets*  
Sundays • 9 a.m.

Dean Andy is now teaching a class on the minor prophets. Come and learn about these determined men as they prophesied against their cultures in order to fulfill God’s call to them. The class meets at 9 a.m. via Zoom. For more details, visit the Sunday Formation page.

Jerry’s Class: *Sermon on the Mount*  
Mondays • 7:15 p.m.

Monday evenings at 7:15 p.m. Deacon Jerry leads a class via Zoom on *Sermon on the Mount* by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. In this book, Professor Levine takes a detailed and colorful overview of Matthew 5–7, collectively known as Jesus’s Sermon on the Mount. Come explore the most popular sermon ever delivered! For more details, visit the page for Jerry’s Classes.

GHTC’s Digital Cafe  
Tuesdays • 7:30 a.m.

Please join us for our weekly conversation in GHTC’s Digital Cafe! Tuesday mornings from 7:30–9 a.m. To join, click here. Meeting ID: 568 607 781 Password: 582827. You may also dial in by phone: 312 626 6799.

Women’s Bible Study  
Tuesdays • 12:30 p.m.

Women’s Bible Study meets via Zoom at 12:30 p.m. WBS is currently studying *Engaging the Word* by Michael Johnston. For more details, visit our WBS page or contact Candy McDowell.

Lectionary Bible Study  
Tuesday, October 13 • 6:45 p.m. • Reading—Matthew 22:15–22

Join us for a discussion of context which will, with God’s grace, lead us to a discussion of how an understanding of scripture can restore us to fullness with God and each other in Christ. Join the Lectionary Bible Study group in Realm or visit the LBS page for more details.

Dean’s Forum & Compline: *Lord, teach us to pray.*  
Wednesdays • 6:45 p.m.

Dean Andy is now leading a class on Zoom called *Lord, teach us to pray.* Prayer has always been important to the Church, both corporately and individually. In our time together we will begin with the question the disciples asked Jesus, “Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.” (Lk 11:1b) Handouts are available on the website. The class begins with a check-in at 6:45 p.m. (new time) and class runs from 7–8 p.m., followed by Compline. For more details, visit the Dean’s Forum page.

Saturday Morning Devotion  
Saturdays • 9 a.m.

Join friends from the Cathedral via Zoom for a moment of prayer and devotion to kick off the weekend. Contact Alexandra Connors for more information.
Upcoming Events

Trick or Treat so Others Can Eat
October
During the month of October, the Cathedral will be collecting food for the Downtown Outreach Food Pantry, located at St. Mary’s. The pandemic has caused more people than usual to rely on food pantries for help. Please bring donations of shelf-stable food to the Tower during business hours any weekday. Just ring the bell and you will be buzzed in to drop off your donation. You may also bring your donation to the outdoor service Sundays at 5 p.m. Thank you for your help! For more information, contact Terri Curran.

Young Adults Meet Up
Thursday, October 15 • 8 p.m.
Gather via Zoom with other Cathedral Young Adults for connection, community and prayer. Contact Nick Smith for more details or visit the Young Adults page on our website.

Drive Through Fall Festival
Saturday, October 24 • 1–3 p.m.
Join us on Sunday, October 24 for a Drive Through Fall Festival from 1–3 p.m. Drive through parking lot stations to reconnect with ministry leaders, collect treats, get take home kits for at-home formation and drop off donations for our social outreach partners. All ages are invited and encouraged to join us. Follow along on social media until the event for more details!

LGBTQIA+ Gathering
Sunday, October 25 • 6 p.m.
We gather for our potluck meal with no agenda, just food, fun and fellowship. For the website/meeting address and any other questions, email coordinator Brian Cowley.

College & Careers Gathering
Sunday, October 25 • 7:30 p.m.
If you have just graduated high school and are looking to find a group of people to support you during these next steps in your life, please join us for a “College and Careers” gathering. This will be a monthly, online, casual way to connect with other people your age and other people who are in similar stages of life. This group is facilitated by Katie Mansfield and will meet via Zoom on the fourth Sunday of the month. Visit the College & Careers page for more info.

You can always find the latest events on our website’s Upcoming Events page.
Pray for:

**Healing**—Sarah McIvers; Phyllis Ryder; Art Rich III; Jack Lambert; Chris & Julie Schembri; Peg Morgan; Alirah Horton; Sharon Lyons; Fiona (Leona) Schaefer; Charlotte Colburn; Harrison Littlefield; Patricia; Jim Royer; Gaelle Marchand; Ric; Bev Bilotta; Phyllis Kagay; Dave Gaddy Cox; Shannon Johnson; Bob Fastl; Judy Houtman; Kathy Clinch; Alex Stewart Jr.

**Peace, Comfort & Serenity**—The Ryder family; Kate Landers’ family; Gary & family; Cathryn & family; Peggy Lowman’s family; Matt Levi’s family

**Calm, Direction & Help**—Andrew Rowland; All those affected by the derecho; Those affected by COVID-19; Kingswood Retirement Center

**Strength & Safety**—Students returning virtually & in person; Jessica Lynn Knox

**Joy & Strength**—Joanne Repass Jones

**Thanksgiving**—Chuck & Marsy Gordon’s new granddaughter, Rebecca Grace Gordon

**Recovery from Pandemic**—Our church & personal families & friends; Lucas Reifsteck

---

**Cathedral Prayer List**

To place a person on this prayer list, please contact the Cathedral office. Requests are held in prayer for 90 days.

---

**Daily Prayer**

a resource of Forward Movement

If you would like online access to daily prayer readings, compiled by Forward Movement, you will find that [here](#).

If you would prefer a hard copy, contact Janet Sweeting and a copy of the Forward Day by Day booklet will be mailed to you.

---

**Altar Flowers**

To help provide flowers for upcoming services, contact the Cathedral office.

---

**Birthdays & Anniversaries**

**October 11**
Homer Williams
Paige & Tom McLean

**October 12**
Jeremy Atherton
Mattie & Jason Ransom

**October 13**
Carol Coleman
Andy Keyse
Jack Ransom
Dick Woods

**October 14**
Lori Childs
John Shelton

**October 15**
Dave Barker
Trish Lambert

**October 16**
Eric Vianello
Sandra & David Alig

**October 17**
Valerie Johnson

Please contact the Cathedral office if we have omitted your birthday or anniversary: 816.474.8260 or jsweeting@kccathedral.org.
New prayer initiative offered in advance of elections in the United States

CINCINNATI, OH – Forward Movement and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations are calling Episcopalians and all others to join in A Season of Prayer: For an Election. This prayer novena—nine days of devotional prayers—calls upon God for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation.

The season of prayer begins Tuesday, October 27, and continues through November 4, the day after the elections in the United States.

In a short video message to encourage participation, Presiding Bishop Michael Curry called on Episcopalians to join the initiative to pray for our nation, its people and leaders, and all the nations and people of the earth. Available with Spanish subtitles here.

Please encourage your congregation and your friends to get involved.

“Through the ministry of RenewalWorks, we’ve found that one of the marks of vital congregations is that they pastor the community. By that we mean they are engaged with the world beyond the walls of the church, present to the neighborhood, primed to serve,” said the Rev. Jay Sidebotham, director of RenewalWorks, a ministry of Forward Movement. “In this election season, we carry out that important ministry with our prayers, making the commitment through personal spiritual practice to be present to our nation in this critical time, asking for God’s grace for decisions made, thanking God for the grace that we can participate in this way in our common life, and trusting that grace will help us through. First, we pray. Then we vote.”

All prayers come from The Book of Common Prayer, and materials include a brief litany to use each day.

Printable materials for individuals, churches, and families are available for download in English at www.forwardmovement.org/election and in Spanish at www.venadelante.org/eleccion.

Downloadable social media images will be made available for later in October for use by individuals and churches. These images will also be shared on the Forward Day by Day social media channels each day of the novena. Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter to stay up-to-date.

Additional election resources compiled by the Office of Government Relations are available on their Civic Engagement page.

“Our Vote Faithfully election resources build upon years of voter engagement efforts in the Church,” said Alan Yarborough, church relations officer for the Office of Government Relations. “In our resources we emphasize both the personal responsibility to cast your own vote and to help others in your community to vote as well. We also emphasize other aspects of civic engagement that have strong ties to the election process including the 2020 Census, civil discourse, and identifying and combatting misinformation.”

The Office of Government Relations represents the policy priorities of The Episcopal Church to the U.S. government in Washington, D.C. We aim to shape and influence policy and legislation on critical issues, highlighting the voices and experiences of Episcopalians and Anglicans globally. All policy positions are based on General Convention and Executive Council resolutions, the legislative and governing bodies of the Church. Learn more here.

Inspiring disciples and empowering evangelists around the globe every day, Forward Movement has been producing excellent, innovative resources to encourage spiritual growth in individuals and congregations for more than eighty years. Best known for the popular daily devotional Forward Day by Day, the ministry of Forward Movement also offers books and eBooks for groups or individual study, prayer resources, Christian formation courses, leadership events, Spanish and bilingual resources, pamphlets, downloadable resources, daily podcasts, apps for smartphones or tablets, and online engagement opportunities. Learn more here.