**Litanies, Collects, Prayers used in 2020 Convention Rollouts**

**Opening Prayer (**Adapted from an Interfaith Prayer by Claudia Olivia)

*Reader 1:* Spirit of Life, God of many names, be in our hearts and minds as we come together to pray for our world.

*Reader* 2: We come, grateful for our blessings, and hopeful for the future.

*Reader* 1: Let us know that we come from our various traditions to lift our spirit in Unity.

*Reader* 2: Knowing that we are part of an interconnected web of life, let us acknowledge and embrace our oneness.

*Reader* 1: We pray that we may be loving and able stewards of this world.

*Reader* 2: We pray that we acknowledge our differences as we seek out common ground, each of us working towards the good of all.

*Reader* 1: We recognize that there is hurt and sorrow, deeds that confound us, and actions for which we can find no justification.

*Reader* 2: We pray that we have the strength to recognize the occasional tiredness in our bones and in our hearts.

*Reader* 1: We call upon the strength of our higher power that we might be the best person that we are called to be. Let us be the change we seek.

Let us say AMEN.

**Closing Reflections**

People say that walking on water is a miracle,

But to me, walking peacefully on the Earth

Is the real miracle. (Thich Nhat Hanh)

I am a seeker ….a seeker of mystical experience..

A seeker of dreams……

I seek to escape the prisons of my mind

The prisons I create

The prisons that create me

I find solace in the vibrancy of a tulip

The wind in the rainbow

The rivers in the Sky

The wave of a butterfly’s wings

I smell the AMAZON

In me the wake of eternity

I am a seeker

A seeker of dreams

( Jason Robards 3)

**Opening Prayer** *Source: Episcopal Litany for Social Justice, adapted*

The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations

<https://episcopalchurch.org/library/article/episcopal-litany-social-justice>

*Leader 1:* Brothers and Sisters: God commands us through Jesus Christ to love one another. In baptism, we promise to seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving our neighbors as ourselves and to strive for justice and peace, and respect the dignity of every human being. Let us now honor those vows and pray for our nation in this election season, for wise and just leaders, and for the needs of others throughout our country and the world.

*Leader 2:* We pray for continued blessings on all peacemakers, on leaders who value peace, and on everyone who promotes nonviolent solutions to conflict. We pray for a speedy end to all violence and warfare around the world.

God of peace and gentleness,

*All:***Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 2:* We pray for all nations, that they may live in unity, peace, and concord; and that all people may know justice and enjoy the perfect freedom that only God can give.

God of liberty and freedom,

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 1:* We pray that the Holy Spirit may embrace the most vulnerable members of our society; we pray also for an end to the growing disparity between the rich and poor; and for the grace and courage to strive for economic justice.

God of all gifts and blessings,

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 2:* We pray for the reconciliation of all people, and for the Church throughout the world, that it may be an instrument of your healing love.

*Leader 1:* We pray for all who have died as a result of violence, war, disease or famine, especially those who died because of human blindness, neglect, or hardness of heart.

God of eternal life and resurrecting love,

*All:* **Hear our prayer.**

*Leader 2:* Almighty God, you have promised to hear what we ask in the name of your Son. Watch over our country now and in the days ahead, guide our leaders and all who will vote, guide them in all knowledge and truth and make your ways known among all people.

*All:* **Amen**.

**Closing Prayer**  Episcopal Diocese of West Virginia

Creator of all people, in our amazing diversity of size, shape, color, and giftedness: guide us, by your grace, to recognize the beauty and fitness of all whom you have made in your own image.

Give us gifts of humility and generosity of spirit to recognize in all people, the face of our Savior, Jesus, and to practice his commandment to “love one another,” toward the end of bringing harmony and peace among persons of all colors, origins, and abilities, for the sake of your Kingdom. *Amen.*

**Opening Prayers** *(source unknown)*

*Leader:* We cannot merely pray to you, O God, to end war;

*All:* For we know that You have made the world in a way that people must find their own path to peace within themselves and with their neighbors.

*Leader:* We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end starvation;

*All:* For You have already given us the resources with which to feed the entire world, if we would only use them wisely.

*Leader:* We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to root out prejudice;

*All:* For You have already given us eyes with which to see the good in all people, if we would only use them rightly.

*Leader:* We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end despair;

*All:* For You have already given us the power to clear away slums and to give hope, if we would only use our power justly.

*Leader:* We cannot merely pray to You, O God, to end disease;

*All:* For You have already given us great minds with which to search out cures and healing, if we would only use them constructively.

*All:* Therefore we pray to You instead, O God, for strength, determination and will power,

To do instead of just pray,

To become instead of merely to wish.

**Closing Prayer** *(Source: Lord’s Prayer, New Zealand Prayer Book)*

*Reader 1:*

Eternal Spirit, Earth maker, Pain bearer, Life-giver,

Source of all that is and that shall be,

Father and Mother of us all,

Loving God, in whom is heaven:

*Reader 2:*

The hallowing of your name echo through the universe!

The way of your justice be followed by the peoples of the world!

*Reader 1:*

Your heavenly will be done by all created beings!

Your commonwealth of peace and freedom sustain our hope and come on Earth.

*Reader 2:*

With the bread we need for today, feed us.

In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.

In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.

*Reader 1:*

From trials too great to endure, spare us.

From the grip of all that is evil, free us.

For you reign in the glory of the power that is love, now and forever. AMEN.

**Opening Prayer**

*Litany of Repentance, edited*

[Episcopal Prayers for Reconciliation and Justice](https://liturgyandmusic.files.wordpress.com/2018/01/prayers-sclm-racial-reconciliation-and-justice-final1-3.pdf)

From The Episcopal Church Standing Commission on Liturgy and Music.

*Reader 1:* Dear people of God, our history is marred by oppression, by the enslavement of those who differ from us, and by the forces of racism that attack human dignity. The sin of racism is woven into our lives and our cultures, in small and great ways, in things done and things left undone.

As followers of Christ, we reject racism and the oppression of other human beings. In building Christ’s beloved community, we must strive to love all people, respect all people, and work for the good of all people. We must stand alongside God’s children of every race, language, and culture, and work together as agents of justice, peace, and reconciliation.

In the assurance of our forgiveness, let us kneel before God and humbly confess our sins: our participation in racism, our privilege based on racism, and our perpetuation of racism.

*Reader 2:* God the Liberator, you freed your people from slavery in Egypt, yet the legacy of slavery deforms our lives today.

**Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, you prayed that all would be united in your love and service, yet the divisions among us rend your body.

**Have mercy on us.**

God the Holy Spirit, you inspire us to live peaceably with all, yet the stain of genocide and internment mars our striving for justice.

**Have mercy on us.**

We have harmed one another and the earth through negligence, greed, and self-interest.

**Have mercy on us.**

We have decried violence, while overlooking inequity and frustration from which it rises.

**Have mercy on us.**

We have sought comfort in advantage for ourselves at the cost of injustice for others.

**Have mercy on us**.

We have welcomed solace over conflict and ignored the cries of those harmed by our comfort.

**Have mercy on us.**

We have been fearful and distrustful of those who are different from us.

**Have mercy on us.**

We have preferred order over justice, and isolation over the struggle for peace.

**Have mercy on us.**

We have failed to act with courage for the sake of love.

**Have mercy on us.**

Lord have mercy.

**Christ have mercy.**

Lord have mercy.

*Reader 1:* May Almighty God have mercy on us, grant us courage and conviction, and strengthen us to love others who are unlike us. May God, the Holy and Undivided Trinity, make us compassionate in our actions and courageous in our works, that we may see Christ’s Beloved Community in our own day. **Amen.**

**Closing Prayers**  *For the Human Family, BCP*

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

**Opening Prayer** Psalm 145, expanded by The Rev. Dr. Allison Moore

*All:* **All your works praise you, O God, \***

**and your faithful servants bless you.**

*Leader:* O God, children and those who seek to learn cry out to you, for educational institutions favor some at the expense of others.

*All:* **They make known the glory of your realm \* and speak of your power,**

*Leader:* O God, those who are not heard cry out to you when fatigue, or overwork, or illness, or limited space, or insults keep them from developing their gifts.

*All:* **That the peoples may know of your power \***

**and the glorious splendor of your dominion.**

*Leader:* O God, those who yearn to work, to support themselves and their families, cry out to you, for greed and institutional wealth have deprived them of the opportunities to contribute meaningfully to society.

*All:*   **Yours, O God, is an everlasting reign; \***

**your dominion endures throughout all ages.**

*Leader:* O God, those who are in danger because of war, abuse, environmental catastrophe call out to you, for the powerful have put themselves in your place, and secured their peace at the expense of the vulnerable.

*All:*   **You are faithful in all your words \* and merciful in all your deeds.**

*Leader:* O God, those who are sick and those who would prevent illness cry out to you, for too many cannot access the health care they need when profit and prestige govern access to resources.

*All:* **You uphold all those who fall; \* you lift up those who are bowed down.**

*Leader:* O God, those who are young, or sick, or struggling, or in need of special care cry out to you, because we have failed to see those who fall or are bowed down.

*All:* **The eyes of all wait upon you, O God, \***

**and you give them their food in due season.**

*Leader:* O God, those who are hungry call out to you, for the greedy have taken what you meant to be freely shared.

*All:* **You open wide your hand \***

**and satisfy the needs of every living creature.**

*Leader:* O God, those who have no shelter, or for whom housing costs exceed their earning ability, or who have been forced out of their neighborhoods, cry out to you, because greed has obscured neighborliness.

*All:* **You are righteous in all your ways \* and loving in all your works.**

*Leader:* O God, the sinners of the world cry out to you, for our unrighteousness and cruelty and indifference have made a mess of your world.

*All:* **You are near to those who call upon you, \***

**to all who call upon you faithfully.**

*Leader:* O God, give us the grace to learn to live together as siblings, and honor the inescapable network of mutuality, so that every living creature can know the fullness of your intention, delight in your creation, and serve your people with joy. **Amen**.

**Closing Prayer** James Alexander Forbes, Jr., In JamesWashington, ed. *Conversations with God: 200 years of African American prayers*

O God of Love, Power and Justice, who wills the freedom and fulfillment of all your children, we thank you for the constancy of your loving kindness and tender mercies toward us. We know that you are rebuilding the network of compassion around new visionaries who you have assembled for this hour. Surprise us with the discovery of how much power we have to make a difference in our day, a difference in the way we meet, greet, respect, and protect the rights of each other; a difference in the breadth of our vision of what is possible; a difference in the way government, business, and labor can work together, for justice and social enrichment. Strengthen us to face reality with compassion and the spirit of sacrifice and to withstand the rigor of tough times in the anticipation of a bright side beyond the struggle. Inspire, empower, and sustain us until we reach the mountaintop and see that future for which our hearts yearn. **Amen**.

**Opening Reflection Larry Marshall**

It is comforting to know that when it was proclaimed

that I was made in your image

That it’s the Soul and not the body that was meant

It is comforting to know that when I talk to myself, I’m talking to YOU

It’s comforting to know that because of this I am never without YOU

THEREFORE

I am never alone as I wander through this wonderment

Called LIFE wrapped in the comfort of YOUR love.

**Opening Prayer**

Source: Peter Barnard, or Catholic Doors Ministry, (lost the website address)

*( Please invite people to put their prayers regarding the budget in the “ chat” )*

Leader: Gracious and loving God, another year has come and gone and once again we gather for the Annual Budget Meeting at the Episcopal Diocese of New York.

Leader: We remember a year of deepening faith in our congregations, in spite of numerous challenges.

Leader: We give thanks for the faith community of the Diocese of New York. We remember the conversations that brought friends and congregation members together, and we lift up the joys and struggles of all ministries funded by this diocese.

Leader: Though these memories will always be with us, it is together that we cast our gaze forward. Please light our path.

All: For the way will not always be easy, but when your spirit shines upon us we might know our best days lie ahead.

Leader: As we meet and discuss the life and work of this diocese we pray that you enter into our discussion.

All: May your Spirit move in our hearts, opening them to hear what each of us has to offer, bringing light to both possibilities and realities, drawing us always to consider what you would have us be and do in this time and place.

Leader: With humility and gratitude, together we offer our time, talent and treasure

to your service and glory.

All: May your wisdom enfold us as we continue to build your kingdom.

Leader: During this time of deliberation as we estimate our needs, and allocate our resources, may we remember that we are doing your work, not our own. May we see this meeting time as a way of serving you. May all that we do and are give you praise, and be for your honor and glory. Amen.

**Closing Prayer**

Disturb us, Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we have dreamed too little; when we arrive safely because we have sailed too close to shore. Disturb us, Lord, when with the abundance of the things we possess, we have lost our thirst for the water of life. Stir us, Lord, to dare more boldly, to venture on wider seas, where storms will show your mastery; where losing sight of land, we shall find the stars. We ask you to push back the horizons of our hopes and to push us into the future in strength, courage, hope and love. Amen.

### Disturb Us, Lord, from Maggie Dawn <https://maggidawn.net/2015/03/19/a-prayer-not-by-sir-francis-drake/>