

Join Us



Prayers for Ferguson
Prayers for our Life Together

A resource for individuals and congregations

*The Young Adults in the Union of Black Episcopalians wrote a [statement](#) in August responding to the events in Ferguson, and inviting the church to respond. Their call to act, to remember, and to pray provides the foundation for this resource. We invite your use of this for individual or corporate prayer. The prayers are from **The Book of Common Prayer**, and were selected to meet the needs of those who approach the situation, and its aftermath, with a variety of concerns and hopes. We encourage modifications to meet the needs of those who gather.*

~ Heidi Clark, Associate to the Rector, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Creve Coeur, Missouri

~ The Rev. Marvin Foltz, Rector, St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Creve Coeur, Missouri



In response to the August 9, 2014 shooting which claimed the life of Michael Brown, 18, an unarmed young black man in Ferguson Missouri, we join in prayer for the repose of the soul of Michael Brown.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Michael, and grant him an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen*

Most merciful God, whose wisdom is beyond our understanding, deal graciously with Michael's family and community in their grief. Surround them with your love, that they may not be overwhelmed by their loss, but have confidence in your goodness, and strength to meet the days to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

In response to the demonstrators who have gathered to peacefully express their outrage, anger and frustration at the death of this young man, we reaffirm our Baptismal vow to "strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being" and we pray,

Almighty God, who created us in your own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of your holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen*

Almighty God, whose Son forgave his enemies while he was suffering shame and death: Strengthen those who suffer for the sake of conscience; when they are accused, save them from speaking in hate; when they are rejected, save them from bitterness; when they are imprisoned, save them from despair; and to us your servants, give grace to respect their witness and to discern the truth, that our society may be cleansed and strengthened. This we ask for the sake of Jesus Christ, our merciful and righteous Judge. *Amen*

In response to the multiple incidences of restrictions on movement, protesting, media communications, free press, black-outs of images of brutality and excessive force against citizens, we hope for a reasoned use of power, and for accountability in our ordered lives, and so we pray,

Lord our Governor, bless the leaders of our land, that we may be a people at peace among ourselves and a blessing to other nations of the earth. Lord, keep this nation under your care.

To the President and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, Mayors of Cities, and to all in administrative authority, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord. To Senators and Representatives, and those who make our laws in States, Cities, and Towns, give courage, wisdom, and foresight to provide for the needs of all our people, and to fulfill our obligations in the community of nations.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord. To the Judges and officers of our Courts give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

Give grace to your servants, O Lord. Teach our people to rely on your strength and to accept their responsibilities to their fellow citizens, that they may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the well-being of our society; that we may serve you faithfully in our generation and honor your holy Name.

For yours is the kingdom, O Lord, and you are exalted as head above all. *Amen*

For law enforcement, the military, and all who gather to protect the protesters, the media, the community of Ferguson and other areas in troubled times, we pray,

Almighty God, we commend to your gracious care and keeping the men and women summoned to serve and protect us in times of conflict. Defend them day by day with your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of your abiding presence wherever they may be. Uphold, guide and protect them. Make them wise in the exercise of their authority, correct them in any error, protect them from danger, and make them instruments of peace.

Amen

In response to this situation's eerie reminders of countless cities across the United States in the 1960s, we commit the church, and ourselves, to remember our past, to regard the victimization, fear and helplessness fueled in communities by these situations, and to stand boldly even though we may have failed to do so before, in this continued call to the difficult work of confronting oppression, and so we pray,

Holy God, we are your creation, and in you we know redemption and righteousness. You have established us among your people across the earth, with saints from before and those yet to come. Again and again you call us to return to you. Strengthen us in times of uncertainty, restore us to you and to one another, and cause a new light to shine brightly in our hearts. *Amen*

In response to the looting, property damage, and violence done in the midst of the conflict, we pray,

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

O God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince of Peace, as children of one God; to whom be dominion and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

In response to the lasting effect this situation will have on the young black residents of Ferguson and across the country; how they will relate to police officers in the future, how they will believe in their deep worth as children of God, claim their rights to dignity and justice, and for our willingness to join in solidarity, together with them, we pray,

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart, and especially the hearts of the young people in Ferguson, that barriers which divide us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; that our divisions being healed, we may live in justice and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*

In response to the subculture of prejudice against black people resulting in headline after headline of another American lying dead in neighborhood streets, we commit ourselves to telling the truth, in love. To teach ourselves, and one another, the appropriate messages, and the appropriate channels to carry this truth into the larger culture of our life together, so that the prophetic voice of the Episcopal Church resounds in speaking against the legacy of institutionalized oppression in the United States and across our world, and we pray,

Almighty God, we beseech thee to look with loving-kindness on the people of our nation, as we struggle to live our lives in time of great uncertainty and fear. Grant that we may recover from the rubble of our past mistakes and current fears, find hope in shared goals of reconciliation, and put our trust in you. Help us also to turn to one another, so in these times of trouble all people of every faith, race and ethnicity may be drawn yet more closely in bonds of shared amity, respect, and purpose, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Almighty God, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, our homes and cities across the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*