

We pray for the earth and all its creatures, that we may be good stewards of your wondrous creation.

**A: Lord, keep all nations under Your care.**

Help us to be ambassadors of peace wherever we go.

**A: Lord, keep all nations under Your care.**

Give us the wisdom to see where we can make a difference and grant us the courage to form our conscience in the image of God.

**A: Lord, keep all nations under Your care.**

We ask that You guard and guide our President and all who serve the people of these United States. May uncompromising integrity mark their lives and ours.

**A: Lord, unite us as truly "one nation, under God." Amen**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace to love and serve God and your neighbor.

*The Nutley Clergy Association thanks you for your presence and participation in this National Day of Prayer. We encourage you to keep these leaders of our community, our state and our nation in your prayers not only today, but every day.*

#

#

#

#

#

#

## National Day of Prayer



***The bold print is the work of the people.***

*The regular print is the work of the selected leaders.*

### Words of Welcome & Introductions

The first call to prayer came in 1775 when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming the nation. In 1952, President Truman signed a joint resolution by Congress declaring an annual national day of prayer. Then, in 1988, the Truman law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently establishing the first Thursday of May as the National Day of Prayer.

Our country has been uniting in prayer on that day ever since. With the nation's concerns about the wars around the world, the environment and with the economy, the President and our leaders need God's guidance more than ever.

Today we partner throughout the day with people of faith across the nation in a great continuous prayer meeting for our nation.

Unified prayer is powerful. In the Bible it says *"for where two or three come together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."* (Matthew 18:20)

And from the First Letter to Timothy 2:1-4

*First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings should be made for everyone, for kings and all who are in high positions, so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and dignity.*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (based on Isaiah 2:4-5)

Eternal God, before you nations rise and fall. Help us to repent our country's wrong, and to choose your way of reunion and renewal.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Give us a glimpse of the Kingdom you are bringing to earth, where death and violence and hunger will be no more, and

where all nations gather in the light of your presence.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Teach us peace, that we may plow up battlefields and pound weapons into building tools, and learn to talk across old boundaries as brothers and sisters in your love.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Talk sense to us, so that we may wisely end all prejudices, and may put a stop to injustice and cruelty, which divides or wounds the human family.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

Draw us together as one people who do your will, so that we may be a light to our nation, leading the way to your promised kingdom, which is even now coming among us.

**Great God, renew this nation.**

**Great God, eternal Lord, show us there is no law or liberty apart from you; and let us serve you whole-heartedly, as your devoted followers through Christ our Lord.**

adapted from a prayer by the Idlewild Presbyterian Church, Memphis, Tennessee.  
<http://www.idlewildchurch.org/>

#### PRAYERS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

O 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 *Name*; Vice President, *Name*; and members of the Cabinet, to Governors of States, especially the Governor of NJ, *Name*, grant wisdom and grace in the exercise of their duties.

**Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

To Senators and Representatives, especially: *Name*, Congress woman *Name*. To the Mayor of our local elected officials (*Name*, 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 all judges, especially Township Judge *Name*, give understanding and integrity, that human rights may be safeguarded and justice served.

**Give grace to your servants, O Lord.**

We also offer up a special prayer for our troops.

To the citizens of the United States, teach us to rely on your strength and to accept our responsibilities to our fellow citizens, that we may elect trustworthy leaders and make wise decisions for the

well-being of our society; and 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 our schools

**We pray for all the students, staff and faculty of all schools, colleges and universities, especially the schools in Nutley. May they be lively centers for sound learning, new discovery, and the pursuit of wisdom, where all students are free of fear from bullying, drugs, and violence. Grant also that those who teach and those who learn may find You to be the source of all truth. Amen**

For community services and first responders:

**We pray for those who guide and guard us, that they may faithfully serve in their roles to promote the wellbeing of all people. And, teach us all to rely on your strength and to accept our own responsibility to our fellow citizens, that we may step forward ourselves to serve our neighbors as you have taught us to do. Amen**

For our troops

**Almighty God we commend to Your gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad. Defend them day by day with Your heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which confront them; and grant them a sense of Your abiding presence wherever they may be. Amen**

#### PRAYERS FOR PEACE

Let us pray for world peace.

**A: Lord, keep all nations under Your care.**

Let us pray for the leaders of governments and those whose words and actions influence worldly affairs, that they may not tolerate injustice, or make ill-considered decisions about the futures of other people.

**A: Lord, keep all nations under Your care.**

Let us also pray for all who live in the shadow of world events, for those who are seldom noticed: the hungry, the poor, the broken, and the unloved.

**A: Lord, keep all nations under Your care.**