



Highlights of diocesan news in printable format — October 21, 2020

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From Our Bishop

A blessed effort: Diocesan Communion on November 8

This is a transcript of a video message.

This is Bishop Hughes in the diocese of Newark, and this message is especially for the people of this diocese. Over the last few weeks you've heard me talk about making a shift from getting through pandemic to living with pandemic. It's not that that any of us believes this is going to go on forever. It's just that we have come to understand it's going to keep going for a while, and it's not helpful for us to keep setting a date that we think it's going to be over by, and holding off on the ways that we are church, until it is over. Instead, we've been asking ourselves, how do we live with pandemic.

In the last VOICE Online, the diocesan newsletter, I put out information about three areas of the church – Holy Communion, Confirmation and Convention – and what we were going to do in those three areas as we continue to live with pandemic. I want to speak to the first one today. One of the things we're going to do

is, three times during the liturgical year, make sure that every member of our diocese who would like to receive Holy Communion is able to. The first of those times is coming up quickly on November 8th and that's why I bring that up today.

This is going to be a big effort for every parish in our diocese. We're going to need help. Your clergy are going to need help. We're going to need the help of people who can come masked and gloved up and being safe to package up the blessed elements so that it's able to travel along with a prayer card to people who need to receive it at home. We are going to need people who can make phone calls to find out who does want to receive it at home, to take those reservations so we know exactly when we will be dropping it off. And we're going to need people who can help with dropping the blessed element off. Keep in mind, we're not looking to have lay eucharistic visitors do home Communion. This is something entirely different. This is dropping off the blessed element at a specified time so someone can receive it and they can say the prayers themselves or with their family.

This is not only a big effort, but I'm asking for all of your prayers that it would be a blessed effort. An effort that is a blessing both for those who volunteer and for those who receive and for the entirety of the diocese. I ask you to join me in praying that when we receive Communion, at all times, but especially when the entire diocese is receiving on November 8th, the Communion would resonate in us the way it is meant to. That the transforming presence of Jesus Christ in our lives, in our spirits, in our minds and in our hearts will go out with us into the world where we are able to share God's love and to share God's ministry of transformation and healing. That indeed will be a blessed effort.

I look forward to seeing you at some point or hearing about your stories at some point of being a part of this Holy Communion on November 8th for all of the diocese.

Diocesan Resources & Announcements

Clergy ministry transitions

Arrivals

- The Rev. Beverly Huck, Priest-in-Charge, St. Luke's, Haworth - OCT 15
- The Rev. Anne C. Thatcher, Rector, St. Peter's, Morristown - NOV 23

Departures

- The Rev. Dean Weber, Rector, All Saint's, Leonia - OCT 5

A Season of Prayer: For an Election (Oct. 27-Nov. 4)

The Diocese of Newark is joining with Forward Movement and The Episcopal Church Office of Government Relations for *A Season of Prayer: For an Election* for a novena (nine days) October 27-November 4.

A novena is an ancient tradition of nine days of devotional prayers, often with a specific intention. In this case, we pray for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation.

As we move toward the election of leaders for the United States, may we all join in a season of prayer, committing to offer to God our fears and frustrations, our hopes and dreams.

Printable materials from Forward Movement follow on the next two pages to use at home or with your congregation. These prayers, drawn from The Book of Common Prayer, can be printed out and tucked in a Bible or prayer journal.

★ FOR SOUND GOVERNMENT ★

For this season, we encourage you to pray this litany every day. You might also consider praying the Great Litany, beginning on page 148 of *The Book of Common Prayer*.

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 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.

And finally, 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.



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☆ SEASON ☆

OF PRAYER:

FOR AN ELECTION

We come together, asking God for courage and wisdom, thanking God for love and joy. As we move toward the election of leaders for the United States, may we all join in a season of prayer, committing to offer to God our fears and frustrations, our hopes and dreams.

A novena is an ancient tradition of nine days of devotional prayers, often with a specific intention. In this case, we pray for discernment in voting and for the well-being of our nation. Starting October 27 and continuing through the day after the election, we invite you to pray for the election of leaders in the United States.

These prayers, drawn from *The Book of Common Prayer*, can be printed out and tucked in a Bible or prayer journal. The prayers will be posted daily on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, #seasonofprayer. We encourage you to share your prayers in person or online.



★ NINE DAYS OF PRAYER ★

OCT 27 Pray for the nation

Lord God Almighty, you have made all the peoples of the earth for your glory, to serve you in freedom and in peace: Give to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

OCT 28 Pray for every human heart

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may so move every human heart and especially the hearts of the people of this land, 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.*

OCT 29 Pray for those who influence public opinion

Almighty God, you proclaim your truth in every age by many voices: Direct, in our time, we pray, those who speak where many listen and write what many read; that they may do their part in making the heart of this people wise, its mind sound, and its will righteous; to the honor of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OCT 30 Pray for these times of conflict

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.*

OCT 31 Pray for guidance

O God, by whom the meek are guided in judgment, and light riseth up in darkness for the godly: Grant us, in all our doubts and uncertainties, the grace to ask what thou wouldst have us to do, that the Spirit of wisdom may save us from all false choices, and that in thy light we may see light, and in thy straight path may not stumble; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

NOV 1 Pray for direction from God

Direct us, O Lord, in all our doings with thy most gracious favor, and further us with thy continual help; that in all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy Name, and finally, by thy mercy, obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

NOV 2 Pray for discernment

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of your people who call upon you, and grant that they may know and understand what things they ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to accomplish them; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

NOV 3 Pray for the election

Almighty God, to whom we must account for all our powers and privileges: Guide the people of the United States in the election of officials and representatives; that, by faithful administration and wise laws, the rights of all may be protected and our nation be enabled to fulfill your purposes; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

NOV 4 Pray for our own work for the common good

Almighty God our heavenly Father, you declare your glory and show forth your handiwork in the heavens and in the earth: Deliver us in our various occupations from the service of self alone, that we may do the work you give us to do in truth and beauty and for the common good; for the sake of him who came among us as one who serves, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*



All prayers are taken from *The Book of Common Prayer*, pages 258, 823, 827, 824, 832, 231, 822, and 261.

This free guide is offered as part of the ministry of Forward Movement, which donates thousands of resources each month to hospitals, nursing homes, and prisons. To learn more and support this ministry, visit www.ForwardMovement/donate.