**CALL to PRAYER for AMERICA
Wednesday, October 26, 2016 – 8 AM to 5:30 PM
 Christ United Methodist Church Sanctuary**

Welcome to this time of prayer for our nation. In this election season and time of great division, America is sorely in need of our prayers! You may pray & reflect here in the Sanctuary today, or you may use this guide at home. Note that this is not a partisan event, but rather an opportunity for us as believers to humbly come before God, seeking His forgiveness and His will. This is God’s promise: ***“If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land.* -** 2 Chronicles 7:14

You are invited to pray in any way the Holy Spirit leads you, but we are offering the “ACTS” format…

**Adoration:** Begin with praise! Use a Psalm, such as 100:

 ***“Sing to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness;
 Come before him with joyful songs.
 Know that the LORD is God. It is he who has made us, and we are his;
 We are his people, the sheep of his pasture.
 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise;
 Give thanks to him and praise his name.
 For the LORD is good and his love endures forever;
 His faithfulness continues through all generations.”***

**Confession:** Personal - Selected verses of Psalm 51:

 ***“Have mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love;
 According to your great compassion blot out my transgressions.
 Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin…
 Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.
 Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me…
 The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart,
 O God, you will not despise.”*** Corporate: Prayer by Rev. Peter Marshall, Chaplain of the U.S. Senate, 1947-’49:

 ***Forgive us, Lord Jesus, for doing the things that make us uncomfortable
 and guilty when we pray.
 We say that we believe in God, and yet we doubt God’s promises.
 We say that in God we trust, yet we worry and try to manage our own affairs.
 We that I love You, O Lord, and yet we do not obey You.
 We believe that You have the answers to all our problems, yet we do not consult You.
 Forgive us, Lord, for our lack of faith and the willful pride that ignores the Way,
 the Truth, and the life.
 Reach down and change us that we may go forward with You. Amen.***

*Continued…*

 ***- 2 –***

Assurance of Pardon: ***“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins
 and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”*** - 1 John 1:9

**Thanksgiving:** Psalm 107, selected verses:

 ***“O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
 Let the redeemed of the LORD say this ---
 Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds,
 for he satisfies the thirsty & fills the hungry with good things.”***

Thank You, God, for pouring out Your many blessings on this land we call America!
You were there in our earliest beginnings, inspiring men and women to stand for freedom.
You gave us land with so much beauty and lots of variety. You fed us with bountiful harvests.
You brought in people from many countries and origins and desired us to live in harmony.
We admit that we don’t deserve Your great mercy, but we thank You for it with our whole hearts!

**Supplication:** (Offer prayers for America and for all in authority, including in the church)
 St.Paul to Timothy – 2 Timothy 2:1-4:

***“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for
everyone --- for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives
in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all to
be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”***

Pray for all those currently holding office, for those now running for office, and their families.

 Prayers from the *United Methodist Book of Worship:*

1. “O God, as you anointed leaders and called prophets of old, lead us to recognize
 our true representatives and authentic leaders: men and women who love your people
 and can walk with them, who feel their pain and share their joys,
 who dream their dreams and strive to accompany them to their common goal.
 In your fire, with your Spirit, embolden and commission us to transform our political system,
 to serve your people, and to bring real glory to your name. Amen.” [Philippines, 20th century]

2. “Look graciously, O Lord, upon this land. Where it is in pride, subdue it.
 Where it is in need, supply it.
 Where it is in error, rectify it. Where it is in default, restore it.
 And where it holds to that which is just and compassionate, support it. Amen.”
 [Church of Pakistan, 20th century]

3. “Teach us, God of every nation, to see every question of national policy in the light of our
 faith, that we may check in ourselves and in others every passion that makes for war,
 ungenerous judgment, all promptings of self-assurance, all presumptuous claims.
 Grant us insight to recognize the needs and aspirations of other nations, and remove our suspicions
 and misunderstandings. May we may honor all people, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. [England, 20th century]
 *Continued…*

 **- 3 -**

 Prayer for America, selected verses – The Rev. Peter Marshall

***“Our Father, we pray for this land.. .Thou didst bless America. Thou hast made her rich.
 Wilt Thou also make her good?
 Make us, the citizens of this land, want to do the right things.
 Make us long to have right attitudes.
Help us to be Christian in our attitudes. Let all that we do and say spring out of understanding hearts.
Make us willing to seek moral objectives together, that in united action this nation may be
 as resolute for righteousness and peace as she has been for war.
Bless those who bear responsibility. May they be led by Thee to do that which is right
 rather than which is expedient or politically wise.
Save us from politicians who seek only their own selfish interests…
Bless this land that we love so much, our Father, and help her to deposit her trust,
 not in armies and navies, in wealth and material resources,
 or in achievements of the human mind, but in that righteousness
 which alone exalteth any nation, and by which alone peace can finally come to us.
This we ask in that name that is above every name, Thy Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer. Amen.***

Continue to pray as the Spirit leads you for our country and for those seeking office.
Remember that we are called to have a loving attitude toward those with whom we disagree.

 Jesus in The Sermon on the Mount – Matthew 5:43-45:

***“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you:
 Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be sons of Your
 Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the
 righteous and the unrighteous…Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”***

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples the night of His betrayal. [John 17] They remind us
of His desire for us to live in unity, which is in Christ alone.

 ***“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their
 message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May
 they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them
 the glory that you gave me that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me.
 May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have
 loved them even as you have loved me.”***

 As you prepare to vote, ask God to give you wisdom. Thank God for the privilege of being part of the
 process. Then, regardless of the outcome of the election, remember that our God is still in control!
 May we ever trust and obey Him, thanking Him that our ultimate citizenship is in heaven.

 ***Thank you for participating in this time of prayer!***