

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As I begin my letter today, we are awaiting news about who will be the next President and Vice President of the United States. Like many of you, I have been following the updates on the news broadcasts. I have also looked at the local village and town election tallies in "The County Line." The results remind us that nationally, statewide, and locally, we are not homogeneous.

As we look to our future together, some of us may be uneasy about what lies ahead. We know that one team will win the Presidential/Vice Presidential race, and the other will lose. That is the reality. We know that the future will be shaped by those who are elected. We also know that for those whose team does not win, they may feel any number of emotions.

The La Crosse Area Synod, in their weekly newsletter of November 4, 2020, sent a post-election prayer. The prayer is used by our brothers and sisters in Christ of the United Methodist Church. I share it with you now, and encourage you to use it during your prayer times and other times of need.

Almighty God, you rule all the peoples of the earth.

Inspire the minds of all those to whom you have committed the responsibility of government and leadership in the nations of the world.

Give to them the vision of truth and justice, that by their counsel all nations and peoples may work together.

Give to the people of our country zeal for justice and strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with your gracious will.

Forgive our shortcomings as a nation; purify our hearts to see and love the truth.

We pray all these things through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

(United Methodist Book of Worship, #442)

God holds the world we live in, including us, in God's hands. May we, as servants of God, seek justice and peace in the villages, towns, state, country, and world in which we live. May God help us to be people of God in our daily lives. May we express a loving concern for our neighbors near and far away. And may we always remember that with God all things are possible.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy