
Engaging the Spirit in Choosing Public Leaders



Ecclesiasticus
6:22-27

Setting

Chairs arranged to allow for some sharing and dialogue.

Symbols may include a globe or other symbol of all peoples of the world; a map of the United States of America; pictures of people especially affected by political decisions.

Call to Prayer

Leader Bountiful God, whose love embraces all peoples, we come to ask that our hearts be open to the needs of all nations, communities, and individuals as we prepare for our national elections.

Response We come ready to hear your call.

Leader God of Justice and Peace, we ask for awareness to see those most in need as we search for leaders who can work toward justice in our nation that will lead to true peace.

Response We come ready to hear your call.

Leader God of Wisdom, who calls us to wholeness in following your ways, we seek the gift of humility to know the strengths you have given us and the courage to face the weaknesses that keep us bound in prejudice and self seeking.

Response We come ready to hear your call.

Reflection Song

Holy Ground by John Michael Talbot

Reading



Wisdom is true to her name.
Put your feet unto her fetters
and your neck into her collar;
Offer your shoulder to her burden,
do not be impatient of her bonds.

Court her with all your soul,
and with all your might keep in her ways;
search for her, track her down
she will reveal herself;
once you hold her, do not let her go.

For in the end you will find rest in her
and she will take the form of joy for you:
her fetters you will find a mighty defense.

Litany

Side 1 Let us sing to Wisdom,

Side 2 Who delivered our mothers and fathers out of a land of oppression.

Side 1 She led them by a marvelous road,

Side 2 A path through the sea,

Side 1 Dry land, waves piled up on either side.

Side 2 Lead us now as you did before.

Side 1 The waters threaten to engulf us;

Side 2 The waves are breaking over our heads.

Side 1 Make us a path through the water;

Side 2 Be our shelter by day,

Side 1 And our starlight by night.

Side 2 Bring us safely to dry land, headed toward freedom.

Side 1 Amen.

Side 2 Amen

Reflection on Christian Principles in an Election Year

National Council of Churches, USA

(It is suggested that copies of these principles
be available for all participants.)

Read each principle, pause for silent reflection, allow time for sharing on the question: What does this mean as we consider the choice of political leaders in light of the needs of our nation and the world today?

1. War is contrary to the will of God.
2. God calls us to live in communities shaped by peace and cooperation.
3. God created us for each other, and thus our security depends on the well being of our global neighbors.
4. God calls us to be advocates for those who are most vulnerable in our society.
5. Each human being is created in the image of God and is of infinite worth.
6. The earth belongs to God and is intrinsically good.
7. Christians have a biblical mandate to welcome strangers.
8. Those who follow Christ are called to heal the sick.
9. Because of the transforming power of God's grace, all humans are called to be in right relationship with each other.
10. Providing enriched learning environments for all of God's children is a moral imperative.

Repeat Song *Holy Ground*



Closing

The Spirit is Breathing

Side 1

The Spirit is breathing.

All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
detect a coming dawn;
a reason to go on.

They seem small, these signs of dawn,
perhaps ridiculous.

All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
uncover in the night
a certain gleam of light;
they see the reason to go on.

Side 2

All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
discover all the while
these hints of hope are growing.

All those with eyes to see,
women and men with ears for hearing
have found without a doubt
sure signs of hope;
they clasp them close, these signs of hope,
cure for hopelessness.

All

Holy Breathing of God,
I feel You stirring.

Warmed by this breath good things start to grow.
Even in strong, wealthy lands
fresh, mobilizing calls evoke planetary piety,
winning the hearts
and the hands of the caring:
each in her chosen path,
each with [a] special gift,
take their stand
to create a world more fit for living,
more just and more humane.

(Source unknown)

Greet each other with a sign and prayer of hope.

Acknowledgments

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