

The Need for Thoughtful & Prayerful Action Is Not Over

We are now in a time of limbo, waiting for the results of our decision making to be known. In a society trained to expect instant gratification, this waiting feels unnatural and even ominous to some, especially since some leaders have already set the stage for challenging the results by claiming that any result except the result they want, must have been unfairly reached. People have short memories. Waiting for election results for days or longer is not new or particularly unusual. It was the norm during our early history and has happened a number of times in living memory. It appears that more people than usual have made the effort to make their voices heard in the process this time around. Since such large participation numbers are unfortunately not the norm, and COVID-19 has caused many people to use a different voting method than usual, counting will take longer. This need for more time to get everyone's vote counted should not be a surprise.

Jesus teaches us that if God keeps track of every sparrow, he keeps track even more of us. He even knows the number hairs on our heads, does he not also know and value all our voices and actions? He expects us to have the same value for each other. To belittle others, tear them down, discredit them, or silence their voices, is not in keeping with the way God wants his people to treat others. We need to act respectfully, with patience, and with forbearance as we wait. We need to pray for those who are doing the tedious and time-consuming work of counting ballots and for those who are observing the process.

This week, pray for:

- those **who are called to political leadership**, that they will work for the common good.
- the continuing **COVID-19 pandemic** which continues to grow worse. Pray for all those who are making choices about upcoming holiday celebrations. May they choose wisely so that COVID-19 is not among the guests around the table or one of the 'gifts' that is shared.
- **Nigeria** where peaceful protests calling for an end to the SARS police unit (Special Anti-Robbery Squad charged with beatings, hangings, mock executions, sexual assault, & waterboarding) resulted in violence when the police opened fire on the protestors. There has been some looting & violence. The police 'crackdown' has been abusive and violent. They have killed some protestors. At least one lawyer, who has been giving legal assistance to protestors, has been barred from traveling or leaving the country. Boko Haram attacks also continue leaving many people afraid to sleep in their own homes at night.
- **those dealing with storms, fires, flooding, earthquakes, & other disasters** People in Turkey and Greece who are dealing with the aftermath of an earth quake in the Aegean Sea October 30th. The people of Nicaragua and Honduras dealing with the devastation from hurricane Eta and all other people who may still be in harm's way as the storm continues to move.
- **all who suffer**; from the ugliness of racism & brutality; from the dehumanizing nature of fear; or from the consuming & destructive power of hate.
- **everyone** caught up in the fear, frustration, anger, sense of helplessness, or destructive allure of the powers that are working to divide us into warring camps instead of seeking to bring us together so we can all use our varied gifts & ideas to address the issues that confront us all for the good of everyone.



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