A PRAYER FOR THIS ELECTION SEASON
By Dianna Ortiz, OSU, Pax Christi USA Teacher of Peace

God, Promise Keeper of the new creation, in this election season guide us to be **Gospel-informed voters**, who stand on the side of justice and truth.

As a community of conscience, we recognize our shared responsibility in righting the wrongs that dishonor and dehumanize the dignity of the most vulnerable among us.

As a **community of conscience**, we acknowledge the harm that has been done to the environment and the urgency to work collectively to care for the Earth, **our common home**.

We see our country in turmoil—experiencing a time of chaos that not only impacts every person of this nation, but peoples from across the globe.

As individuals and a faith community, we recognize that we **bear a privilege and a burden** to vote our conscience and to make choices that will and do affect the future of everyone.

As we ready ourselves to go to the polls this November, may our time of discernment be **rooted in the teachings of our faith and our common life together**.
May our faith guide us to vote for **genuine servant leaders**, who, like Jesus, will welcome the stranger, feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the prisoner, embrace the sick and dying, and promote peace and nonviolence.

Send your Spirit to be with us as we cast votes for the **common good**, and, regardless of the outcome, may we continue to work for a more just, sustainable world.

May we always stand on the side of justice and truth. Amen.

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**Action Suggestions**

1. Practice your & protect others’ voting rights. Learn about how to exercise your voting rights, resist voter intimidation efforts, and access disability-related accommodations and language assistance at the polls. Find more at aclu.org.

2. In the lead-up to Election Day, invite your pastor to address people’s anxiety and tension by cultivating our commitment to the common good, respect for individual conscience, belief in nonviolence, and trust in the democratic process.

3. Get trained in de-escalation techniques to help facilitate difficult conversations & defuse situations of possible violence.

“I ask God to give us more politicians capable of sincere and effective dialogue aimed at healing the deepest roots – and not simply the appearances – of the evils in our world! ... I beg the Lord to grant us more politicians who are genuinely disturbed by the state of society, the people, the lives of the poor!”

~Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel*

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