



Vote Faithfully Sunday

November 4, 2018

These are difficult and challenging times for our local communities, our country, and the world. Divisive and heated rhetoric dominate the public dialogue. More and more people are withdrawing from engagement in the political process out of a growing sense of cynicism and mistrust.

Now, more than ever, your voice and your efforts are needed.

As people of faith, we can play a unique role in this election cycle by empowering every voice in our congregations and offering a hope-filled vision of the future for all people.

Join us in observing Vote Faithfully Sunday on November 4, 2018!

We invite you to join with our ecumenical partners in observing the Sunday before election day as "Vote Faithfully Sunday." This is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our commitment to the common good, provide our members with the information they need to cast their ballot and prepare to vote as a community.

This toolkit provides helpful, nonpartisan resources for engaging with your congregation and community on Vote Faithfully Sunday. You are welcome to use and adapt the materials here for use in any ecumenical setting.

Voting is a commitment we make to each other. In our democracy, it is the vehicle by which we express our love of neighbor. We hope you will join us in working to uplift all the voices in your community on Election Day.

Included in this toolkit:

- + **Worship Resources & Prayers**
- + **Action Steps – Commit to vote faithfully in this election, mobilize your community, provide election protection information, & more**
- + **Additional Resources**



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

God is still speaking,
**UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**



THE *Episcopal* CHURCH 

Vote Faithfully Worship

worship resources + prayers



Vote Faithfully Litany

By Minister Jason Carson Wilson, M. Div., Justice and Peace Policy Fellow, United Church of Christ

Oppression silences voices and hampers dreams and ambitions for ourselves and our neighbors. Liberation lets those voices be heard. God's liberation opens the door for dreams and ambitions rooted in justice to have the chance to become reality. Casting a ballot is one way to proclaim liberty to the captives and to let the oppressed go free. Let your faith liberate you.

Let our faith inform our vote.

We remember when our nation's foremothers had no agency, no voice, no vote. They were considered property, enslaved and not. We remember when white women got the right to vote, while others waited a few more decades. We confess the ways in which we did not reflect that we are all equal in the Creator's eyes.

Let our faith inform our vote.

We remember when someone's personhood and reality became a campaign issue. We still face someone's personhood and reality being a campaign issue. The Creator doesn't love creations with the most votes. We are loved regardless.

Let our faith inform our vote.

God loves us all, regardless. Let us learn from the times when the color of our skin, our gender, our educational attainments or our wealth or poverty determined the ability to have a voice. Let us repent and affirm the God-given dignity in all people. Let us protect and further the ability of all persons to be heard in society and through their ballots.

Let our faith inform our vote.

Let us liberate ourselves from bigotry and divisiveness.

Let our faith inform our vote.

Quotes for thought and communal reflection

By The Rev. Kwame Pitts, ELCA

Ephesians 4:31-32: Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.

Abraham Lincoln, 16th President of the United States of America: "Always vote for principle, though you may vote alone, and you may cherish the sweetest reflection that your vote is never lost."

Bayard Rustin: "If we desire a society of peace, then we cannot achieve such a society through violence. If we desire a society without discrimination, then we must not discriminate against anyone in the process of building this society. If we desire a society that is democratic, then democracy must become a means as well as an end."

Audre Lorde, *Our Dead Behind Us: Poems*: "It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences."



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Isaiah 58:6-10:

“Is this not the fast which I choose,
To loosen the bonds of wickedness,
To undo the bands of the yoke,
And to let the oppressed go free
And break every yoke?
“Is it not to divide your bread with the hungry
And bring the homeless poor into the house;
When you see the naked, to cover him;
And not to hide yourself from your own flesh?”



Musical Resources

- + “Give Me Jesus” - Arranged by Garrett Hedlund
- + “Somebody’s Knocking At The Door” - Negro Spiritual, arranged by Ronald Melrose
- + “Music Down In My Soul” - Moses Hogan, Negro Spiritual
- + Suggested Hymns:
 - “We Are Marching In The Light”
 - “Cuando el pobre, When the Poor Ones”
 - “Now, Behold The Lamb”
 - “Lead Me, Guide Me”

Prayers

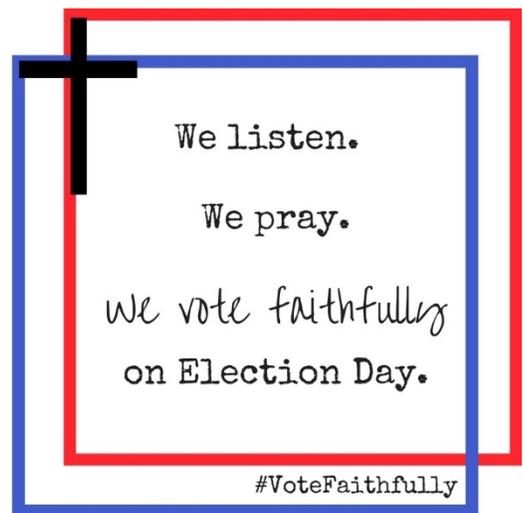
Additional prayer & worship resources available via the United Church of Christ:

ucc.org/our_faith_our_vote_worship

Prayer for state, provincial, and local governments

Lutheran Book of Worship, p. 77

Almighty God, we lift before you all who govern this *state/province/city/town* _____. May those who hold power understand that it is a trust from you to be used, not for personal glory or profit, but for the service of the people. Drive from us cynicism, selfishness, and corruption; grant in your mercy just and honest government; and give us grace to live together in unity and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Prayer for the Elections

by Rev. Shannon Kelly, Missioner for Young Adult and Campus Ministries, The Episcopal Church

Loving God, creator of this world who is the source of our wisdom and understanding, watch over this nation during this time of election. Help us to see how our faith informs our principles and actions.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

We give thanks for the right to vote. Help us to hold this privilege and responsibility with the care and awareness it merits, realizing that our vote matters and that it is an act of faith.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

Guide us through this election as a nation, state, and community as we vote for people to do work on our behalf and on the behalf of our communities. Help us to vote for people and ballot initiatives that will better our community and our world so it may reflect the values Christ taught us.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

Help us create communities that will build your kingdom here on earth – communities that will protect the poor, stand up for the vulnerable, advocate for those who are not seen and heard, and listen to everyone's voice.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

We pray for this nation that is deeply divided. May we come together for the common good and do as you have called us to do – to act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with you through creation.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

Help us act out of love, mercy and justice rather than out of arrogance or fear.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

Lord, continue to guide us as we work for the welfare of this world. We pray for places that are torn by violence, that they may know peace.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

We pray for communities who are struggling with inequality, unrest, and fear. May we all work toward reconciliation with one another and with God.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.

Help us to listen in love, work together in peace, and collaborate with one another as we seek the betterment of our community and world.

Intercessor: God, our creator,

People: Guide us in truth and love.



Vote Faithfully Action

commit to vote + mobilize your community

Commit to vote

As followers of Jesus, we can live out our call to care for our neighbors as ourselves by engaging in the public square through voting. By faithfully committing to vote, we make a pledge not just to ourselves, but also to our community.

- + **Pledge to vote by signing a #VoteFaithfully commitment card.**

At the end of this toolkit you will find #votefaithfully commitment cards.

- + **Collect #VoteFaithfully commitment cards during offering.**

Include a commitment card in each church bulletin. Encourage members to include their signed commitment card with their offering for the week.

Once you have collected all signed cards, connect interested members with your church's advocacy team.

Episcopal Public Policy Network – epnn@episcopalchurch.org

United Church of Christ Justice and Peace Network – ucctakeaction@ucc.org

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Advocacy Network – washingtonoffice@elca.org

Mobilize your community

The following resources are suggestions to help your community members get to polling stations on Election Day. It is important to remember that churches are required by law to be non-partisan. Remember to provide information and assistance without preference for political affiliation.

- + **Give rides to the polls.** Not everyone has an easy means of transportation to get to their polling location.

Use these signup sheets to match people willing to offer transportation with those who are in need of a ride to the polls. ChampionTheVote.com/downloads/transportationvolunteer.pdf
ChampionTheVote.com/downloads/transportation.pdf

- + **Provide childcare service during election hours.** Some voters may experience challenges to get to the polls because of childcare needs. Use these signup sheets to find volunteers for providing child care and identifying those who are in need of childcare while they go cast their vote.

ChampionTheVote.com/downloads/childcarevolunteer.pdf
ChampionTheVote.com/downloads/Childcare.pdf



+ **Make sure your community members know where to vote.** Finding your polling location is simple! You can now search “find my polling location” via Google and you will be directed to provide your voting address. Google will provide early voting information, Election Day polling locations, and ballot information! You can also go to Rock the Vote for voting info:

RockTheVote.com/get-informed/elections/find-your-polling-place/

+ **Know the laws for community members with past criminal convictions.** Criminal disenfranchisement laws vary by state. Use and share this resource to inform people on their eligibility to vote as well as what they need to cast their vote.

BrennanCenter.org/criminal-disenfranchisement-laws-across-united-states

+ **Equip your community members with voter protection tools.** Make sure every member of your congregation knows where they can turn for help if they have trouble casting their ballot. Share information about election protection from United Church of Christ and their partners.

UCC.org/ourfaithourvote_election-protection

Include voter protection information in your church bulletin!
Information is included at the end of this toolkit that you can print and share.



Get the word out!

Below are a few ideas for utilizing common church platforms for communication to encourage your community to get out the vote.

- + **Announce Election Day in your church bulletin or newsletter.** Let your congregation know about any services you are offering to help people get to the polls.
- + **Put up signs encouraging your community to #VoteFaithfully!** Here is a sample:
Vote faithfully this election! Voting is service to our community; November 8 is Election Day! Are you voting?
- + **Engage with your community on social media.** Show your friends, family, and community that your church is paying attention this election season. Tell them that you #VoteFaithfully.
Here are some sample posts:

As people of faith we believe that God is changing this world. When we vote we publicly declare that belief. Let's spread the word that we #VoteFaithfully!

I listen, I pray, and I #VoteFaithfully on Election Day!

I #VoteFaithfully because voting is a commitment we make to our community.

Learn more about what faith partners are doing!

We vote faithfully because our churches and congregations know the importance of caring for our neighbors and lifting our voices together to further God's work in our world. Check out these additional information and resources:

#EpiscopaliansVote - advocacy.episcopalchurch.org/EpiscopaliansVote

- + Download the Episcopal Public Policy Network's [Election Engagement toolkit](#).
- + Watch The Most Rev. Michael B. Curry, Presiding Bishop and Primate of the Episcopal Church give an [election engagement message!](#)



#OurFaithOurVote - UCC.org/ourfaithourvote

- + Download the United Church of Christ's [Our Faith Our Vote toolkit](#).
- + Watch Rev. Traci Blackmon, Acting Executive Minister of the United Church of Christ [speak about the importance of voting](#).

#ELCAvotes - ELCA.org/vote

- + Find [factsheets](#) and [bible studies](#) on voting rights and racial justice to use in your congregations.
- + Watch The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop of the ELCA [speak about why, as people of faith, we should commit to vote and work together so that all citizens have the right to vote](#).



“Shout out, do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet!” (Isaiah 58:1) **As followers of Jesus, we can live out our call to care for our neighbors as ourselves by engaging in the public square through voting.**

Voting is a **commitment** we make **to each other.**

#votefaithfully

I faithfully commit to vote in this election.

Signature _____ Date _____

Name [print] _____

Street Address _____ City, State _____ Zip Code _____

Email Address _____ Phone _____

Yes! I want to learn more about advocacy in my church!



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YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO VOTE!

The national, nonpartisan Election Protection coalition was formed to ensure that all voters have an equal opportunity to participate in the political process. Made up of more than 100 local, state and national partners, Election Protection works year-round to advance and defend the right to vote.

Election Protection provides Americans from coast to coast with comprehensive voting information on how they can make sure their vote is counted.

Questions about voting? Having trouble casting your ballot? Call the voter helplines:

866-OUR-VOTE

(Administered by the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law)

888-VE-Y-VOTA

(English/Spanish - Administered by the NALEO Educational Fund)

888-API-VOTE

(Asian Languages - Administered by APIAVote & Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC)

#VoteFaithfully

866ourvote.org

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