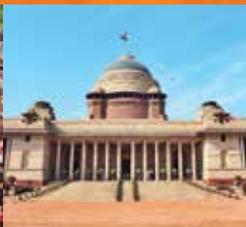


PRAYER

FOR OUR NATION



a cry
to the living God

FOR THE PEACE AND
WHOLENESS OF OUR NATION

PRAYER

FOR OUR NATION

a cry
to the living God

FOR THE PEACE AND
WHOLENESS OF OUR NATION

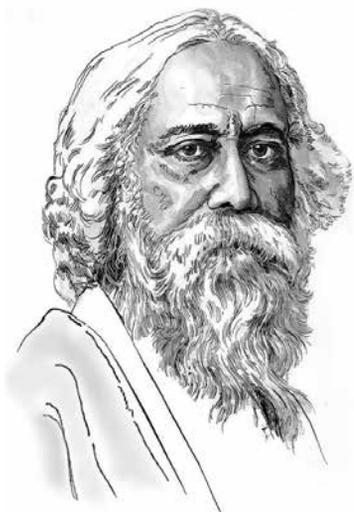
NATIONAL ANTHEM

Jana-gana-mana-adhinayaka jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata
Punjaba-Sindhu-Gujarata-Maratha
Dravida-Utkala-Banga
Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga
uchchala-jaladhi-taranga
Tava shubha name jage, tava shubha asisa mage,
gahe tava jaya-gatha.
Jana-gana-mangala-dayaka jaya he
Bharata-bhagya-vidhata.
Jaya he, Jaya he, Jaya he,
jaya jaya jaya, jaya he.

Thou art the rulers of the minds of all people,
Dispenser of India's destiny.
Thy name rouses the hearts of Punjab, Sind, Gujarat and Maratha,
Of the Dravida and Odisha and Bengal;
It echoes in the hills of Vindhy and Himalayas,
mingles in the music of Yamuna and Ganges and is chanted by
the waves of the Indian Sea.
They pray for thy blessings and sing thy praise.
The saving of all people waits in thy hand,
Thou dispenser of India's destiny.
Victory, victory, victory to thee.

**CALL TO PRAYER
AND ACTION
TO REACH
NATION**





A PRAYER FOR OUR NATION

Where the mind is without fear
and the head is held high
Where knowledge is free
Where the world has not been broken up
into fragments,
By narrow domestic walls
Where words come out
from the depth of truth
Where tireless striving stretches
its arms towards perfection
Where the clear stream of reason
has not lost its way
Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit
Where the mind is led forward by thee
Into ever-widening thought and action
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father,
Let my country awake.

- Rabindranath Tagore

INTRODUCTION

Background: In 2014, these prayers were first developed by United Christian Prayer for India (UCPI) and the National Prayer and Church Transformation Initiative (NPCTI), two volunteer movements of churches, to raise up an umbrella of prayer and the Word of God over the nation. Since then, thousands of copies of this book have been printed in several languages, and in 2018, a revision was made.

Purposes: The two-fold purpose of this book is (a) to support prayer for the nation based on the Preamble of the Constitution, and (b) to encourage engaging church members and the community by providing positive prayers that everyone can join. The vocabulary and language is designed to be straightforward. Bible verses are from the New International Version (NIV).

Prayer Structure: Each prayer follows a 6-part structure, comprised as follows:

- a) **Address** – Identifying an aspect of who God is and what He has done that relates to the prayer topic

Examples: Merciful God, God of freedom and love, Our Father in heaven

- b) **Thanksgiving** – Recognizing what we must first thank God for

Examples: We thank you for our nation's democratic governance, for the gift of our Constitution

- c) **Request** – What is being requested from God

Examples: healing of the land, well being of individuals and creation

- d) **Need** – The intervention by God required for the request to be granted

Examples: humility to turn to God, having Kingdom values

- e) **Outcome** – The desired result of the prayer for the people, the nation, or the land

Examples: to bring peace and progress to our country, stewardship of ourselves and our resources

- f) **Praise** – Closing the prayer with respect and gratitude

Examples: Let Your Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. May Your name be honoured in all they do.

Suggested Uses:

- In a group setting, prayers can be read by different individuals. The audience can also be encouraged to repeat the prayers, line by line.

PART - 1 SHORT MODEL PRAYERS



PRAYER - 1

Opening Prayer
(2 Chron. 7:14)

Lord god almighty, creator of us all,

We thank you for the beautiful gift of our nation, India, with all its diversity. We humble ourselves before you as we pray for ourselves and for our nation. Your words of assurance in 2 Chronicles 7:14 resound in our ears: *“If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray, and seek my face, and if they turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and forgive their sins and will heal their land.”*

Loving Father, we are sinners but you have saved us by your grace. We humbly implore your mercy and forgiveness upon our nation. Graciously grant love and brotherhood among all citizens. Banish all strife and discord from among us. May there be peace and harmony within families. Fill the hearts of the parents and children with love and unity. May everyone acknowledge that you are our loving Father and we are all your children.

To you be all glory and praise. We make this prayer in the name of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen



PRAYER - 2

Declaration that
God is Lord of
our nation

God, our heavenly Father, Creator of heaven and earth,

We thank you that You are sovereign and Lord of all nations. You are the source of all power and authority. We lift up our nation to you. We pray, bless our nation with your abiding and all powerful presence. May the heavenly values of truth, justice and righteousness fill our country. We seek your grace for the gift of good governance of our nation.

Fill each of us with deep faith in you as our loving Father, that we may turn to you in every need and every trouble. May our faithfulness to you and your values bring peace and progress to our country.

Yours is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.



PRAYER - 3

Forgiveness of our sins as a nation

God, our loving and compassionate Father,

Thank you for Your mercy and grace by which You forgive the sins of your children when they repent. We come before you to ask forgiveness as individuals and as a nation.

As individuals, we humbly confess our sins of selfishness, pride, greed, intolerance, hatred, various addictions and violence in the family.

As a nation, we humbly confess our sins of corruption, injustice, inequality of status and opportunities in our society; atrocities committed against vulnerable people; crimes against women and children; discrimination based on class, caste, creed, tribe, ethnicity, and gender; favouritism and nepotism; evils committed by us in our history; exploitation of land and natural resources; misuse of power and position; misappropriation of public funds; and ignorance of the Living God.

We feel sorry and ask your forgiveness for each of these sins, what we have done, what we have failed to do, as individuals and as a nation. We earnestly seek your grace to overcome all our shortcomings and weaknesses, and to remove them from our midst.

Give us also the grace to acknowledge you as our Father, and accept each other as brothers and sisters, loving each other, forgiving each other, and helping each other.

Let your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.



PRAYER - 4

Seven-fold Healing

O Father, source of all goodness,

We thank you for being the Great Healer of all wounds and divisions. We come before you as your hurting children, asking for healing.

1. **Physical Healing:** Caring Father, we pray for every brother and sister who is suffering from sickness, terminal illness, disability, conditions such as being bedridden, and pain. Touch us and heal us, comfort us in our suffering and loneliness. Banish every illness caused by infection, pollution, or wrongful living. In the name of Jesus, Amen.
2. **Mental Healing:** Father, source of peace, we acknowledge that our thoughts are impure and sinful, inspired by the Evil One. Send your Spirit to cleanse our hearts and minds. Forgive us of every sinful thought and desire, and give us the grace of peace and serenity. In the name of Jesus, Amen.
3. **Emotional Healing:** God our Father, we are bowed down by disappointments, frustrations, fears and anxieties, stress, and grief. Protect us and raise us up from every type of depression and doubt. Instill in us a resilient knowledge of your constant presence in us. Make us remember always that you will never leave us nor forsake us. In the name of Jesus, Amen.
4. **Spiritual Healing:** God, our Father, you are the source of all joy and life. Give us as a nation a new heart and a new spirit, that we may find true happiness and fulfillment in seeking you. Heal us from our attachments to material things and earthly pleasures. Help us to remember our common destiny. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

5. **Social Healing:** God, our Father, you have created us all equal and in your own image. But we are divided by caste, creed and ethnicity. There is oppression, kidnapping, exploitation, and violence against women and children. Heal us from these social evils which you alone can do. Heal our society. In the name of Jesus, Amen.
6. **Healing of Relationships:** God, our Father, we are your children. We bring before you families that are broken, and communities that are divided by strife and tension. Clear away all misunderstandings. Help us to persevere and resolve our differences through dialogue and love. It is only in your love that we can love each other. In the name of Jesus, Amen.
7. **Healing of the Land:** O Father, creator of heaven and earth, forgive us our sins against your creation. We have polluted the air, water and land. We have destroyed forests by cutting down trees, deprived wildlife of their homes, and caused imbalance to eco-systems, all for our selfish interests. We accept our responsibility for this and humbly ask your forgiveness. Give us the grace to see you in every living thing. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



PRAYER - 5
The Constitution

God of freedom and love,

We give You thanks for the gift of the Constitution and the vision of the Constituent Assembly. Let your light of truth shine on our nation, dispelling all darkness and untruth. Let the dreams of our founders

and the values of our Constitution – equality, liberty, fraternity and justice be always held in highest esteem.

Let the people of all castes and creeds, all denominations and persuasions, live in peace and harmony. May the ethos of true democracy envelope our country with the dignity and may genuine patriotism enflame every citizen.

Loving Father, bless our nation with the revival of the values of Your Kingdom. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



PRAYER - 6

Pillars of the Government
- Legislature, Executive &
Judiciary

Loving Father,

Thank you for the pillars of our democracy: the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary. Protect our legislature as a place of discerning minds who make laws in line with our Constitution. Raise our judiciary as the hallmark of integrity, prudence and justice. Strengthen the executive to carry out the laws according to our Constitution without fear or favouritism.

Grant that in your grace and mercy, these three pillars may function in the wisdom of God. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



PRAYER - 7

Government at Central, State and Local Levels

God, our Father,

Thank you for the democratic governance established in our nation. We lift up our central, state and local governments in prayer. May your wisdom direct their paths, and may each government serve you in serving the people. May your love inspire us to respect those in authority over us, and may those who are in authority work with integrity, justice and compassion.

- We pray for those who are in authority in the Central government.
(Pray over individual names.)
- We pray for those who are in authority in the state government.
(Pray over individual names.)
- We pray for those who are in authority in the local government.
(Pray over individual names.)
- We pray for District Magistrates, police officials, and village heads.
(Pray over individual names.)

Protect and guide them, and reward them for their selfless service to the nation. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



Loving Father,

Thank you for those whom You have placed in positions of authority. We pray for the leaders of our country.

- President
- Vice-President
- Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers
- Leaders of the Ruling Party
- Opposition Leaders
- All elected representatives
- All people of good will engaged in nation building
- Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- Governors of the States
- Chief Ministers and Council of Ministers in the States
- Pray for the District Magistrates, Superintendents of Police and other Officials in the Districts

Protect and guide them, and reward them for their selfless service to the nation. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



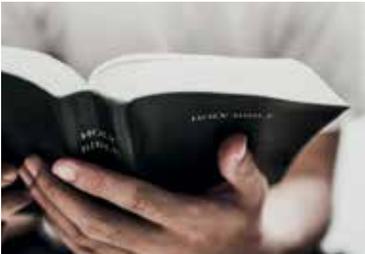
PRAYER - 9
Neighbouring Countries

Lord God of all nations,

Thank you for the gift of nations. We lift up our neighbouring countries in prayer: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Loving Father, help us to strengthen our bonds with our neighbours, that they would be bridges of peace and mutual respect between our governments and our peoples. May the integrity and sovereignty of each country be upheld.

To the praise of your glory. In the name of Jesus, Amen.



PRAYER - 10
Church in India and local
area prayer points

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the Church in India. We thank You for the move of Your Holy Spirit across the nation over the Body of Christ and for bringing an awakening to intercede and pray for our nation.

We lift up the Church in India in prayer. You have placed us here to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Forgive us for failing to

recognize that we are one Body of Christ.

We as the Body of Christ, repent that we did not pray enough for our nation with a burden and with Your Spirit of Intercession. Please forgive us for our apathy, and lack of will. We pray that each member in the Body of Christ may be impacted with the burden and awareness that we have to stand in the gap and pray (Eze 22:30).

We pray that we be the watchmen over the nation and the moral compass of the nation (Isa 62:6, Eze 3: 17).

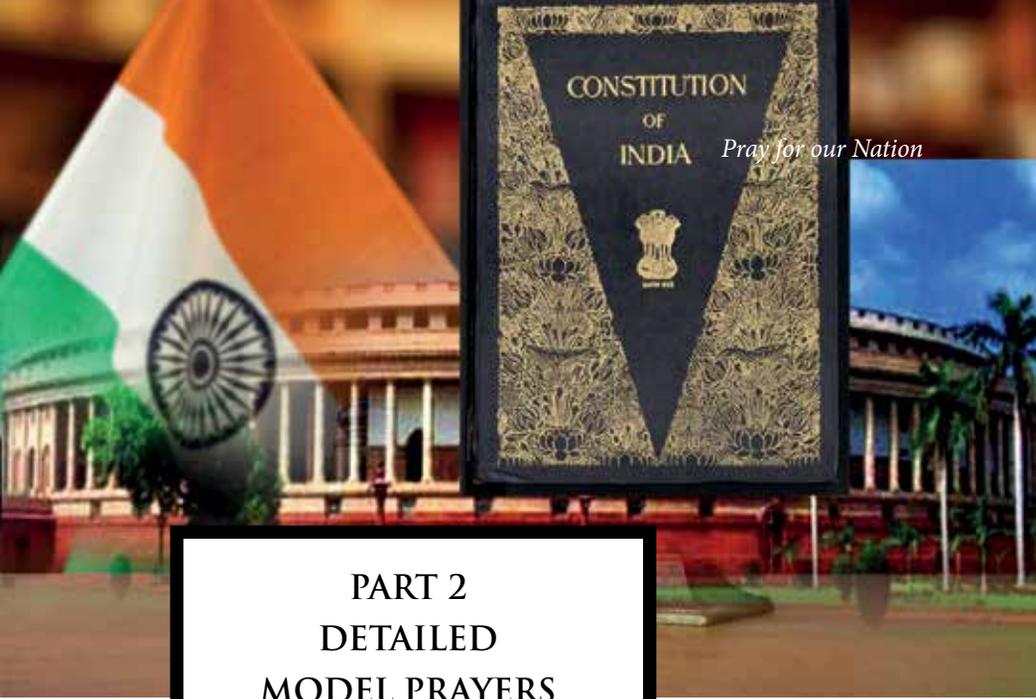
We pray for our church leaders to lead the Church with vision, commitment, and integrity (Jer 29:7). May they disciple and empower all church members to fulfil the role of the Church in our nation.

Father, we pray that in accordance with your promise given in Genesis 12:3 we as a Church become a blessing to our nation.

May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Local Prayer Points – (Give specific prayer points for the local area)

May your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven. In Jesus' name, Amen.



PART 2 DETAILED MODEL PRAYERS

Our beloved nation, India, has two things to pray for:

- (a) **First Point:** Prayer for the Constitution of India which defines the nation and pray for those responsible for protecting the Constitution.
- (i) Our Constitution is based on spiritual values and must be protected.
 - (ii) The laws of the nation must be respected and followed.
 - (iii) Our Constitution has **3 pillars:**
 - the **LEGISLATURE** (Lawmakers) should respect God's laws and commands
 - the **EXECUTIVE** (Elected officials and Civil Servants) should apply the laws in a just manner
 - the **JUDICIARY** (Judges, Lawyers and Staff) must ensure checks and balances among the 3

pillars, and interpret the law with integrity.

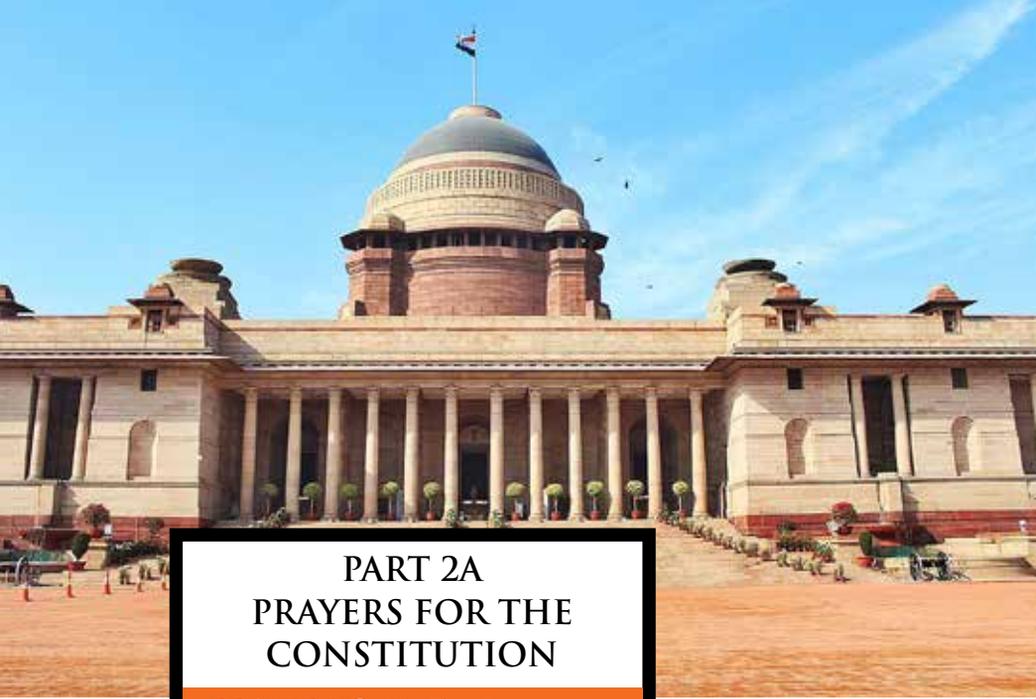
- These 3 pillars should function in the fear and love of God and uphold the Constitution.
- (iv) The **PRESIDENT**, as the nation's constitutional head, should protect the Constitution and ensure that it is followed. **STATE GOVERNORS** as representatives of the President do the same at the state level.
- (v) As the supreme commander of the **Armed Forces**, the President is responsible for ensuring the security the Nation.
- (vi) **Political parties, media, Election Commission (EC), and other concerned institutions** should uphold the Constitution.
- (vii) **The Church in India** must safeguard the Constitution and integrity of the nation through intercession and prayer.

PRAYER FOR

11. The Constitution, the President and Governors
12. The Legislature Pillar
13. The Judiciary Pillar
14. The Executive Pillar - Elected Government
15. The Executive Pillar - Civil Service
16. The Armed Force
17. The Election Commission and forthcoming election
18. Political Parties
19. News and Social Media
20. The Church in India

(b) Second Point: Our nation faces several issues in day life which we must pray for

21. National Reconciliation
22. Righteousness
23. All people and Communities
24. Social and Economic Justice
25. Respect for those in Authority
26. Economic Stability
27. Women, Youth and Children
28. Family
29. The Poor, Sick and Different Able
30. Care for Creation



**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 11: The Constitution,
the President and Governors**

A. The Constitution

God of freedom and love, we give You thanks for the gift of the Constitution and the vision of the Constituent Assembly.

Let your light of truth shine on our nation, dispelling all darkness and untruth. Let the dreams of our founding fathers and the values of our Constitution – equality, liberty and fraternity – be always held in highest esteem. May our Constitution continue to be protected and the integrity of our nation safeguarded.

May all citizens enjoy every right guaranteed in our Constitution, including freedom of thought, expression, and religion.

Let the people of all castes and creeds, all denominations and persuasions, live in peace and harmony. May the ethos of true democracy envelope our country, and may honest patriotism enflame every citizen.

Loving Father, bless our nation with the revival of the values of Your Kingdom. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

B. The President and Governors

Let us pray in accordance with 1 Tim 2:1-2.

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for those whom You have placed in high offices with the responsibility to uphold the Constitution of the nation.

We lift our hearts in prayer for all in authority: our President (*name*), Vice President (*name*), Governors of all the states, and Lieutenant Governors and Administrators of all union territories.

We pray that they will acknowledge the Source of their authority (Rom 13:1).

Grant them the wisdom and courage to protect and uphold the Constitution, and place the interests of the nation above everything (Heb. 11:32-34).

Surround them with good counsel and keep their eyes always on the common welfare (Psalm 16:7-8).

May they be examples of justice and integrity to all citizens.

May they be conscious of their accountability to You.

We pray that they will be dedicated to building an India where her citizens can prosper, feel secure and thrive. May Your Name honored and glorified in all that they do. We ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 12
The Legislative Pillar**

This prayer is for the Legislative Pillar of the Constitution where laws are made. This pillar may work within the framework of the Constitution and make laws that are according to the Laws of God and do not infringe upon His Laws regarding our right to worship Him and share His Word.

Our Father in Heaven, we thank you for the gift of democracy, which we celebrate. Help us to remember that this privilege also means responsibility. As we choose our representatives, may we exercise our right to vote, respecting the sacredness of our sovereignty. Enable our legislators to frame laws for the good of our people and the welfare of our nation.

Father in Heaven, we pray that our legislators would make just laws to protect the oppressed and uphold the rights of the poor. May they show concern for widows and orphans (Isa 10:1-3).

Father in Heaven, forgive us for the rampant corruption and the use of laws to favor a few, at the cost of the poor and the weak. We repent for the sins of our generation and the ones before us for not opposing unjust laws (Daniel 9:3-19).

We pray for Your presence in Parliament, state assemblies and other law-making legislative bodies. Enable them to debate, deliberate and make good decisions. Bless the speakers and chairpersons with wisdom to moderate the proceedings in a just and fair manner.

We pray that, as representatives of the people, our legislators will be filled with the Holy Spirit and be examples of dignity and noble values.

Source of all wisdom and knowledge, we praise You, for Your laws are a light to our paths and a lamp to our feet. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 13
The Judiciary Pillar**

This prayer is for the Judiciary system as a pillar of the Constitution. For the prevention of misinterpretation of laws and proceedings against the Laws of God. For courts, judges, lawyers, legal officials and staff in the courts. For respect and confidence in the Judiciary in all the nation.

God our Father, you are God of justice and peace. Mercy and truth are the foundations of your judgments (cf Ps 89:14).

We thank you for the gift of judiciary to ensure that in our country, the rights and dignity of each person are protected. We thank you for the Supreme Court, high courts, district courts, and all other courts and tribunals, which strive to uphold the spiritual values enshrined in our Constitution and expressed in our laws.

Grant us capable persons as judges, who are filled with the fear of God, are committed to truth and justice, and hate dishonest gain (cf Ex 18:21). Send your Spirit upon them, and enlighten them in their administration of justice, without corruption, intimidation, or bias. May they uphold the rights of the poor and the voiceless.

Bless us with more judges, appointed at every level, that justice may never be delayed.

Grant us lawyers with the fear of God and a love of truth. Bless those who defend their clients with honesty and integrity. May they have a special concern for the poor and the weak.

May those serving in the courts and throughout the justice system be honest, efficient and dedicated.

We pray earnestly that in the carrying out of judgment, no innocent may be condemned. We pray for those suffering unjustly in our

prisons, that they may be comforted and swiftly receive justice and freedom. We also pray for those who are imprisoned for their faults, that they may, through the prayers of family and friends and the efforts of the state and voluntary organizations, reform their lives and return to society as productive citizens.

May equity, which is justice tempered with mercy, prevail through all parts of our judicial system.

We pray in the name of Jesus, who came to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and set the oppressed free (cf Lk 4:18 ff).

**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 14 : The Executive
Pillar - Elected Government**

This prayer is for the elected political government who are the political Executive Pillar. They are the senior amongst the executives who execute the Law and uphold the Constitution by implementing its provisions and laws made within its framework

God, our Father, You chose leaders to govern our people on Your behalf.

We thank you for the gift of democratic governance established in our nation. We thank you for the Prime Minister of our country, the Chief Minister of each state and their Cabinet Ministers, and the entire Council of Ministers, who are entrusted with the mission of governance.

Bless our elected political executives.

We lift up our central, state and local governments in prayer. May Your wisdom direct their paths (cf Dan 2:21), and may each government serve You in serving the people. May Your love inspire us to respect those in authority over us, and may those who are in authority work

with integrity, justice and compassion.

- We pray for those who are in authority in the Central government. We pray especially for our Prime Minister, (name). Send Your Spirit upon him and grant him to govern this great nation with integrity and vision. May he always place foremost the unity and diversity of our country in all his plans and policies.]

We pray for the Cabinet and our Council of Ministers (mention by name any who are present). May they join with the Prime Minister wholeheartedly in administering for the welfare of our people. May they collaborate with all state governments for the overall development of our nation.

- We pray for those who are in authority in the state government. We pray for the Chief Minister (name), and his/her Cabinet and Council of Ministers (mention by name any who are present). May they work for the development of (name of state) and contribute to the unity of the nation. May they be generous in sharing their authority with local self-government to meet the needs of diverse grassroots communities.
- We pray for those who are in authority in the local government (district government – jilla panchayat), city corporations, town municipalities, and village panchayats (mention by name any who are present). May they be close to their people and utilize the resources at their disposal to effectively meet their needs.

We pray that each one of us as citizens may constantly support our government with prayer (cf 1 Tim 1-2) and participation (Pr 16:13). As citizens, we recognize our responsibility for our government, and we repent of any negligence of our duties and seek forgiveness.

We pray that our government may respect and be responsible for human life, the environment, our long-term future as a society, our neighbouring countries, and the world community.

Protect and guide all in governance at different levels, and reward them for their selfless service to the nation. In the name of our Lord Jesus, who came to serve and not to be served (cf Mt 20:28), Amen.

PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION

PRAYER NO. 15 : The Executive
Pillar - Civil Service

This prayer is for the civil servants in the government who serve under elected officials to execute the law and uphold the Constitution by implementing its provisions and laws made within its framework.

Heavenly Father, You care for us and provide for all our needs.

We thank and praise you for the administrative system you have gifted to our country. You love order and discipline, not confusion (cf 1 Cor 14:33).

Grant us sufficient numbers of capable, dedicated civil servants to run the public administrative system efficiently for the overall welfare of our citizens. Raise up civil servants who are honest and courageous to purge the system of all corruption, malpractice, misuse of authority and resources, and laziness.

May they be faithful to their duties and responsibilities, and serve society with integrity and impartiality. Fill them with patriotism and love of fellow citizens. May they effectively implement government policies and programs, schemes, and services, which are essential for the transformation of society. May they treat every person with respect. May they not make any distinction between the rich or the poor, between the powerful or the weak, or by caste or creed, in discharging their duties. Protect them from the evils of corruption and lethargy. Grant them humility and enthusiasm.

Bless all civil servants for their selfless service to society and the nation.

We pray that each one of us as citizens may respect our civil servants and cooperate with them, as it is You who have appointed them (cf Rom 13:1-6). As citizens, we recognize our responsibility for our government, and we repent of any negligence of our duties and seek forgiveness.

Grant us, O Lord, peace, harmony and prosperity – this the dream of the founders of our nation and the aim of our Constitution. In the name of Jesus, the Prince of peace, Amen.

**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 16
The Armed Forces**

This is the Prayer for the all ranks of Indian Armed Forces who are responsible to guard the Nation of India both from external and internal acts of aggression. They are India's promise to all aggressors both externally and internally that we will protect ourselves from all evil designs. The men and women who are serving in the Army need prayer as they guard our Constitution and the integrity of our Nation.

God of power and might, You are our fortress and protection.

We thank you for the gift of our Armed Forces – the Army, Navy and Air Force – who selflessly dedicate their lives to the defence of our country, provide relief services during disasters, and maintain peace and order in times of disruption.

Grant us, we pray, men and women who are strong, brave and patriotic to serve in our Armed Forces. Bless them with good health and unshakable faith in You. Strengthen them with unity and discipline. Bless their families who sacrifice their loved ones for the common good.

We live in constant threats to the unity and integrity of our nation, both from outside and within. Communal forces attempt to destroy the democratic fabric of our country. Corruption and exploitation are rampant at all levels. Selfishness and pride bring division among communities and often disrupt our hard-earned peace and freedom.

May the examples of discipline and sacrifice of our soldiers inspire every citizen to dedicate themselves for the building of our nation.

May the leaders of the Armed Forces be filled with Your Spirit and wisdom to take right decisions, especially in times of crisis. May they value and develop character and professionalism in their soldiers, using the resources at their disposal and by the examples of their own lives (cf 1 Sam 16:7, Pro 11:20). May fraternal and respectful relationships between officers and soldiers prevail. We pray for every rank to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to them to accomplish their objectives, including equipment, facilities and people.

We pray that in areas of insurgency and unrest, our Armed Forces will be successful against all disruptive forces and maintain the integrity of the nation and establish peace. In carrying out this task, may every soldier have utmost respect for the people in the areas of their operations, especially women and the poor.

We pray for political leadership and the civil services to help the Armed Forces in all their needs. May they always respect the apolitical nature of the military. May our authorities, including political leaders and civil servants, recognize the dignity of and the service rendered by retired Armed Forces personnel, and provide for their welfare through just pensions and other facilities. We also pray that our government and society cherish the memory of those soldiers who have given their lives for this country, and support their families.

Unless the Lord watches over our cities, in vain does the watchmen keep vigil (cf Ps 127:1). May we as citizens never forget to pray for our Armed Forces whom the Lord has appointed to guard our nation. In the name of Jesus, our Lord, Amen.

**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 17: The Election
Commission and Electoral Process
at All Levels**

The first prayer is for the Election Commission which is very important Constitutional Statutory Authority, for the conduct of free and fair elections election which are the foundations of our Democracy. They safeguard and implement very important elements of Constitution of India and the national integrity.

A. Prayer for the Election Commission

God, our Heavenly Father, You choose from among many, leaders to govern your people.

We thank you for the Election Commission of India, who shoulder the delicate and difficult process of conducting free and fair elections.

Strengthen the Election Commission, we pray, by bringing in people of integrity and efficiency to the post of Election Commissioners and other officers and staff at various levels throughout the country.

We pray that, together with appointed civil servants and the police force, they will be able to conduct free and fair elections in our nation, the largest democracy in the world. May they handle the entire electoral process, keeping in mind the sanctity of the people's sovereignty expressed through the casting of their votes. May they be successful in maintaining impartiality and preventing tampering, booth capturing, and any other fraudulence.

Protect the Election Commission and personnel involved from harm and wrongful influence. May the systems and procedures they employ in the electoral process earn the confidence and participation of all people, so that the right candidates, designated by You, are chosen (cf Dan 4:17).

In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

B. Prayer for Forthcoming Elections

God, our Heavenly Father, You call people to govern in Your Name.

Thank you for giving us a democratic system of government, a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

Grant us worthy leaders through the forthcoming elections to govern our country with integrity, dedication and patriotism. Give us persons filled with Your values and character, people of vision to lead this nation forward.

May ill-motivated individuals and divisive groups have no influence over the minds of the people. Let there be no corruption or allurements to buy votes. May all campaigns be conducted in the right spirit with dignity and freedom of expression. Let there be no violence or intimidation prevent people from voting. May all citizens realize their sacred duty to participate in the elections to choose right leaders to represent them. Let no one who is selfish, divisive or wicked be elected and come to power (cf Ps 140:8, Ps 17:10 and 13).

May the leaders and political parties that come to power be guided by You, work for the common good, and protect the unity and integrity of our nation. May they endeavour to establish peace and prosperity for all. In the name of Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, Amen.

PART 2A PRAYERS FOR THE CONSTITUTION

PRAYER NO. 18

The Political Parties

We need to pray for our political parties as they are the groups that influence the direction of our Nation. With responsibility and fear of God, political parties can lead our nation in path of progress within the framework of the Constitution. Or they can manipulate us to come to power and work for their own interest and destroy the values of God in

the Constitution and eventually destroy our Nation.

Heavenly Father, You are our hope and our future (cf Jer 29:11).

Thank you for the gift of democracy and for the possibility to form associations and organizations to promote our views and visions for the betterment of our nation. We appreciate the multi-party political system You have given us, which expresses individual uniqueness and the diversity of our people and culture.

Guide and inspire our political parties to develop clear and relevant visions, plans and policies for the peace and prosperity of our country.

May each political party bring together aspirations and ideals of different sections of people to find expression in a political manifesto which is practical and effective. May this manifesto take into consideration the economic, health, educational, social, religious, cultural, environmental, and other aspects of national development. May each political party learn to respect each other's views and plans, and work together, regardless of being in power or in opposition, for the good of the nation. May all political parties appreciate the diversity of our nation in all respects. Prevent any mono-culture from gaining ground to the destruction of the beauty of our diversity, which is the hallmark of our nationhood. Let no political party sow the seed of division or promote hatred and violence.

We pray that every political party be founded on the democratic principles of liberty, equality and fraternity. May they strive to protect human rights and individual dignity. May they desist from lies, misrepresentations and false promises to achieve their selfish motives, but always uphold the truth and keep their promises (cf Mt 7:15-20).

May political parties serve as platforms of all views and visions, strengthening the secular fibre of our country and safeguarding its unity and integrity. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

PRAYER NO. 19

Electronic, Print and Social Media

We need to pray for both the electronic and print media which is considered to be the fourth pillar of the Constitution. Media has a very important role in maintaining the integrity of our Nation upholding the Constitution of India.

Heavenly Father, You are truth and love.

Thank you for the gift of freedom of speech and expression. Thank you for the various means of communication You have given us in this modern age.

Bless our news and social media to serve as an information bridge between our government, institutions and businesses and the people of the Nation. May truth, integrity and accuracy be the guiding principles of every communication.

May the people involved in news and social media be sensitive to the feelings of the people and desist from providing any destructive information. May they not falsify, manipulate or misuse information to influence public opinion or exploit people for their selfish and hidden agendas. May the freedom of the press be protected that we may have access to diverse expressions and perspectives. May the government implement policies and regulations to protect individual privacy and society's welfare.

May news and social media be a powerful means of connecting people, across the nation and the world. May it be a force to educate, inspire, entertain, and enlighten people. May it help to break down walls that separate people and nations, and promote peace and justice everywhere. In Jesus' name, Amen.

**PART 2A
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

PRAYER NO. 20
The Church in India

The Church in India has played a major role in nation building over the history in India. We as the Body of Christ have a role ordained by God to pray for the Constitution of India and national integrity.

God, our Heavenly Father, You are the Lord of all nations (cf Ps 22:28).

We thank you for the gift of the Church in India. You blessed our nation with the Good News brought to us by Apostles St. Thomas and St. Bartholomew 2,000 years ago. Thank you, Lord, for the contributions of the Church towards the building of India through education, healthcare, social uplift of people, language, democracy, the Independence movement, and so on.

Make Your Church aware of its obligation to pray for India and to carry out Your mission unitedly.

Our ancestors have always prayed, “From untruth lead us to truth, from darkness to light, and from death to immortality” (Brhadaranyaka Upanisad (1.3.28)). You are the Truth, the Light, and Life. You love this country, and answer the cries of every heart for Your healing touch. We repent and ask Your forgiveness for falling short in our prayers for the nation and our witness to the Good News. We ask Your pardon for the divisions we have among us as Your Church, which has weakened the credibility of Your Son’s message of love and forgiveness.

As priestly people, we have a duty to pray for our country, our Constitution, the pillars of our government, and all who are in positions of authority (1 Pet 2:9, 2 Tim 2:1-2). You have planted Your Church here in India to alleviate poverty, hunger, disease, and exploitation of every kind; to restore human rights and individual dignity, to bring hope and love, and be an instrument of Your reconciliation and justice. Fill us with a zeal to continue this mission. Inspire our church leaders with

the vision, integrity and commitment to fulfil the role of the Church in this nation (cf Jer 29:7). May they discern the signs of the times and the awakening of the Holy Spirit to come together as one Body of Christ to pray for India and carry out Your mission.

Make us Your instrument of peace. Bless our country, Lord. Bless our people. Bless our Church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION
PRAYER NO. 21
National Reconciliation

In accordance with 2 Cor 5:18, we as a Church will pray to God to forgive us as a Nation (Pro 14:34) and as communities. We will be reconciled to God our Father and to one another in unity. We have sinned against our Father in Heaven and against one another.

Merciful Father, You are all forgiving.

We thank You for sending Your only Son to reconcile us to Yourself.

Give us the grace of repentance for our sins, as individuals and as a nation. Our sins have corrupted our society and brought misery upon us (cf Is 59:2). We repent and ask Your forgiveness for the sins of injustice, inequality, corruption, atrocities against the weak and the marginalized, hatred and violence, discrimination of all forms, deception and manipulation in various ways, abuse and exploitation of our environment, and hard-heartedness towards the poor and the suffering (cf Ez 22:30). We repent and ask Your forgiveness for our attitude and for the wrongs, in our history and in the present, that we have committed against other nations. We are sorry, O Lord. Forgive us for forgetting You. Have mercy on us sinners, have mercy.

Help us to reconcile with each other, to seek the welfare of each other, and to establish peace within us, within our nation, and within our

world (cf Jr 29:7). Give us the gift of unity as one people, one nation, in the name of Jesus, our Lord, Amen.

PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION
PRAYER NO. 22
Righteousness

Righteousness exalts a nation (Pro 14:34) We want to seek and pursue righteousness (Mt 5: 6 and Isa 3: 10, so that as a Nation, we will pray for Righteousness.

Holy and righteous God, You are near to all who call on You (cf Ps 145).

We thank You for creating us in Your own image. You have made us Your adopted sons and daughters in Christ. We praise You for pouring out Your fatherly love upon us.

Give us the grace to pursue lives of holiness and righteousness, as individuals and as a nation.

You detest the way of the wicked, and You love those who pursue holiness and righteousness (cf Pr 15:9). Help us to realize our dignity as a holy nation (cf. 1 Pt 2:9) and detest wickedness and sinfulness. Give us the grace as a nation to do justice, love kindness and mercy, and walk humbly before You (cf. Mic 6:8).

May our individual righteousness and our righteousness as a nation be a beacon of light for the world. O righteous God, we ask this in Jesus' name, Amen.

**PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

PRAYER NO. 23

All People and Communities

Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, You are our loving Father and we are all Your children (cf. 1 Cor 12:12-14).

We thank You for the gift of belonging to You, and to our brothers and sisters, and for the gift of community.

Give us the grace to appreciate and respect our differences, and to find strength in them as we learn to live together.

You have created each one of us, not only in Your own image, but uniquely. Each one of us is special and precious to You (cf. Is 49:16). Our diversity reflects Your infinite beauty. We have been created by You with multiple backgrounds, complexions, languages, and cultures. May these always enrich our community life and never lead to any form of discrimination, domination, jealousy, prejudice, arrogance, hatred, intolerance or fear (cf. James 2:1-4, Gal 3:28). Increase our sympathy and good will for each other, and help us to realize our need for each other. May we appreciate the gifts, abilities, and wisdom of everyone.

May we be bound by love as one people, one community, and one nation. May we from different tribes, tongues and nations march towards You, hand in hand (cf. Rev 7:9-10). In the name of Jesus, Amen.

**PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 24
Social and Economic Justice**

Loving Father, You are a just God.

We thank you for being a God who loves justice and preserves all Your children (cf. Ps 37:27-29, Is 61:8).

Father, we ask Your pardon for our sins of social discrimination by caste, creed, culture and colour. Forgive us for perpetuating social inequalities against our brothers and sisters. We repent and implore Your mercy for our hatred and violence against those who belong to different castes, religions and ethnicities.

Father, we also ask Your pardon for our sins of economic injustice. Forgive us for discrimination in the administration and sharing of resources. We repent and implore Your mercy for exploiting and enslaving our brothers and sisters for financial gain. We have let down our farmers who sustain our society with the sweat of their brows. As a nation, we have failed to protect our farmers through just policies and timely and fair payment of their products. We have let down our labourers whose back-breaking toil provides our comforts. Fill our leaders at all levels with the enlightenment and conviction to make and implement national and international policies for the benefit of all citizens.

Give us the grace to embrace every person as our brother and sister, to love them as we love ourselves. Break down the barriers between the rich and the poor, between the powerful and the oppressed. Let no one in Your nation be reduced to begging, be deprived of basic needs, or die of want. Let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream (cf. Amos 5:24), in the name of Jesus, Amen.

PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION

PRAYER NO. 25

Respect for Those in Authority

Heavenly Father, You govern us through Your chosen ones.

We thank You for the gift of authority that You have bestowed upon our leaders to govern and administer our community by maintaining law and order.

Give us the humility to respect those whom You have placed in authority for the welfare of our society (cf. Rom 13:1). May we be faithful in observing our laws and regulations. May we all have a civic sense to keep our houses and environment clean, and cooperate with our civil officials to carry out their responsibilities of ensuring amenities. May we respect the rules and regulations established for our safety, including those for traffic and copyright laws, and pay our taxes conscientiously as citizens.

We pray for all those in authority (cf. 1 Tim 2:1-3). Bless them and reward them for their selfless service to the community. May they find satisfaction in serving society. May they be honest, accountable, patriotic, and hard working. May their service be inspired by love, kindness, compassion and justice. May they also respect the dignity and rights of every citizen, and apply the rules and regulations equally and fairly to all.

We pray this in the name of Jesus, who taught us to give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's (cf. Mt 22:21, Mk 12:17), Amen.

**PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

**PRAYER NO. 26
Economic Stability**

Heavenly Father, You are the source of every blessing.

We thank You for the gift of the abundant resources of land, materials and people in our country. You have blessed us with intelligence and skills to utilize them for our benefit and Your greater glory.

Forgive us for our failure to steward all that You have created for our good. We repent and implore Your forgiveness for falling short in utilizing natural resources, resulting in the degradation of land, water and air. Heal our land and restore it. Send us timely rain, that through our trustworthy efforts, the land may produce abundantly again.

Bless the industries and businesses in the corporate and private sectors. May they understand they exist for more than the bottom line, and instead contribute to the economic growth of the country and the welfare of their employees.

Forgive us for the shortcomings of our financial sector to manage the assets and liabilities of our individual citizens, organizations, and nation. Bless our banking system and cleanse it of all corruption and mismanagement. Bless our Finance Ministry and RBI with vision for the future of the country and the wisdom to make economic policies to ensure the nation's stability and prosperity.

May our domestic and international trade be fair and mutually beneficial.

May there be equal distribution of wealth, and may each person's basic needs be met. In the name of Jesus, who fed the multitudes, Amen.

**PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

PRAYER NO. 27
Women, Youth and Children

A. Women

Almighty God, Your motherly love envelops us and never forgets us (cf. Is. 49:15).

We thank You for gift of women as our mothers, sisters, wives, daughters and friends. You have planted in them tender and sacrificial love.

We repent and ask Your pardon for failing to recognize their dignity and value. Innumerable women have been subject to verbal, emotional and physical abuse. We are ashamed of crimes perpetuated against women, even today. We ask Your forgiveness for the evil of rape, female infanticide and neglect, dowry torture, human trafficking, acid throwing, sexual exploitation, and sexual harassment. We repent for discrimination against women in education, employment, and other areas.

We pray that our government passes stringent laws to protect the dignity and rights of girls and women, and introduces schemes and programs to make our nation more equal for all. Grant that each of us love and respect our girls and women not as objects of pleasure and exploitation, but as persons created in Your own image.

May they find their rightful place in the family, church, society and the nation. In the name of Jesus, who called women to the dignity of discipleship, Amen.

B. Youth and Children

Loving Father, You sent Your only Son as a human babe.

We thank You for the gift of children and youth. They are the wealth, hope and future of our nation. You have blessed our nation with the

largest population of children and youth in the world.

We repent and ask Your pardon for crimes committed against young people, including child labour, exploitation, and human trafficking. We are ashamed for failing to accept and love them as Your gifts. Forgive us for our sins of abortion, neglect, abuse and abandonment.

We pray that no child will be deprived of parental care, educational opportunities to develop their abilities and interests, and avenues of employment and accomplishment. Protect them from the evil one, drugs, alcoholism, sexual abuse, addiction to pornography and sex, and the many other bad influences and dangers facing them today. May they have opportunities to realize their dreams and find their identities in You.

In the name of Jesus, who said, “Let the little children come to me,” Amen.

PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION
PRAYER NO. 28
Families

Almighty Father, Source of all families.

We thank You for the gift of family, in which we are born and live. You sent Your Son Jesus was born into a family and sanctified family life.

Protect this basic human institution of family, in all its forms, because the future of humanity passes by way of the family.

We repent and ask Your pardon for our sins in weakening and dismantling the family, by separation and divorce. We ask pardon for our failure to be there as a community to support those families struggling through various difficulties and crises.

Strengthen our families. May our governments and NGOs design

plans and programs to support families at all stages of life by providing decent housing, food, healthcare, assistance with children and the elderly, and other basic needs. Families are Your domestic churches where You are the centre of their lives. Empower them to be the source of joy and comfort.

May we strive to nurture and build strong families so that our nation will be vibrant, in the name of Jesus, Amen.

**PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION**

PRAYER NO. 29

The Poor, Sick, and Differently Abled

Loving Father, You are the healer of every infirmity and inequality.

We thank You for being a God who delivers the needy, the poor and the lonely when they cry (cf. Ps 72:12).

Banish poverty and inequality. Grant good health to and support the infirm. May every person may live with dignity and achieve self-realization.

We repent and ask Your pardon for failing to address all the wrongs of poverty, including lack of access to affordable healthcare and services. Forgive us our sins of greed and selfishness that blind us to our brothers and sisters in need.

May the Church, whose real wealth are the poor, the sick, the abandoned, the orphaned, the widowed, the wounded, and the broken, be there as a comfort and solace. With the resources available, may our leaders strive to alleviate poverty and causes of disease and disabilities. May those who are differently abled be respected and given opportunities to contribute to society.

May our government develop policies and programs to alleviate every type of poverty and inequality. Let no citizen go hungry in this great

country of abundance. May there be sufficient funds allotted for the care of the sick and the suffering. May there be institutional support and encouragement for those who are differently abled.

In the name of Jesus, Your Son, who brought the good news to the poor, healed the sick, and carried away our infirmities, Amen (cf. Is 53:4, Mt 8:17).

PART 2B
PRAYERS FOR THE
CONSTITUTION
PRAYER NO. 30
Care for Creation

God our Creator, we declare the Majesty of your name in all the earth, because the earth belongs to you.

We look up and we see the heavens. They declare your glory. The sun, the moon, the stars, they proclaim the works of your hands. As we look down and look around, we confess that we have not always given the best care and nurture to your creation. We have not cherished and respected the earth as we ought.

We acknowledge, O Lord, the abuse of your creation, the degradation of the environment to the point where some of the species that your loving hands have made are on the verge of extinction and annihilation. We seek your forgiveness.

Give grace and courage to all who are taking responsible action to care for your creation.

We pray for Governments and leaders whose action or inaction is affecting and hurting your people in every corner of the earth. Turn their minds and hearts toward truth, righteousness and justice.

We pray for the victims of environmental disasters. We pray for the poor, for climate refugees, and all those who suffer from the degradation of the earth, the skies, and the oceans.

As we lament human behavior upon the earth, we take hold of the fact that *22 We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. 24 For in this hope we were saved (Rom 8:22-24a).*

This is our faith. This is our hope. And this is our prayer. Hear us O, Lord, our Light and our Salvation, we humbly pray through your son Jesus Christ, the Lord, the Creator, Owner, Sustainer, Redeemer, and Heir of All Creation.

In Jesus name Amen.



Pray for our Nation

Prayer for our Nation

A Cry to the Living God

for the Peace and
Wholeness of Our Nation



If my people who are called by my name will humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and bring blessing on the land. Seek the welfare of the land you are in. Pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare is your welfare.

Based on 2 Chronicles 7:14
and Jeremiah 29:7

PRAYER

FOR OUR NATION

a cry
to the living God

FOR THE PEACE AND
WHOLENESS OF OUR NATION