

Dear Friends in the Diocese of San Diego:

“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth... Then they returned to Jerusalem ... and were constantly devoting themselves to prayer... When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place... All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit... and that day about three thousand persons were added.” Acts 1, 2



Mary and the disciples gathered after the first Ascension Day, constantly devoting themselves to prayer while they waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. For centuries, Christians have gathered at that time to pray for the coming of the Holy Spirit.

I invite you to join in a Season of Prayer from June 2, the Sunday following Ascension Day, to June 16, the day following my ordination and consecration as your new bishop. Throughout these 15 days of prayer, let us gather in our communities, the places where we work, live and worship, and within our own hearts, where we can call upon the Holy Spirit to pour out upon this diocese God’s grace and love.

Here in the Diocese of San Diego, I invite you to pray specifically for three things:

- **Growth in discipleship:** that all Episcopalians in our diocese should grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through worship, learning, and service to others.
- **Evangelism:** that those in our churches, neighborhoods, and communities whose lives would be enriched by the good news of Christ would hear that good news.
- **Serving our neighbors:** that God’s mission in our communities would be empowered as we go out into our neighborhoods, meet the people who are there, become acquainted with their needs, hopes, and longings, and discern our own ministries of service there.

On this bulletin insert (over) and on our website (edsd.org/seasonofprayer), you will find prayers and Bible verses for this Season of Prayer. May this time of prayer and preparation open us to the power of the Holy Spirit.

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessings,
The Rev. Canon Susan Brown Snook
Bishop-Elect of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego

A Season of Prayer



Growing in Discipleship

Prayer: O God, we pray that all Episcopalians in our diocese would grow in their relationships with Jesus Christ through worship, learning and service to others. Amen.

Key Scripture: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:16-20)

Prayer for Quiet Confidence

O God of peace, who hast taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and in confidence shall be our strength: By the might of thy Spirit lift us, we pray thee, to thy presence, where we may be still and know that thou art God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, page 832)

Evangelism

Prayer: We pray that those in our churches, neighborhoods and communities whose lives would be enriched by the good news of Christ would hear that good news. Amen.

Key Scripture: “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Prayer for the Mission of the Church

Everliving God, whose will it is that all should come to you through your Son Jesus Christ; Inspire our witness to him, that all may know the power of his forgiveness and the hope of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, page 816)

Serving Our Neighbors

Prayer: God we ask that your mission in our communities would be empowered as we go out into our neighborhoods, meet the people who are there, become acquainted with their needs, hopes, and longings, and discern our own ministries of service there. Amen.

Key Scripture: “But a Samaritan while traveling came near him and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.” (Luke 10:33-34)

Prayer for Cities

Heavenly Father, in your Word you have given us a vision of that holy City to which the nations of the world bring their glory: Behold and visit, we pray, the cities, towns and rural communities of the earth. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life. Send us honest and able leaders. Enable us to eliminate poverty, prejudice, and oppression, that peace may prevail with righteousness, and justice with order, and that men and women from different cultures and with differing talents may find with one another the fulfillment of their humanity; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. (Book of Common Prayer, page 825).