

VOTE *faithfully*



"Seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you... and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare." —Jeremiah 29:7

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The prophet Jeremiah wrote these words to a people living in uncertain times. Far from home and facing an unknown future, they were called not to withdraw from the life around them but to seek the well-being of their communities and to pray for those with whom they shared them. Their vocation was to be a blessing wherever God had planted them.

That same calling remains ours today.

Through the waters of Baptism, we have been united with Christ and one another as members of one Body. Our communion in Christ transcends every political affiliation, partisan platform, ideology, nationality, and ethnicity. Before we are voters, we are disciples. Before we are members of political parties, we are members of the Body of Christ. Our deepest allegiance is to the kingdom of God, whose hallmarks are justice, mercy, reconciliation, and peace.

As our nation prepares for the 2026 elections, we know that public life continues to be marked by deep disagreement and growing polarization. Yet the Gospel invites us to resist the temptation to see one another as enemies. Instead, we are called to be peacemakers, bridge builders, and people of hope who seek the welfare of our communities, remembering that our flourishing is bound together.

Voting, therefore, is more than a civic responsibility. It is one way we participate in seeking the common good. It is an opportunity to prayerfully discern how we might love our neighbors, care for the most vulnerable, and contribute to communities where every person can live with dignity and hope. In casting our ballots, we bear witness to our belief that God continues to work through ordinary people who faithfully seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

As Election Day draws near, I invite you to surround this season with prayer. Pray for our nation. Pray for those who offer themselves for public service. Pray for election workers and all who help uphold our democratic process. Above all, pray that we may speak with charity, listen with humility, and never lose sight of the dignity that every human being bears as one created in the image of God.

May we seek the welfare of our communities with courage, compassion, and care, trusting that as we work for the flourishing of our neighbors, we participate in God's healing work in the world.

Pray fervently. Vote faithfully.

The Rt. Rev. Deon K. Johnson
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