



# TEACHER TOOLKIT: <https://civicspirit.org/prayer-for-america-post/>

## STUDENT STEPS:

1. WRITE PRAYER - Please keep to a 300-word limit.
2. TAKE SELF-PORTRAIT (instructions below) -find a solid background
3. SUBMIT YOUR PRAYER AND SELF PORTRAIT

See examples below:



Project: Pull the headshots and a phrase from each prayer together to create a Digital Quilt.

EXAMPLE: [CIVIC SPIRIT DIGITAL QUILT FROM 2018](#) in partnership with [For Freedoms](#)



<p><b>The Questions:</b></p> <p>What does it mean to think/talk/hope about democracy within this community?</p> <p>How do we engage in democratic life as citizens <i>and</i> members of this community?</p> <p>What do we know about civic issues as citizens <i>and</i> members of this community?</p> <p>What are the values that we uphold as citizens <i>and</i> members of this community?</p>	<p><b>The Words:</b></p> <p>What language calls out to community? What causes us to turn our attention?</p> <p>What language can we use as citizens <i>and</i> members of this community that will speak to these questions?</p>
<p>The first conversations:</p> <p>Who is this invocation for?  Who is speaking these words?  Who is listening to these words?  When are these words spoken?  Where are these words spoken?</p>	<p>Examples:</p> <p><i>Let us gather, as citizens and as people of faith</i></p> <p><i>We gather together with these hopes</i></p>
<p>The turn from Individual to Community:</p> <p>Historically, community has used these invocations to recognize kings and leaders. Further, prayer often services as a vehicle to gather and create a sense of community.</p> <p>This project encourages us to engage within America's community as democracy's citizens.</p> <p>How does our language have to change?</p>	<p>Prompts:</p> <p><i>Let us gather, as citizens and as people of faith</i></p> <p><i>We gather together with these hopes</i></p> <p><i>For Our Community, I (we) pray</i></p> <p><i>For Fellow Citizens, I (we) invite</i></p> <p><i>For Our Democracy, I (we) hope</i></p> <p><i>My (our) hope for Democracy's present</i></p> <p><i>My (our) hope for Democracy's future</i></p>

# EXAMPLE PRAYERS

## 1. A Jewish Prayer for The Government

Our God and God of our ancestors: Accept with mercy our prayer for our land and its government. Pour out your blessing on this land, on its President, judges, officers and officials, who work faithfully for the public good. Teach them from the laws of Your Torah, enlighten them with the rules of Your justice, so that peace, tranquillity, happiness and freedom will never depart from our land. God of all that lives, please bestow Your spirit on all the inhabitants of our land, and plant love, fellowship, peace and friendship between the different communities and faiths that dwell here. Uproot from their hearts all hate, animosity, jealousy and strife, in order to fulfil the longings of its people, who aspire for its dignity, and desire to see it as a light for all nations. And so may it be God's will that our land be a blessing for all who live on earth, and that fellowship and liberty will dwell between them. Establish soon the vision of your prophet: "Nation will not raise a sword against nation, and they will no longer learn war," and, as it is said: "for all of them will know Me, from the smallest to the greatest." (Amen)

## 2. From the Conservative "Sim Shalom": A Jewish Prayer for our country

Our God and God of our ancestors: We ask your blessing for our country - for its government, for its leaders and advisors, and for all who exercise just and rightful authority. Teach them insights from Your Torah, that they may administer all affairs of state fairly, that peace and security, happiness and prosperity, justice and freedom may forever abide in our midst.

Creator of all flesh, bless all the inhabitants of our country with Your spirit. May citizens of all races and creeds forge a common bond in true harmony, to banish hatred and bigotry, and to safeguard the ideals and free institutions that are the pride and glory of our country.

May this land, under Your providence, be an influence for good throughout the world, uniting all people in peace and freedom - helping them to fulfill the vision of Your prophet: "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they experience war any more." And let us say: Amen.

## 3. From the Roman Catholic Church

The Roman Catholic Church and other Christian faiths have a long history of social activism and advocacy for government policy based on compassion and ethical morality. Intervention by the faithful in public policy becomes increasingly important in times of social and political unrest and division, and this gives special relevance to a prayer written by a renowned figure dating back to the Revolutionary War.

Archbishop John Carroll was the cousin of Charles Carroll, one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In 1789, Pope Pius VI named him the first bishop of the United States. (He would later become the first archbishop when the Diocese of Baltimore, MD, the mother diocese of the United States, was elevated to the status of archdiocese.) He is also the founder of Georgetown University, in Washington, DC.

Archbishop Carroll wrote this prayer November 10, 1791, to be recited in parishes throughout his diocese. It is a good novena to pray as a family or as a parish on national holidays--such as Independence Day and Thanksgiving--and it has special relevance at any time when our government and political consciousness is plagued by division.

We pray, Thee O Almighty and Eternal God! Who through Jesus Christ hast revealed Thy glory to all nations, to preserve the works of Thy mercy, that Thy Church, being spread through the whole world, may continue with unchanging faith in the confession of Thy Name.

We pray Thee, who alone art good and holy, to endow with heavenly knowledge, sincere zeal, and sanctity of life, our chief bishop, Pope *N.*, the Vicar of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the government of his Church; our own bishop, *N.*, all other bishops, prelates, and pastors of the Church; and especially those who are appointed to exercise amongst us the functions of the holy ministry, and conduct Thy people into the ways of salvation.

We pray Thee O God of might, wisdom, and justice! Through whom authority is rightly administered, laws are enacted, and judgment decreed, assist with Thy Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude the President of these United States, that his administration may be conducted in righteousness, and be eminently useful to Thy people over whom he presides; by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion; by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and mercy; and by restraining vice and immorality. Let the light of Thy divine wisdom direct the deliberations of Congress, and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws framed for our rule and government, so that they may tend to the preservation of peace, the promotion of national happiness, the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful knowledge; and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal liberty.

We pray for his excellency, the governor of this state, for the members of the assembly, for all judges, magistrates, and other officers who are appointed to guard our political welfare, that they may be enabled, by Thy powerful protection, to discharge the duties of their respective stations with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to Thy unbounded mercy, all our brethren and fellow citizens throughout the United States, that they may be blessed in the knowledge and sanctified in the observance of Thy most holy law; that they may be preserved in union, and in that peace which the world cannot give; and after enjoying the blessings of this life, be admitted to those which are eternal.

Finally, we pray to Thee, O Lord of mercy, to remember the souls of Thy servants departed who are gone before us with the sign of faith and repose in the sleep of peace; the souls of our parents, relatives, and friends; of those who, when living, were members of this congregation, and particularly of such as are lately deceased; of all benefactors who, by their donations or legacies to this Church, witnessed their zeal for the decency of divine worship and proved their claim to our grateful and charitable remembrance. To these, O Lord, and to all that rest in Christ, grant, we beseech Thee, a place of refreshment, light, and everlasting peace, through the same Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Savior. Amen.