

Inaugural Benediction

The Rev. Joseph Lowery
January 20, 2009

God of our weary years,
God of our silent tears,
Thou who has brought us thus far along the way;
Thou who has by Thy might
Led us into the light,
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met
Thee,
Lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget
Thee;
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,
May we forever stand,
True to Thee, oh God,
True to our native land.

We truly give thanks for the glorious experience we've shared this day. We pray now oh Lord for Your blessing upon Your servant, Barack Obama, the 44th president of these United States, his family, and his administration. He has come to this high office at a low moment in the nation and indeed the global fiscal climate.

But because we know You've got the whole world in Your hand, we pray not only for our nation but for the community of nations. Our faith does not shrink though pressed by the flood of mortal ills. For we know that Lord You're able and You're willing to work through faithful leadership to restore stability. Mend our brokenness. Heal our wounds and deliver us from the exploitation of the poor, of the least of these and from favoritism toward the rich, the elite of these.

We thank You for the empowering of Thy servant, our 44th president, to inspire our nation to believe that yes we can work together to achieve a more perfect union. And while we have sown the seed of greed, the wind of greed and corruption,

and even as we reap the whirlwind of social and economic disruption, we seek forgiveness and we come in the spirit of unity and solidarity to commit our support to our president by our willingness to make sacrifices, to respect your creation, to turn to each other and not on each other.

And now Lord in the complex arena of human relations, help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate, on the side of inclusion, not exclusion, tolerance, not intolerance.

And as we leave this mountaintop help us to hold on to the spirit of fellowship and the oneness of our family. Let us take that power back to our homes, our workplaces, our churches, our temples, our mosques, wherever we seek Your will.

Bless President Barack. First Lady Michelle. Look over our little angelic Sasha and Malia. We go now to walk together as children, pledging that we won't get weary in the difficult days ahead. We know You will not leave us alone with Your hands of power and Your heart of love. Help us then now Lord to work for that day when nations will not lift up sword against nation, when tanks will be beaten into tractors. When every man and every woman shall sit under his or her own vine or fig tree and none shall be afraid. When justice shall roll down like water and righteousness as a mighty stream. Lord in the memory of all the satins who from their labor rest and in the joy of a new beginning. We ask You to help us to work for that day when black will not be asked to get back, when brown can stick around, when yellow will be mellow, when the red man can get ahead man and when white will embrace what is right. Let all those who do justice and love mercy say amen. Say Amen. And Amen.