

**Prayer for Joseph R. Biden
A Petition for the 46th President of the United States**

Our Father in Heaven,

We humbly come before your sovereign throne. You alone are King of kings and Lord of lords (1 Tim. 6:15). You have made from nothing the world in which we live, and every nation upon its surface is as dust to you (Is. 40:15).

You are the ruler over all and you deserve our honor, praise, and glory. You have demonstrated your great love and mercy to us through your only Son, Jesus Christ.

Today we pray for Joseph R. Biden, the president of the United States of America, as your Word instructs (1 Tim. 2:1-2). **Our lives are in your hands**, as is his election and installation on this day, Jan. 20, 2021, as he takes his oath of office.

We ask, O Lord, that his heart, mind, and will would be directed towards you alone. You remind us that the *“king’s heart is in the hand of Lord”* (Prov. 21:1). In the months and years ahead, he will have enormous responsibility as he directs the affairs of our nation. Provide him wise (Prov. 3,13,14,17) and prudent counsel from Vice President Kamala Harris, his cabinet, advisors, and friends as he discerns the proper course and path in which to lead this nation.

Please give President Biden a great hunger for truth and justice (Prov. 31:8-9) in every sphere of life and work. May those who serve him be people of moral integrity who seek the good and welfare of our land. Instill in him a deep desire for an open and transparent administration that is averse to division.

You are the God of reconciliation. We ask that President Biden, his cabinet, and administration be agents of peace in a nation of great diversity. Our differences and divisions should be appreciated and used as a means of establishing a strong and healthy country. Please give to this president the leadership skills to promote harmony and peace in every sphere.

O, Lord, we pray for the president’s family. Thank you for his marriage to Dr. Jill Biden, his children, and grandchildren. Protect and enhance their love for each other. May this marriage represent in every way your relationship with your Bride, the church.

May this administration, which belongs to you, bring you praise, honor, and glory. In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray, Amen.

Editor's note: The following prayer was composed by Chuck Garriott, executive director of the PCA’s Ministry to State.



January 24, 2021

10:30 A.M.

Always Ready to Give an Answer

**EXILES
ON
MISSION**

How Christians Can Thrive in a Post-Christian World



Order of Service

Announcements

Welcome

Preparation for Worship

-----God's Greatness-----

Call to Worship

Hymn of Adoration

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”. Bridges/Thring/Elvey

Prayer of Invocation

Affirmation of Faith:

The Westminster Shorter Catechism* , Q/A. # 1, 2

Song: “Mighty to Save” Ben Fielding/Reuben Morgan

Children are Dismissed to Sunday School

----- God's Renewal-----

Understanding Ourselves Rightly

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon and Comfort: Ephesians 1:7

Song of Renewal

“10,000 Reasons(Bless the Lord)”. . .Matt Redman/Jonas Myrin

-----God's Grace-----

Scripture Reading: 1 Peter 3:13-17

The People's Prayer

The Sermon

“Always Ready to Give an Answer”

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Hymn: “The Cross Has the Final Word”. Cody Carnes

Prayer of Approach

Words of Institution: 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (ESV)

-----God's Blessing-----

Parting Hymn: “My Jesus I Love Thee(Your Holy Name)”

. . .Add'l Lyrics by Jason Roy and Jason Ingram

Benediction

Verse 15, “always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

“Always” and “Anyone”

“I want you to live a provocative life – a life of service and kindness, a life of joy and peace in believing the Gospel, a life that is zealous for doing good, that turns away from evil, that seeks peace and pursues us. I want you to live a life of Christlikeness that is so provocative that the people who know you can't help but ask, ‘What in the world is going on with you? Why are you the way you are?’”

Have a Good Conscience

1 Peter 3:16–17 (ESV)

having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame. ¹⁷For it is better to suffer for doing good, if that should be God's will, than for doing evil.

If you have a good conscience, it will be telling you that all is well. If you have an evil conscience, it will be reminding you that all is not well because there is sin in your life. And what Peter is saying is live with a clear conscience, a conscience that doesn't condemn you so that when you face criticism, when you face hostility, when you face persecution you don't feel any guilt.

What are our defenses against the world's hostility?

Christians who suffer for doing good because the Lord wills it for a season find in their trials opportunity to make much of Christ, to show the world, “As I pass through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for the Lord is with me and His rod and His staff, they comfort me. I have a Savior who is more than enough for every trial through which I may pass.” We get to display His sufficiency in our sufferings.⁴

A Final Word

God will get His work done through weak, sinful, repentance, believing Christians who strive, clinging to Jesus Christ, to obey His commandments. God is going to do marvelous things – that's what Peter is saying – marvelous things through our witness for His own great glory. So hear His call. Don't flee back into the Christian ghettos we build for ourselves as a way to maintain our sense of security, but instead begin to live with an outward face. Turn toward your neighbor, your colleague, your friend, with good news.

God's Gracious Provision 1/17/2021

Offering: \$1925.00

Attendance: 38

Your offering may be placed in the box at the Welcome Table.

¹MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2004). *1 Peter* (p. 196). Chicago: Moody Publishers.

²MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2014). *John MacArthur Sermon Archive*. Panorama City, CA: Grace to You.

³MacArthur, J. F., Jr. (2014). *John MacArthur Sermon Archive*. Panorama City, CA: Grace to You.

⁴Helm, D. R. (2008). *1 & 2 Peter and Jude: sharing Christ's sufferings* (pp. 115–116). Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

You will be “blessed”

If some of you per chance should suffer for the sake of righteousness ... that means upright godly behavior ... don't be surprised and don't be fearful, you are blessed. Let's not be naive, he says. **Some of his readers were already beginning to suffer for Christ and he wants us to be prepared when opposition comes. If you suffer for righteousness sake you are blessed.**

The Spirit of glory and of God will rest on you. God will have a purpose in it all should it happen ... it may happen.

1 Peter 2:21–23 (ESV)

For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²²He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.

There will be points at which our society will not tolerate even a good life. They will not tolerate a righteous man or a righteous woman. The very presence of holy virtue will irritate them to the point that they will have to act aggressively against you. But, says Peter, when we suffer for what is right, we are blessed. Literally it says, even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, blessed ... blessed. Almost like an exclamation.

Have No Fear

“Have no fear of them, nor be troubled but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy,”

To honor Christ is to set him apart as sacred in your hearts as Lord. It's an awareness that Jesus is King. “I am His and He is mine. I have been mastered by Him. I am not my own. I have been bought at a price. And so what I say and where I go and how I live are no longer up to me. I am ruled by King Jesus and I will fight the fear of man in my heart by proclaiming to myself over and over again the fear of the Lord that is the beginning of wisdom.” David Strain

Be a Christian who has pliability in suffering.

When you have your mind and your heart set on earthly things, when you're preoccupied with possessions and pleasures and ease and comfort and popularity, then you're going to be really be threatened. But if your focus is right and you understand God has honored you highly by the suffering and will give you a greater weight of glory in the future, then you can count it all joy when you fall into various trials, as James said.³

Sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts.

Speak for Jesus; This is the Duty and Obligation of Every Christian

Upcoming Events

Sunday, January 31 10:30 A.M. Vision Casting Sunday

Join us as we reflect on 2020 and chart our course for 2021.

Sunday, February 7 6:15-7:15 P.M.

GCC Prayer Gathering at the House of Prayer
1300 High Street, Pottstown, PA

Friday, February 19—Sunday, February 21

Youth Winter Retreat at Camp Sankanac. Join us for an exciting weekend full of fellowship, worship, games, and a practical study on relying on God in daily life. Pick up a flyer at the Welcome Table.



Birthright
International

If you would like to provide any of the following items for Birthright of Pottstown, please see Deana Deichert.

Baby Boy:

- 0-3 month Winter coats
- 3-6 month Winter coats
- 12 month clothing
- 18 month clothing

Maternity Clothing:

- Maternity leggings - all sizes
- Maternity tops - size small
- Any maternity clothes - size XL and XXL

Baby Girl:

- Premie clothing
- 12 month clothing
- 18 month clothing



Right Now Media

We offer all of you access to a web -site called Right Now Media. There are literally hundreds of resources that are available for you to view. As you take some time to look around you will see resources for children, youth, marriage, studies on books of the Bible, and many other topical studies.

There is no cost to you and you can return and watch the videos as often as you would like and there is always new material being added. If you do not have access to this resources please contact rickknarr@gmail.com and we will provide the access information for you.

Prayer/Praise. January 24, 2021

- Pray for healing for the father of Koreen Mace and Gwen Conrad, due to an infection. Pray for Gwen as she has been caring for their father.
- Pray for Mike Row, who has a bruised rotator cup on his left side. He has sharp pain if he tries to move his left arm above his elbow. He is receiving physical therapy. Please pray for healing and relief from pain for Mike.
- Pray for peace and a quick recovery from Covid for Tiff, a friend of Barb Hunter, and that her daughter remains symptom free.
- Pray for Dawn Fleetman, who is having surgery to repair the tendons in her foot on January 25th. Pray that she will be able to work and function without pain.
- Praise God that Lulu Bocci got accepted to Bob Jones University to pursue her online Master's degree in Marriage and Family Counseling. Praise that Lulu Bocci's fever broke this week. Pray for Lulu as she now must catch up on college work she missed due to COVID.
- Pray for all our college students as they head back to school: Lulu Bocci (Bob Jones University); Nic Collins (S. Carolina School of Leadership); Brandon Crothers (Lock Haven); Tim Deichert (MCCC); Cassie Frame (Eastern); Macie Frame (West Chester); Marissa O'Connor (Pace University); Brenna Pritchard (Cedar Crest College); Dominique Viola (Penn College); Carena Williams (MCCC); Tyler Yensan (Military).
- Pray for Rindy Lee's father, who went into the hospital ER with low oxygen levels. He also has dementia. Her brother's girlfriend is doing well with her Covid recovery. Pray for continued healing for Rindy's family.
- Pray for Dr. Hsu, Jill Aument's employer. Dr. Hsu's father and mother have Covid. Her father is in ICU. Please pray for God's healing Hand on them and peace for Dr. Hsu and direction on how to handle everything.
- Pray for Nic Collins, who will be going to Quito, Ecuador for a mission trip at the end of March. Pray for funds, travel, safety, and no COVID.
- Pray for Jeremiah Mace, who is in a 9-month internship program. Please pray for continued healing for Koreen's family.
- Pray for Tyler and Kaci Yensan, as Kaci prepares to join Tyler in North Carolina.
- Pray for Donna Plowfield's son-in-law, David, who is seeking employment in physical therapy.

Message

Always Ready to Give an Answer

1 Peter 3:13–17

Introduction

Christians everywhere will face increasing hostility, both from civil authorities and from unbelievers at the personal level. This passage speaks to all who would live godly lives in the midst of a hostile, ungodly culture. The apostle Peter gives us principles believers need to embrace to equip and defend themselves against the threats of an unbelieving, hostile world: a passion for goodness, a willingness to suffer—for wrong and for right, a devotion to Christ, a readiness to defend the faith, and a pure conscience.¹

How then are we to live?

Have a Reasonable Expectation

1 Peter 3:13 (ESV)

Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good?

Peter says, “You be a zealot, only you be a zealot for what is good. You have such a passion for goodness, for kindness, for tenderness, for mercy, for love, for philanthropy that the world will have a great difficulty persecuting you.

This is not a guaranteed promise that if you do good you won't be **persecuted; it simply makes it all the more difficult to do.** We are to have a passion for doing what is good. Jesus had that passion. Jesus did good and only good. He is our model. And yet Jesus Himself also ultimately was killed by a hostile world.

Be Prepared

1 Peter 3:14–15 (ESV)

But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect,

There will be times when those who do good suffer. But, he says, even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you're blessed. The little phrase “but even if” could be translated “per chance” or “contrary to what is expected,” even if it per chance should happen that you suffer for the sake of righteousness, you're blessed.²