

Prayer for Peace, Hope & Justice

We are 1 week away from municipal elections in SA and given our history of shattered dreams and failures to deliver the promises of liberation, we are tempted to approach elections with cynicism based on disillusionment.

But we are painfully aware that many people, some in this community or very near and dear to us, made many sacrifices so that some of us can vote.

In the midst of the noise from political parties, candidates and social media, may we discern God's whisper as we prepare to cast our vote.

LET US PRAY

O Lord, we know that you weep when you see:

- Unemployed men sitting on the roadside hoping that someone requiring cheap, dirty, dangerous labour will offer them a job, even if only for 1 day
- Women standing on the roadside offering their bodies to feed their families
- Sewage running down the streets, poisoning everyone it contacts because water treatment plants aren't working
- Pedestrians killed by a vehicle avoiding potholes
- Piles of solid waste in communities because waste collection services have broken down
- Households without water and electricity because pumps are broken, cables stolen and maintenance services are too afraid to enter the area.

O Lord, you have given us the privilege to make decisions about the present and the future.

You have guided us through struggles against oppression, and we know that you are with us in our struggle against corruption and abuse of power.

Lord, forgive us in our complicity in systems that oppress others, especially the most vulnerable.

Inspire us, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to make a difference wherever we are.

Help us to look beyond the disappointments of past elections that have failed to deliver the promises of a better life for all.

May we be inspired to become ACTIVE CITIZENS through this election, to partner with those making a real difference in peoples' lives.

Guide us in the huge responsibility of using our vote to elect councillors committed to serving selflessly.

Like Mary, we pray that You will bring down the mighty from their thrones as you have done before, in our land and across the world.

In honour of all who have made sacrifices, even with their lives, so that we may vote, we pray that You will indeed lift up the lowly through this election.

That those without a voice may find a voice through those elected to office.

So that the most vulnerable and powerless may share in the rich resources of this beautiful land.

We pray for leaders who embrace SERVANT LEADERSHIP, who

- Listen with empathy
- Govern with honesty and integrity
- Steward resources responsibly, and
- Prioritise the poor and not themselves.

May Your Kingdom Come On Earth As In Heaven.

GOD BLESS AFRICA & ALL THE WORLD

GUARD OUR CHILDREN

GUIDE OUR LEADERS

AND GIVE US PEACE

AMEN