

Prayer for Peace Hope & Justice

I have never taken the ability to vote for granted. I know that the freedom to choose who should represent me in parliament is written in the blood of people who gave their lives to the struggle for justice in SA. So Wednesday 29 May was a special day for me.

As a university student in the 1980's I was exposed to many different ideologies and theologies, and I was drawn to groups who believed that the gospel of Jesus was liberating to the poorest of the poor, the marginalised, and a threat to those in power. We faced a Kairos moment.

Today in SA, we stand at a threshold – a Kairos moment, where decisions taken about the form of government for the next 5 years will determine if SA grows or is destroyed. Our prayer today will focus on the line in the Prayer for Africa "GUIDE OUR LEADERS", as our political leaders find each other and agree on the form of government going forward.

The barbed wire represents the fear, prejudice and deep-seated mistrust among our political leaders. It also represents the potential harm to people, the environment and our economy based on their decisions this week.

The light of the candle represents the hopefulness, courage and humility among our decision-makers.

LET US PRAY

O Lord, we hang our heads in shame, and we know that you weep as you listen to our leaders express racism, prejudice and fear during this period of uncertainty.

You have laid out for us the values on which to build your Kingdom

- To do justice, especially to the most vulnerable
- To love mercy / show constant love
- To walk humbly with you

O Lord, as our leaders reach agreement on our future this week, we pray you may touch their lives in miraculous ways, to prioritise justice, mercy and humility.

May our leaders be reminded about the words of Amilcar Cabral, who said "Always bear in mind the people are not fighting for ideas, for things in anyone's head. They are fighting to win material benefits, to live better and in peace, to see their lives go forward, to guarantee the future of their children".

May your Holy Spirit inspire every conversation as we contemplate an uncertain future, knowing that your light always says "NO" to darkness.

We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, as we pray the Prayer for Africa and the world:

GOD BLESS AFRICA & THE WORLD

GUARD OUR CHILDREN

GUIDE OUR LEADERS

AND GIVE US PEACE, AMEN