

JANUARY 20, 2021



Inauguration Day Prayers

By Randy Shepley

By the time *First News* arrives in your email box this week, the United States will have sworn in Joe Biden as our 46th president. For some in our nation and church, the inauguration will be a day of celebration. For others in our nation and church, the move to a Biden presidency brings concern. As followers of Jesus for all of us, Inauguration Day should bring us to prayer.

Pray for Healing: We need to pray for the healing of our nation. We have grown deeply polarized and mistrustful of people with differing views. Perhaps you have been wounded by the hurtful words of a family member or friend on social media. Maybe, on one or more occasions, you did the wounding. Today, friends, is a day where we pray for the healing of broken relationships. In fact, our prayer must lead us to the listening and forgiveness necessary to heal broken relationships.

Let us also pray for the healing of so many in our nation who are infected with COVID 19. Let us pray for the doctors and nurses in overwhelmed hospitals. Let us pray for the first responders who put themselves on the line each day during this pandemic. Let us pray for the frontline workers we often forget: the grocery store clerks and stockers, restaurant workers, truck drivers, teachers, and meat processing workers. Finally, let us pray for the families and friends of the over 400,000 Americans who have lost their lives to COVID 19. **Pray for Healing...**

Pray for Justice: I learned the Pledge of Allegiance when I was a boy. I am sure you remember the final phrases as well...*One nation under God, with liberty and justice for all.* The pledge we offer to our nation commits us to seeking "justice for all" because we hold that "all men are created equal." Seeking justice for all persons rests in the core identity of our nation. Even more important, however, pursuing justice rests at the core of our identity as Jesus-followers:

*He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the LORD require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8*

Doing justice to and on behalf of others is a significant part of our responsibility. In fact, we will study in our sermon on February 14 how frustrated Jesus was with spiritual people who ignored justice (see Luke 11:42 for a preview). We have a responsibility to pray and work for the fair, respectful, and equitable treatment of all people in the face of the law and economic practice. After all, nothing got the Old Testament prophets more upset than persons in Israel using unjust methods to make an unfair profit off of the poor or disadvantaged (check out the OT passages about unbalanced scales). We can pray for justice and do justice so that people can eat, have jobs, and ensure fair treatment. Seeking justice is pleasing and obedient to God...**Pray for Justice...**

Pray for Hope: Hope, friends, is the great gift followers of Jesus can offer our nation and world at this moment in history. As we said during the Advent season, we can and must be the exporters of hope into our culture. Likewise, we must be the exporters of hope into our church, neighborhood, and cities.

There are so many reasons to live anxious and afraid right now: 25,000 National Guard troops at the capitol building, the ongoing COVID 19 surge, coronavirus variants, virtual learning in schools, virtual worship in churches, loneliness, finger-pointing, white supremacy, extremism, unemployment, closed businesses...the list goes on and on. However, we hold to a deeper truth than all of this scary news...*The Kingdom of God is at Hand*. Today, right now, you can pray and walk with God. God is with us. God has not left us. You see, friends, it does not matter who is in the White House, Senate, the House of Representatives, or the Statehouse: *Jesus is Risen*. This means, even in our hardest moments and darkest days, we still have hope.

*I lift up my eyes to the hills.
From where does my help come?
My help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and earth. Psalm 121:1-2*

Our hope does not depend on our party, president or even our nation. Our help and hope come from the Lord. **Pray for Hope, Live in Hope, and Export Hope.**

Change in Worship Services!

Worship services will be online only through January 31.

Souper Bowl Canned Food Collection February 8-10

We are collecting canned food for our church Food Pantry, and we'd love for you to participate. Please bring your donations to the church office entrance between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. and place them on the carts located outside the door. Should you need help unloading your donations, please call the church office at 757-930-0911 and we will have a staff member come out to your car to get your donations. The items needed for our food pantry are:

- Chicken Noodle Soup (10 3/4 oz.)
- Pork and Beans (10 3/4 oz.)
- Canned Corn (14 1/2 oz.)
- Canned Green Beans (14 1/2 oz.)
- Canned Tuna (5 oz.)



Thank you for participating as we help those in our community!

Red Cross Blood Drive

March 3, 1-6 p.m.

Payne Fellowship Hall

Come out and support the Red Cross in one of three ways:



1. Donate blood
2. Be one of two volunteers needed from our church to take temperatures and log in names as people arrive
3. Pray for those volunteering, donating, and receiving

Contact the church office for more information.

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There are still opportunities to prepare and serve dinner and provide breakfast in a bag. Meals will be prepared and served at Temple Baptist on Harpersville Road.

You or your group can sign up by using one of the links below.

[January 14-31, 2021](#)

[February 2021](#)

[March 2021](#)

Weekly Worship Opportunities

Join us for worship online January 24 at 8:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.! Randy Shepley will be preaching. If you have any technical difficulties watching the services on Facebook Live, please send us a direct message on Facebook so we can help troubleshoot the issue.

The following is a list of weekly events that can be accessed on the First Baptist Church of Newport News Facebook page, youth events that can be accessed on their Instagram page-@fbcnn youth, and young adult events that meet using Microsoft Teams. (The 10:30 Sunday worship service will also be uploaded to the website, fbcnn.org, each Monday, and can be accessed by clicking on the Resources tab.)

- **Sundays:** 8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
9:30 a.m. Youth Sunday Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Children's Sunday School Grades 1-5
10:00 a.m. Preschool & Kindergarten
Sunday School
10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service
12:30 p.m. Hispanic Worship
- **Mondays:** 7:30 p.m. The Bridge Young Adults
- **Tuesdays:** 8:00 p.m. Young Adult Couples

[FBCNN Facebook Live Videos](#)

If you missed Sunday's service and do not have a Facebook account, you can click [here for 8:30](#) or [here for 10:30](#) to watch it on our Vimeo page.

Mobile Food Pantry

The Virginia Peninsula Foodbank Mobile Food Pantry used our parking lot last Thursday. There is still a need for food in our community and the communities around us. Below are some pictures from Thursday to give you an idea as to how much food was given out and how many people were here to pick up food. Click [here](#) to learn more and find opportunities to help our local Foodbank.



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