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The Feast of ✠ William Temple, November 6, 2024

Dear Friends,

Blessings to you on this feast of Archbishop William Temple, who believed that the Incarnation demanded we take seriously the dignity of all peoples, and who worked tirelessly for social justice and Christian unity.

Many of us have started this new day with a sense of disappointment, frustration, and, perhaps, anger over the result of yesterday's election. We may be experiencing feelings of helplessness and foreboding over what will happen over the next four years in our nation and around the world.

The message I wrote to you yesterday, therefore, is more important than ever. Christians are called to lives of engagement in the here and now, to respond with love to the gift of the Grace God has given us in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the events that marked the inauguration of the Kingdom of God. In his City of God, written in response to the upheaval and uncertainty following the sack of Rome by the Visigoths in 410, Saint Augustine reminds us that we, the pilgrim band, the citizens of the City of God, so long as we are wayfaring on earth, are called to bring to bear whatever is at our disposal and work to the "objective of human peace."

Our Gospel from this past Sunday gives us a pretty good of idea of what that work looks like and provides encouragement in carrying it out:

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you (Matthew 5:1-10).

We are called to the work of peacemaking, mercy, and justice, and to stand-up for our faith and its love-centred values. We have this work to do together as citizens of the heavenly city wayfaring on Earth regardless of who has been elected to public office. Indeed, these public servants are called to the same work to which we are called and, therefore, are deserving of our prayers.

And so we pray for ourselves, our communities, and our nation and its leaders.

O God of light and love, who hast illumined thy Church through the witness of thy servant William Temple: Inspire us, we pray, by his teaching and example, that we may rejoice with courage, confidence, and faith in the Word made flesh, and may be led to establish that city which has justice for its foundation and love for its law; through Jesus Christ, the light of the world, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

Almighty God, who hast created us in thine own image: Grant us grace fearlessly to contend against evil and to make no peace with oppression; and, that we may reverently use our freedom, help us to employ it in the maintenance of justice in our communities and among the nations, to the glory of thy holy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O Lord our heavenly Father, whose blessed Son came not to be ministered unto but to minister: Bless, we beseech thee, all who, following in his steps, give themselves to the service of others; that with wisdom, patience, and courage, they may minister in his name to the suffering, the friendless, and the needy; for the love of him who laid down his life for us, the same thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Lord God Almighty, who hast made all peoples of the earth for thy glory, to serve thee in freedom and peace: Grant to the people of our country a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with thy gracious will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

With these prayers in our hearts and upon our lips, I remain, my brothers and sisters in Christ,

Faithfully yours,


