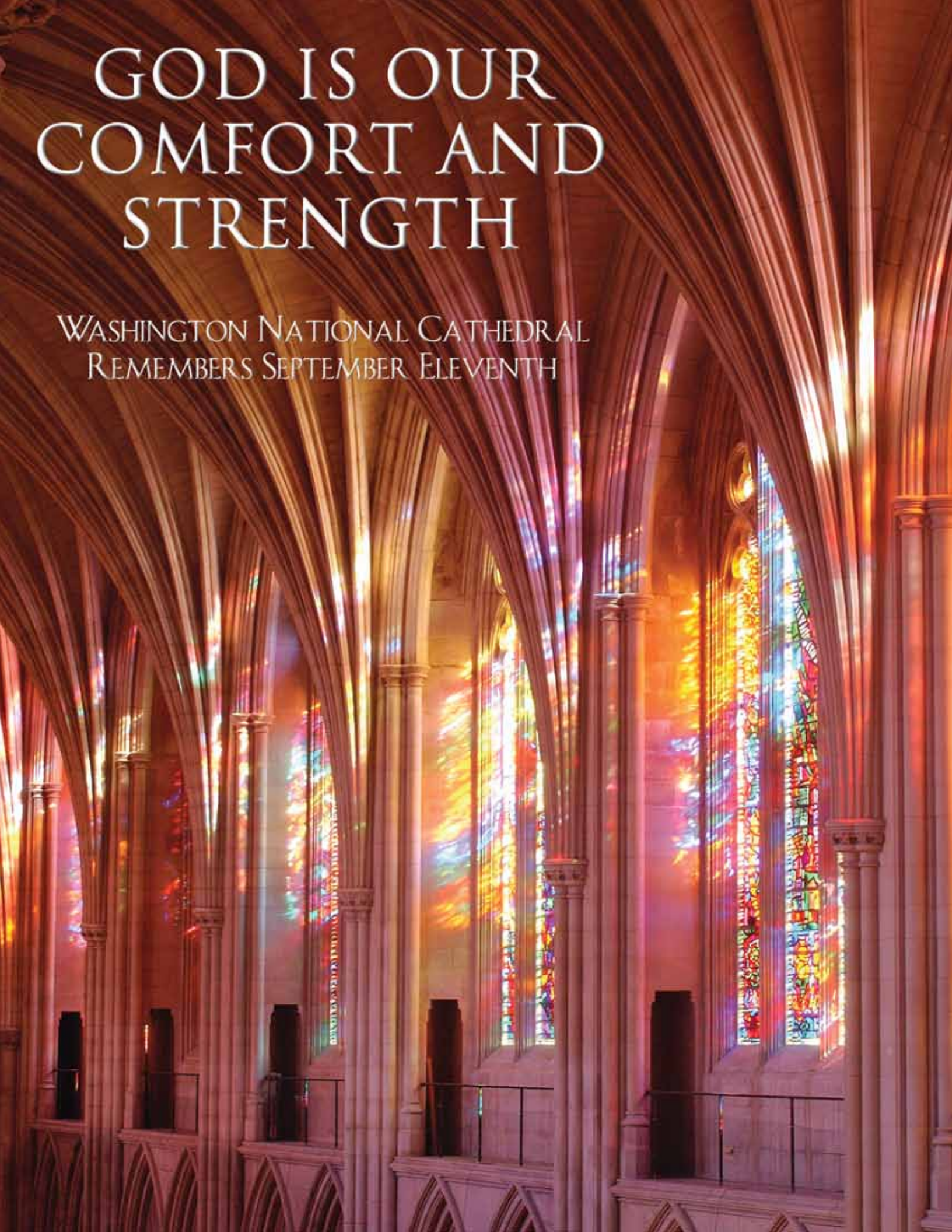


GOD IS OUR COMFORT AND STRENGTH

WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL
REMEMBERS SEPTEMBER ELEVENTH



God is our comfort and strength, a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we should not fear though the earth should change,
Though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.

The LORD of hosts is with us,
The God of Jacob is our refuge. —Psalm 46

Dear friends,

On September 11, 2001, America suffered what is perhaps the most devastating disaster in its history. The very soul of our nation was wounded, as we struggled to comprehend the massive death and destruction inflicted on us by a foreign enemy. Our faith was also challenged, as we realized that no human invention could be made invulnerable to the power of evil. Only the Spirit of God could restore us sufficiently to begin recovery, and brace us for the long war with this evil lying before us.

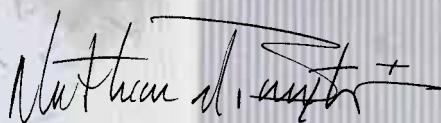
This was evidenced by the spontaneous memorials and gatherings of prayer, not only in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania, but also in religious houses of prayer, stadiums, parks, street corners and homes all across this nation. The four regularly appointed times for daily prayers here at Washington National Cathedral continued without interruption with special emphasis on the victims, recovery workers, and the spirit of an anxious nation.

Shortly after September 11, we received a call from the White House asking the Cathedral to host an interfaith service of prayer and remembrance for the nation. Our Cathedral team joined with a White House team, and in less than thirty-six hours produced the nationally televised service viewed by the world on September 14. As we worshipped we spoke English, Hebrew, and Arabic; we stood side by side—Jew, Muslim, Christian; we sang, grieved, reflected and prayed together as national leaders and everyday citizens. We prayed that God would heal our wounds and save us from blind anger and hasty judgments. On September 14, this Cathedral Church was truly America's National House of Prayer For All People.

This booklet chronicles the Cathedral's special prayers during that fateful week, with special emphasis on the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Service with President Bush and other national leaders. We have tried to capture in pictures and words the beauty of that solemn service, including the powerful message of grace and spiritual renewal preached by Reverend Billy Graham, and national resolve urged by President Bush in his compelling exhortation.

I pray this special booklet will serve as a source of remembrance, comfort and grace for you and your family now and in years to come. I sincerely ask that you join me and the Cathedral community in continued prayers for our nation and our leaders, and that we will find healing for our wounded soul, patience to conquer this evil and the courage to find a just peace, remembering always that,

The God of Jacob is our refuge.



Nathan D. Baxter +
Dean



GOD IS OUR COMFORT AND STRENGTH

National Day of Prayer
and Remembrance Service
September 14, 2001



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*We acknowledge with gratitude the generous gifts
of our friends that have made this publication
possible.*

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Greeting for the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance

The Rt. Rev. Jane Holmes Dixon,

Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington, pro tempore



President Bush, all of us who have come here this day, want you to know that we are grateful that you have called for this service and that you have brought such a multitude of God's children to this cathedral church. People of many faiths are gathered to say to this nation and to the world for those who have lost their lives—innocent lives, in unspeakable tragedy, and through horrible violence visited on this nation—that those of us who are gathered here—Muslim, Jew, Christian, Sikh, Buddhist, Hindu—indeed, all people of faith—know that love is stronger than hate and that love lived out in justice will, in the end, prevail.

So we are grateful that all of you have come here this day and we want you to know as you gather that this is indeed a House of Prayer for All People. So we hope that you will let this place be a container for

A PRAYER FOR THE HUMAN FAMILY

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

your grief. But in addition to that, we want you to know that the light that burns here—the light of love, the light of justice, the light of hope—shines brighter than any light in the world.

So come often, pray to God here, and let us be united so that we will make that message of love the mes-

sage that the world needs to hear in this time of great tragedy.

President Bush has asked that later in this service there be an offering for those organizations and institutions that are reaching out to those lives which have been rent apart by this tragedy. So I am not ashamed to say to you today: Be generous in giving because there are many who will need our care in the days ahead.

Thank you, Mr. President, and welcome to all of you to the Cathedral Church of Saints Peter and Paul, the National Cathedral, and most importantly, a House of Prayer for All People.

Invocation for the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance

The Very Rev. Nathan D. Baxter

Dean of Washington National Cathedral

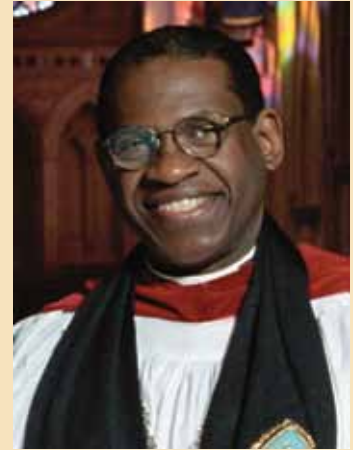
When ancient Israel had suffered the excruciating pain and tragedy of militant aggression and destruction, God said to them through the prophet Jeremiah: “A voice is heard in Ramah, lamenting and bitter weeping, Rachel is weeping for her children; and she refuses to be comforted, because they are no more.”

Today we gather to be reassured that God hears the “lamenting and bitter weeping” of Mother America, because so many of her children are no more. Let us now seek that assurance in prayer, for the healing of our grief stricken hearts, for the souls and sacred memory of those who have died. Let us also pray for Divine wisdom as our leaders consider the necessary actions for national security, that despite our grief we may not become the evil we deplore. Let us pray,

God of Abraham and Mohammed and Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ: we are today a people of heavy and distraught hearts. The evil hand of hate and cowardly aggression, which has devastated the innocent in many other lands, has visited America this week and too many of her children are no more. But we know you are not the God of hate and cowardice, but of courage and justice. So we gather this day asking that you provide us healing as a nation. Heal our grief. Soothe our suffering hearts. Save us from blind vengeance, random prejudice and crippling fear. Guide our leaders, especially

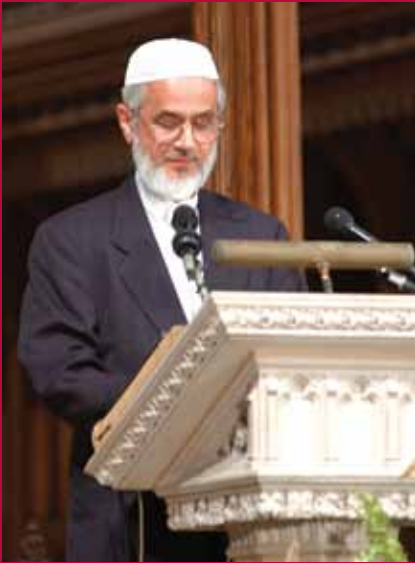
George our President. Let the deep faith that he and they share guide them in the momentous decisions they must make for our national security.

We thank you for the courage of flight crews and passengers in the face of certain death; the brave volunteers, police and emergency workers who labor tirelessly, even as we pray. We thank you for the outpouring of generosity by businesses, unions, agencies, spiritual communities and individual citizens. Your Spirit is at work. Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, grant us peace for the facing of this hour. Amen.



A PRAYER FOR PEACE

Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.



Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi

Prayers and Lessons for the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance

Prayer

*Led by Dr. Muzammil H. Siddiqi
Imam, Islamic Society of North America*

In the Name of God, most gracious, most merciful. Lord, you said and your words are true: If any do seek for glory and power, to God belongs all glory and power. To him mount up all words of purity. He exalts all righteous deeds. But those that lay the plots of evil, for them is a terrible penalty; and the plotting of such will be not abide. (Holy Qu'ran Fatir 35:10)

Goodness and evil are not equal. Repel the evil with the good. Then will he between whom and you was hatred become as it were your friend and intimate. But no one will be granted such goodness except those who exercise patience and restraint, none but persons of the greatest good fortune. (Holy Qu'ran Fussilat 41:34–35)

We turn to you, our Lord, at this time of pain and grief in our nation. We see the evil of destruction and the suffering of the many of our people before our eyes. With broken and humble hearts and with tears in our eyes, we turn to You, O Lord, to give us comfort. Help us in our distress, keep us together as people of diverse faiths, colors and races, keep our country strong for the sake of good and righteousness, protect us from all evil.



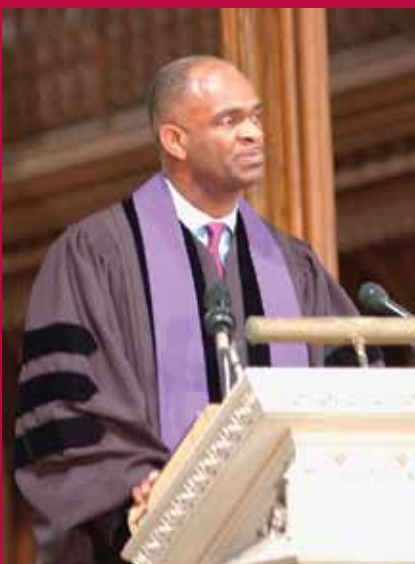
Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman

Scripture Reading

*Read by Rabbi Joshua O. Haberman
Rabbi Emeritus of Washington Hebrew Congregation*

Lamentations 3:22–26, 31–33

The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness. “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.” The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD. For the LORD will not cast off forever, but though he cause grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.



The Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell

Scripture Reading

*Read by the Rev. Kirbyjon Caldwell
Pastor of Windsor Village United Methodist Church, Houston*

2 Corinthians 4:16—5:9

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure, because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this tent we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling—if indeed, when we have taken it off we will not be found naked. For while we are still in this tent, we groan under our

burden, because we wish not to be unclothed but to be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

So we are always confident; even though we know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord—for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we do have confidence, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

Gospel Reading

*Read by His Eminence, Theodore Cardinal McCarrick
Archbishop of Washington*

Matthew 5:2–12a

Then Jesus began to speak, and taught them, saying: “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people 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.”

Prayer for Leadership

Led by the Rev. Caldwell

Psalms 27:1–3, 13–14

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall. Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Closing Prayer

Led by Dean Baxter

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be numbered, grant to us and to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that we may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love; in your most holy name we pray.

Blessing & Dismissal

Led by Bishop Dixon

Go forth now, into the world in peace; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good, render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor everyone; love and serve the Lord. And the blessing of God Almighty, the God who created us, the God who liberates us, and the God who stays with us throughout eternity be with you this day and forever more. Amen.



Theodore Cardinal McCarrick



Dean Nathan D. Baxter

Sermon for the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance

The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham

President and Mrs. Bush, I want to say a personal word on behalf of many people. Thank you, Mr. President, for calling this Day of Prayer and Remembrance. We needed it at this time. We come together today to affirm our conviction that God cares for us, whatever our ethnic, religious or political background may be.



The Rev. Dr. Billy Graham

*Difficult as it may
be for us to see right
now—this event
can give a message
of hope—hope for
the present, and
hope for the future.*



The Bible says that he's "the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles."

No matter how hard we try words simply cannot express the horror, the shock, and the revulsion we all feel over what took place in this nation on Tuesday morning. September 11 will go down in our history as a day to remember.

Today we say to those who master-minded this cruel plot, and to those who carried it out, that the spirit of this nation will not be defeated by their twisted and diabolical schemes. Some day those responsible will be brought to justice, as President Bush and our Congress have so forcefully stated.

But today, we especially come together in this service to confess our need of God. We've always needed God from the very beginning of this nation, but today we need him especially. We're facing a new kind of enemy. We're involved in a new kind of warfare and we need the help of the Spirit of God. The Bible's words are our hope: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea" (Psalm 46:1, 2).

But how do we understand something like this? Why does God allow evil like this to take place? Perhaps that is what you are asking now. You may even be angry at God. I want to assure you that God understands these feelings that you may have.

We've seen so much on our television, heard on our radio, stories that bring tears to our eyes and make us all feel a sense of

anger. But God can be trusted, even when life seems at its darkest.

But what are some of the lessons we can learn?

First, we are reminded of the mystery and reality of evil.

I have been asked hundreds of times in my life why God allows tragedy and suffering. I have to confess that I really do not know the answer totally, even to my own satisfaction. I have to accept, by faith, that God is sovereign, and he's a God of love and mercy and compassion in the midst of suffering. The Bible says that God is not the author of evil. It speaks of evil as a "mystery." In 2 Thessalonians 2:7 it talks about the mystery of iniquity. The Old Testament prophet Jeremiah said, "The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?" He asked that question, "Who can understand it?" And that's one reason we each need God in our lives.

The lesson of this event is not only about the mystery of iniquity and evil, but secondly, it's a lesson about our need for each other.

What an example New York and Washington have been to the world these past few days! None of us will ever forget the pictures of our courageous firefighters and police, many of whom have lost friends and colleagues, or the hundreds of people attending or standing patiently in line to donate blood. A tragedy like this could have torn our country apart, but instead it has united us and we've become a family. So those perpetrators who took this on to tear us apart, it has worked the other way. It's backlashed, it's backfired. We are more

Remarks by the President of the United States

Mr. George W. Bush

We are here in the middle hour of our grief. So many have suffered so great a loss, and today we express our nation's sorrow. We come before God to pray for the missing and the dead, and for those who love them.

On Tuesday, our country was attacked with deliberate and massive cruelty. We have seen the images of fire and ashes, and bent steel.

Now come the names, the list of casualties we are only beginning to read. They are the names of men and women who began their day at a desk or in an airport, busy with life. They are the names of people who faced death, and in their last moments called home to say, be brave, and I love you.

They are the names of passengers who defied their murderers, and prevented the murder of others on the ground. They are the names of men and women who wore the uniform of the United States, and died at their posts.

They are the names of rescuers, the ones whom death found running up the stairs and into the fires to help others. We will read all these names. We will linger over them, and learn their stories, and many Americans will weep.

To the children and parents and spouses and families and friends of the lost, we offer the deepest sympathy of the nation. And I assure you, you are not alone.

Just three days removed from these events, Americans do not yet have the distance of history. But our responsibility to history is already clear: to answer these attacks and rid the world of evil.

War has been waged against us by stealth and deceit and murder. This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger. This conflict was begun on the timing and terms of others. It will end in a way, and at an hour, of our choosing.

Our purpose as a nation is firm. Yet our wounds as a people are recent and unhealed, and lead us to pray. In many of our prayers this week, there is a searching, and an honesty. At St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York on Tuesday, a woman said, "I prayed to God to give us a sign that he is still here." Others have prayed for the same, searching hospital to hospital,

carrying pictures of those still missing. God's signs are not always the ones we look for. We learn in tragedy that his purposes are not always our own. Yet the prayers of private suffering, whether in our homes or in this great cathedral, are known and heard, and understood.



President George W. Bush

*In this trial, we have
been reminded, and
the world has seen,
that our fellow
Americans are
generous and kind,
resourceful and brave.*



Sermon for the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance (continued)

united than ever before. I think this was exemplified in a very moving way when the members of our Congress stood shoulder to shoulder the other day and sang, “God Bless America.”

Finally, difficult as it may be for us to see right now—this event can give a message of hope—hope for the present, and hope for the future.

Yes, there is hope. There’s hope for the present because I believe the stage has already been set for a new spirit in our nation.

One of the things we desperately need is a spiritual renewal in this country. We need a spiritual revival in America. And God has told us in his Word, time after time, that we are to repent of our sins and we’re to turn to him and he will bless us in a new way.

But, there is also hope for the future because of God’s promises. As a Christian, I have hope, not just for this life, but for heaven and the life to come. And many of those people who died this past week are in heaven right now, and they wouldn’t want to come back. It’s so glorious and so wonderful. And that’s the hope for all of us who put our faith in God. I pray that you will have this hope in your heart.

This event reminds us of the brevity and the uncertainty of life. We never know when we too will be called into eternity. I doubt if even one of those people who got

on those planes, or walked into the World Trade Center or the Pentagon last Tuesday morning thought it would be the last day of their lives. It didn’t occur to them. And that’s why each of us needs to face our own spiritual need and commit ourselves to God and his will now.

Here in this majestic National Cathedral we see all around us symbols of the Cross. For the Christian, I’m speaking for the Christian now, the Cross tells us that God understands our sin and our suffering, for he took upon himself in the person of Jesus Christ our sins and our suffering. And from the Cross, God declares, “I love you. I know the heartaches and the sorrows and the pains that you feel. But I love you.”

The story does not end with the Cross, for Easter points us beyond the tragedy of the Cross to the empty tomb. It tells us that there is hope for eternal life, for Christ has conquered evil and death, and hell. Yes, there is hope.

I’ve become an old man now and I’ve preached all over the world and the older I get the more I cling to that hope that I started with many years ago and proclaimed it in many languages to many parts of the world.

Several years ago at the National Prayer Breakfast here in Washington, Ambassador Andrew Young (who had just gone through the tragic death of his wife),

closed his talk with a quote from the old hymn “How Firm a Foundation.” We all watched in horror as planes crashed into the steel and glass of the World Trade Center. Those majestic towers, built on solid foundations, were examples of the prosperity and creativity of America. When damaged, those build-

ings eventually plummeted to the ground, imploding in upon themselves. Yet, underneath the debris, is a foundation that was not destroyed. Therein lies the truth of that old hymn that Andrew Young quoted, “How Firm a Foundation.” Yes, our nation has been attacked, buildings destroyed, lives lost.

But now we have a choice: whether to implode and disintegrate emotionally and spiritually as a people and a nation—or, whether we choose to become stronger through all of this struggle—to rebuild on a solid foundation. And I believe that we are in the process of starting to rebuild on that foundation. That foundation is our trust in God. That’s what this service is all about and in that faith we have the strength to endure something as difficult and horrendous as what we have experienced this week.

This has been a terrible week with many tears but also has been a week of great faith. Churches all across the country have called prayer meetings and today is a day that they are celebrating not only in this country but in many parts of the world.

And in the words of that familiar hymn that Andrew Young quoted—it says:

*Fear not, I am with thee;
O be not dismayed,
For I am thy God,
and will still give thee aid;
I’ll strengthen thee, help thee,
and cause thee to stand,
Upheld by my righteous,
omnipotent hand.*

My prayer today is that we will feel the loving arms of God wrapped around us, and will know in our hearts that he will never forsake us as we trust in him.

We also know that God is going to give wisdom and courage and strength to the President and those around him. And this is going to be a day that we will remember as a day of victory.

May God bless you all.

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Remarks by the President of the United States (continued)

There are prayers that help us last through the day, or endure the night. There are prayers of friends and strangers, that give us strength for the journey. And there are prayers that yield our will to a will greater than our own.

This world he created is of moral design. Grief and tragedy and hatred are only for a time. Goodness, remembrance, and love have no end. And the Lord of life holds all who die, and all who mourn.

It is said that adversity introduces us to ourselves. This is true of a nation as well. In this trial, we have been reminded, and the world has seen, that our fellow Americans are generous and kind, resourceful and brave. We see our national character in rescuers working past exhaustion; in long lines of blood donors; in thousands of citizens who have asked to work and serve in any way possible.

And we have seen our national character in eloquent acts of sacrifice. Inside the World Trade Center, one man who could have saved himself stayed until the end at the side of his quadriplegic friend. A beloved priest died giving the last rites to a firefighter. Two office workers, finding a disabled stranger, carried her down sixty-eight floors to safety. A group of men drove through the night from Dallas to Washington to bring skin grafts for burn victims.

In these acts, and in many others, Americans showed a deep commitment to one another, and an abiding love for our country. Today, we feel what Franklin Roosevelt called the warm courage of national unity. This is a unity of every faith, and every background.

It has joined together political parties in both houses of Congress. It is evident in services of prayer and candlelight vigils, and American flags, which are displayed in pride, and wave in defiance.

Our unity is a kinship of grief, and a steadfast resolve to prevail against our enemies. And this unity against terror is now extending across the world.

America is a nation full of good fortune, with so much to be grateful for. But we are not spared from suffering. In every generation, the world has produced enemies of human freedom. They have attacked America, because we are freedom's home and defender. And the commitment of our fathers is now the calling of our time.

On this national day of prayer and remembrance, we ask almighty God to watch over our nation, and grant us patience and resolve in all that is to come.

We pray that he will comfort and console those who now walk in sorrow. We thank him for each life we now must mourn, and the promise of a life to come.

As we have been assured, neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, can separate us from God's love. May he bless the souls of the departed. May he comfort our own. And may he always guide our country.

God bless America.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO ARE BEREAVED

O God, whose days are without end and whose mercies cannot be numbered, grant to us and to all who are bereaved the spirit of faith and courage, that we may have strength to meet the days to come with steadfastness and patience; not sorrowing as those without hope, but in thankful remembrance of your great goodness, and in the joyful expectation of eternal life with those we love; in your most holy name we pray. Amen.



Music at the National Day of Prayer and Remembrance Service

Prelude Music

The U.S. Army Orchestra

Lt. Col. Tony W. Cason conductor

Air (Suite III)..... J. S. Bach
Nimrod (Enigma Variations).....Sir Edward Elgar
God Bless America arr. Bruce Healey
Suite from *JFK*..... John Williams
Herz wunden (Wounded Heart) Edward Grieg

Douglas Major, Cathedral Organist

Resurrection.....Larry King (former organist, Trinity Church, Wall St., NY)
Karitas habundat Hildegard von Bingen, arr. Philip Snedecor

U.S. Navy Sea Chanters

Chief Musician Keith D. Hinton

God of Our Fathers..... George Warren
Grace..... John Newton

U.S. Army Orchestra

God Bless America arr. Bruce Healey

The Cathedral Boy and Girl Choristers

Graham Elliott, Assisting Choirmaster

Erik Wm. Suter, Assistant Organist & Choirmaster

Father in thy gracious keepingRichard Dirksen

Hymns

O God Our Help in Ages Past..... (#680, Hymnal 1982)
A Mighty Fortress is Our God(# 688, Hymnal 1982)
Battle Hymn of the Republic.....(# 226, Lift Every Voice and Sing)

Anthem

Cathedral Choristers

My shepherd will supply my need American Folk Melody
(paraphrase of Psalm 23)—arr. Virgil Thomson

Solos

Denyce Graves, Mezzo Soprano

America the Beautiful..... David Perry, guitar
The Lord's PrayerA. H. Malotte; Douglas Major, organ

Douglas Major, Cathedral Organist

Adagio, Symphonic V Charles-Marie Widor



Denyce Graves sings "America the Beautiful," accompanied by David Perry; the Navy Sea Chanters sing prelude music.



The Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls sing the anthem from the crossing steps under the direction of Graham Elliott.



The U.S. Navy Sea Chanters lead the congregation in singing the final hymn, "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

A Prayer in Time of Conflict

O God, you have bound us together in a common life. Help us, in the midst of our struggles for justice and truth, to confront one another without hatred or bitterness, and to work together with mutual forbearance and respect; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus said,

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

—John 14:17

You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be children of your father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have?”

—Matthew 5:43-46a

Litany in Time of Grief and Fear

In this time of grief and fear, let us not hesitate to approach the mercy-seat of God, who knows our needs and cares for us, saying, "Lord, hear our prayer."



O Lord, Creator of all, Reconciler of nations,
Healer of our days,

For George, our president, and Richard, our vice-president, for the members of Congress and the Supreme Court, and for all others in authority, that they may have wisdom as they respond to this violence and calm courage as they guide the people of this land in the days to come, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.



For the people of the world and for the representatives to the United Nations, that we may all be led to seek paths of justice and to race for the prize of peace, and that we may lay aside ancient bitternesses and present resentments for the sake of those who live and of those yet to be born, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For this city of Washington in its crisis; for Anthony, our mayor; for our City Council and Control Board; and for the city of New York and Rudolph, its mayor, that our recovery may be swift and that our confidence may return for the testing of the days ahead, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who think of themselves as our enemies, those we know and those we do not know, that those good things we defend for ourselves may

(l to r) Joining Dean Baxter and Bishop Dixon in the Cathedral's September eleventh Evening Prayer service were two imams affiliated with the InterFaith Conference of Metropolitan Washington.



richly be bestowed on them as well, and that their hearts and ours may be opened and pledged to peace, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For us, that the shaking of our complacency may increase our compassion and our commitment to justice in the commonwealth of our globe, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Church, the Body of Christ, broken by hatreds, that all bishops, clergy and people may be effective signs of the grace you bestow, which preaches peace to those who are far off and to those who are near and which empowers us to be ministers of reconciliation, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the ministry of this cathedral church, that we may enlarge the ways in which we become a house of prayer for all people, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For the healing of the wounds inflicted in these recent attacks, that those broken in body and those reduced by fear may find your grace present in comfort, restoration, and strength, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.



For the comfort of all those families who have suffered unanticipated and irrecoverable losses, that their grief may be true to the memory of their love, and that trust in life may be planted again in their souls, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who have died, that their death may not be in vain and that their rest may be in your arms, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.

Finally, for ourselves, that we may place our lives in your hands, to be instruments of encouragement and reconciliation, channels of comfort, strength, and peace; use us as effective witnesses of the love we have known in your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, we pray to you, O Lord:
Lord, hear our prayer.



All this we ask in the name of Christ, by whose power all this and more can be accomplished, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.



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