

**Davidson College Presbyterian Church**  
**Davidson, North Carolina**  
**Lib McGregor Simmons, Pastor**  
**Post-election Communion Meditation**  
**Psalm 146**  
**November 9, 2016**

For Presbyterians, our Calvinist heritage emphasizes the importance of government. Calvin himself deemed the calling of a magistrate (elected official) to be a higher calling than clergy. Our forebears in the Reformed tradition call us to pray for those who stand for office and those who are elected to office. And so we do. Today we pray and give thanks for our DCPC members Jane Campbell and Bob Brown who had the courage to stand for office. And we pray for elected leaders...for Donald Trump and Mike Pence, for Richard Burr, for our next governor, and for all elected to office.

But we also come to the Table to take to heart the affirmation that is found in Psalm 146 that as people of faith, we do not put our trust in princes, in government. We put our trust in the One who had a strong and stated agenda which he had inherited from the prophets. This agenda is to seek justice for the poor, the oppressed, the hungry, the outsider, the immigrant. It was because of this agenda that Jesus's life was taken from him by the Roman government.

As we come to the Table today, we remember that the Lord's Supper was instituted in the midst of darkness and betrayal and fear. But that darkness was redeemed in resurrection. And so we do not lose hope. We give ourselves over to the work of hope with a renewed energy that issues not from ourselves, but from the very heart of God, energy devoted to creating safety, security, and justice for those who are most vulnerable in our nation and in our world.

And so, let us come together in unity. Let us pray that we have the will to work together, to dream together, to love one another to the end, remembering that the moral arc of the universe-though long-continues, through God's grace, to bend toward justice for all.

Prayer:

Yesterday, as citizens, we were called to the voting booth.

Today, as Christ followers, we are called to the Table, to the bread and the cup.

And so, let us come to the Table, a Table that has been spread, not for the rich and the powerful and the privileged, but for those who are broken. Come, receive the body of Christ which was broken and his blood which was shed.

We praise and thank you, Lord God, creator of the universe, for your goodness toward us. We thank you that you loved the world...the whole world and every one and every creature in it...that you sent your beloved Son so that we may be saved as we walk his way of love and peace.

O God, you are the God of Republicans and Democrats and Libertarians and Green Party voters and Independents. At your Table, we remember how you declared us to be one, one with you and one with each other.

At your table we pray for Donald Trump, for Mike Pence, for all you have been elected to office. We pray for our nation and for our world. When we are tempted toward meanness and deception, make our words kind and true. When we are seduced into blame and accusation, enable us to listen and to try to understand. In all things, make us your people who break down dividing walls, speak the truth in love, and respect one another in the face of disagreement.