

The prayer below was read by Claudia Torrey, in conjunction with the “Cell Phone” Devotional, on Friday, June 13, 2008 at the Annual Meeting of the Synod Coordinating Team Meeting of Presbyterian Women, Synod of Living Waters, held in Huntsville, Alabama.

The following prayer is from the book “Prayers of the People” authored by The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Walker (slight modifications read with permission from the author):

Dear God, remind us that you are the Lord of history. When we are disturbed by the abuse of your beautiful world, help us to remember our call to be stewards of your creation. When our hearts are saddened by war and violence and human cruelty, show us a vision of a new heaven and earth when the wolf and the lamb shall feed together and no one shall ever be hurt or destroyed. When hope grows dim for a kinder, gentler, better existence for those who will live after us, do not let us forget that the meek shall inherit the earth and peacemakers will be called the children of God. On this day, remind us that the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness shall never overcome it. How grateful we are that what seems real to us may not be real to you; that

what seems powerful and impressive and overwhelming to us may not seem so to you. Strengthen our faint hearts, O God. Calm our spirits. Help us to believe your Word and your promises proclaimed by prophets and demonstrated in the life, death and resurrection of your beloved Son.

We continue our prayers for peace: in Iraq, among Palestinians and Jews, among warring factions in Sudan and other regions of Africa, and throughout the world, Lord God, wherever your human creatures are in conflict. Hear our prayers for peace.

We give thanks for the freedom and privilege in this nation to elect those who govern us. Grant, O God, that the election before us in November may rise above acrimonious attacks and name-calling so that our nation may face the future with a degree of unity despite our diversity, and that we may use our gifts of leadership, wealth and power for the peace, prosperity and welfare of all humanity.

We remember those who are sick, lonely, grieving or who struggle with problems of which we are unaware. Bless them, loving God, and touch them with the grace and comfort of your Holy Spirit.

On this day, we are unspeakably grateful that you are, indeed, the Lord of history, and that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor anything in all creation can separate us from your love expressed

in Jesus our Lord, who taught us to pray saying Our Father, (conclude with The Lord's Prayer)....

The Rev. Dr. Thomas D. Walker is currently the Parish Associate at First Presbyterian Church in Nashville, Tennessee, and is Pastor Emeritus of First Presbyterian Church in Franklin, Tennessee.