



**P:** Today we especially pray for our nation, for all those in governance and all its people who make it a great and wonderful. We pray that the nation continues to grow on the principles laid down by the founding fathers – principles of commitment, responsibility, happiness and liberty. We pray for God’s abiding vision, blessing and presence in our great nation – India. Amen

### **Opening Hymn**

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,  
Naught be all else to me, save that thou art;  
Thou my best thought, by day and by night,  
Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, and thou my true word,  
I ever with Thee, and Thou with me Lord;  
Thou my great Father, and I thy true son;  
Thou in me dwelling, and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise:  
Thou mine inheritance now and always;  
Thou and thou only first in my heart;  
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.  
by Eleanor Hull, 1912

### **Kauma**

P. †Glory be to the Father our Creator, to the Son our Redeemer and to the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us.

C. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

P. Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory, Hosanna in the highest.

C. Blessed is He that has come and is to come again in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

P. Holy art thou, O God.

C. Holy art thou, Almighty Lord.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah who was crucified for us † have mercy on us. **(To be repeated thrice)**

P. O Lord have mercy on us.  
C. O Lord have mercy on us and bless us.

P. O Lord accept our prayers and worship and have mercy on us.  
C. Glory be to you, O God.

P. Glory be to you, O Creator.  
C. Glory be to you, O King the Messiah; who has mercy on us sinners. Bless us, O Lord.  
(Let us sing together the prayer that Jesus taught us)

***All: Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name,  
Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, On earth as it is done in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread.  
And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.  
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, Forever. Amen.***

**(Cong. to be seated)**

Lesson 1 Gen 11:1-9

Lesson 2 Timothy 2:14-26

### **L: Meditation**



**E. Stanley Jones with Alexander Mar Thoma Metropolitan**

E. Stanley Jones once asked Mahatma Gandhi for his opinion about the formation of Christianity in India. Mahatma Gandhi gave four answers to this question.

"Mahatma Gandhi, I am very anxious to see Christianity naturalized in India, so that it shall no longer be a foreign thing identified with a foreign people and a foreign government, but a part of the national life of India and contributing to India's uplift and redemption. What would you suggest that we do to make that possible?"

Mahatma Gandhi very gravely and thoughtfully replied: "I would suggest, first, that all of you Christians, missionaries and all, must begin to live more like Jesus Christ."

"Second," says Gandhi in response to Jones's question about Christianity in India, "I would suggest that you must practise your religion without adulterating or toning it down."

Stanley Jones then writes the following: "The greatest living non-Christian asks us not to adulterate it or tone it down, but to take it in its rugged simplicity and high demand. But what are we doing? As someone has suggested, we are inoculating the world with a mild form of Christianity, so that it is now practically immune against the real thing."

"Third," pronounced Gandhi in response to Jones, "I should suggest that you must put your emphasis upon love, for love is the centre and soul of Christianity."

Jones then says this: "He did not mean love as a sentiment, but love as a working force, the one-real power in a moral universe, and he wanted it applied between individuals and groups and races and nations, the one cement and salvation of the world. With a soul so sensitive to the meaning of love no wonder there were tears in his eyes when I read to him at that point the thirteenth chapter of First Corinthians."

"Fourth, I would suggest that you study the non-Christian religions and culture more sympathetically in order to find the good that is in them, so that you might have a more sympathetic approach to the people." To this Jones responds, "Quite right. We should be grateful for any truth found anywhere, knowing that it is a finger post that points to Jesus, who is the Truth."

The mission we are called to embrace and follow is so simple, yet we are negligent of it. We try to fulfill our Christian life with a host of extraneous details, when the real thing we must do is seek to live more like Jesus Christ. Gandhi can see that the power of Christianity is Christ—why are we so dense? O Christian, live like Christ! Be like Christ! Follow, imitate, copycat Christ! And let nothing else cloud the clarity of our common call!

~ E. Stanley Jones, *The Christ of the Indian Road*

<https://toolshedmeditations.wordpress.com/2012/11/13/stanley-jones-and-mahatma-gandhi-part-1-of-4/>



Bishop Juhanon Mar Thoma Metropolitan E. Stanley Jones

**L: And the greatest of these is love. I CORINTHIANS 13: 1-13**

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud.

It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs.

Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth.

It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

For we know in part and we prophesy in part,  
but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears.

When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me.

For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. **And the greatest of these is love.**

**Hymn**

**Oh, for a Thousand tongues to sing**

My great Redeemer's praise,  
The glories of my God and king,  
The triumphs of His grace!

My gracious Master and my God,  
Assist me to proclaim,  
To spread through all the earth abroad,  
The honors of Thy name.

Jesus! the name that charms our fears,  
That bids our sorrows cease—

'Tis music in the sinner's ears,  
'Tis life, and health, and peace.

He speaks, and listening to His voice  
New life the dead receive  
The mournful, broken hearts rejoice  
The humble poor believe

**L: Where the mind is without fear**

Rabindranath Tagore is considered one of the greatest writers in Indian literature. A Bengali poet, novelist, educator and Nobel Laureate for Literature in 1913, Tagore was awarded a knighthood in 1915. But he surrendered it in 1919 in protest against the Massacre at Amritsar, where British troops killed around 400 Indian demonstrators.

In this poem, Rabindranath Tagore explains the kind of awakening the dream of new India should lead us to: -

Where the mind is without fear  
and the head is held high.  
Where knowledge is free.  
Where the world has not been  
broken up into fragments by narrow domestic walls.  
Where words come out from the depth of truth.  
Where tireless striving  
stretches its arms towards perfection.  
Where the clear stream of reason  
has not lost its way into the dreary desert sand of dead habit.  
Where the mind is led forward by thee,  
Into ever-widening thought and action  
Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.

**(Cong. to stand)**

**Prayer of Confession**

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

**P:** Dear Lord, forgive us for wanting our own way and making our own paths—often the ones paved with least resistance.

**C:** Forgive us for not standing up against wrong,  
for not challenging those who question our liberty.  
Help us stand united, free us from divisiveness,  
and melt our hardened hearts to love, not hate, and to heal, not debate.  
Guide us to share your love through this great nation- the love that does not ask in return but gives so freely, and gives to all. Amen

*Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson  
Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy*

**Psalm 145 A psalm of praise.**

**P:**<sup>1</sup> I will exalt you, my God the King;  
I will praise your name for ever and ever.

<sup>2</sup> Every day I will praise you  
and extol your name for ever and ever.

**C:**<sup>3</sup> Great is the LORD and most worthy of praise;  
his greatness no one can fathom.  
One generation commends your works to another;  
they tell of your mighty acts.

**P:**<sup>5</sup> They speak of the glorious splendor of your majesty—  
and I will meditate on your wonderful works.<sup>[b]</sup>  
They tell of the power of your awesome works—  
and I will proclaim your great deeds.

**C:**<sup>7</sup> They celebrate your abundant goodness  
and joyfully sing of your righteousness.  
The LORD is gracious and compassionate,  
slow to anger and rich in love.

**P:**<sup>9</sup> The LORD is good to all;  
he has compassion on all he has made.  
All your works praise you, LORD;  
your faithful people extol you.

**C:**<sup>11</sup> They tell of the glory of your kingdom  
and speak of your might,  
so that all people may know of your mighty acts  
and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

**P:**<sup>13</sup> Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
and your dominion endures through all generations.  
The LORD is trustworthy in all he promises  
and faithful in all he does.<sup>[c]</sup>

**C:**<sup>14</sup> The LORD upholds all who fall  
and lifts up all who are bowed down.  
The eyes of all look to you,  
and you give them their food at the proper time.

**P:**<sup>16</sup> You open your hand  
and satisfy the desires of every living thing.  
The LORD is righteous in all his ways  
and faithful in all he does.  
The LORD is near to all who call on him,  
to all who call on him in truth.

**C:**<sup>19</sup> He fulfills the desires of those who fear him;  
he hears their cry and saves them.  
The LORD watches over all who love him,  
but all the wicked he will destroy.  
My mouth will speak in praise of the LORD.  
Let every creature praise his holy name  
for ever and ever.

## **Intercessory Prayers**

**L:** Dear Lord, we pray for all our leaders-we pray for the President, the Prime Minister, the Governor, the Chief Minister, the Mayor and all those in offices of Government. Guide them in their duties, let them understand and be inspired that 'Government work is God's work'. Give them purity in their intentions, and godliness in their convictions. Energize their spirits and bodies physically and spiritually, protect and provide for their families. Dear Lord, we pray for comfort in times of despair, strength in moments of doubt and guidance in their decision making. Inspire them to great deeds for the country.

(To be sung)

Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us  
o'er the world's tempestuous sea;  
guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us,  
for we have no help but thee;  
yet possessing every blessing,  
if our God our Father be.

**L:** We pray for the Defense forces, the Police and Fire departments, dear Lord, strengthen them and protect them. We are grateful for their commitment and sacrifice for our great nation. We pray especially for their families- in their moments of doubts and worry be their reassurance. We pray for all who work in the many departments that maintain our city. We pray especially for the pourakarmikas and their families. We are grateful for all the work they do for us. Heavenly Father help us as individuals to be more responsible to our country- to keep it clean and nurture it. Help us to contribute to the progress of our nation. Guide us not to be complainers but doers, put us into action to build a better world for everyone. Amen

**C:** Saviour, breathe forgiveness o'er us:  
all our weakness thou dost know;  
thou didst tread this earth before us,  
Thou didst make its wonders grow  
Healed with love you saved so many  
Giving joy to those below.

**L:** Loving Lord, we pray especially for our farmers, for a better support system for their thankless efforts. We pray for all in education, commerce and business lead them with ideas to innovate and grow. We pray for all in the medical field, bless them with the healing touch. Bless the makers and keepers of the law, Heavenly father, bless the peacemakers. Bless all our priests as they Minister to Your people. We pray all this with a heart of thankfulness that we have been blessed to live in this country. May peace and prosperity abound in our nation. Amen.

**C:** Spirit of our God, descending,  
fill our hearts with heavenly joy,  
love with every passion blending,  
pleasure that can never cloy:  
thus provided, pardoned, guided,  
nothing can our peace destroy.

Author: James Edmeston (1821)

### **Gospel Reading**

**P:** †Peace be with you all.

**C:** May the Lord make us all worthy to listen to His Word.

**P:** The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, which proclaims life and salvation to the world as recorded by Matthew 5:38-48

**C:** Blessed is He that has come and will come again. Praise to the Father who sent him for our Salvation. May His blessings be ever upon us.

**P:** In the days of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour, the Word of life, God incarnate of the blessed Virgin Mary, it happened in this way.

**C:** So we believe and affirm.

(After reading the Gospel, the priest says, †'Peace be with you all')

**C:** We thank you, Lord, that you have given us your gospel which is indeed the light of the world, that we may be drawn closer to you through the living words from your gospel which we have now heard.

### **The Nicene Creed**

We believe in the one true God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.

We believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all world; Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made, who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man. He was crucified also for us in the days of Pontius Pilate; suffered and died and was buried. The third day He rose again, by His Father's holy will, ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of the Father. He will come again, with glory, to judge both the living and the dead and of His kingdom there will be no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets and the apostles. We believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the new life of the world to come. Amen.

### **(Cong. to be seated)**

### **Birthday, Wedding Anniversary & Thanksgiving**

O God of Bethel, by whose hand  
thy people still are fed,  
who through this weary pilgrimage  
Hast all our fathers led;

Our vows, our prayers, we now present  
before thy throne of grace;  
God of our fathers, be the God  
of their succeeding race.

Through each perplexing path of life  
our wandering footsteps guide;  
give us each day our daily bread,  
and raiment fit provide.

O spread thy covering wings around  
till all our wanderings cease,  
and at our Father's loved abode  
our souls arrive in peace.

Such blessings from thy gracious hand  
Our humble prayers implore  
And thou shalt be our chosen God  
And portion evermore  
Author: Philip Doddridge (1736)  
Music- Edward J. Hopkins, 1862

### **Offertory Hymn**

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,  
God of glory, Lord of love;  
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,  
Op'ning to the sun above.  
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;  
Drive the dark of doubt away;  
Giver of immortal gladness,  
Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,  
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,  
Stars and angels sing around Thee,  
Center of unbroken praise.  
Field and forest, vale and mountain,  
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,  
Singing bird and flowing fountain  
Call us to rejoice in Thee.

Thou art giving and forgiving,  
Ever blessing, ever blest,  
Wellspring of the joy of living,  
Ocean depth of happy rest!  
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother,  
All who live in love are Thine;  
Teach us how to love each other,  
Lift us to the joy divine.

Mortals, join the happy chorus,  
Which the morning stars began;  
Father love is reigning o'er us,  
Brother love binds man to man.  
Ever singing, march we onward,  
Victors in the midst of strife,  
Joyful music leads us sunward  
In the triumph song of life.

Hymn – Ode to Joy- Ludwig van Beethoven arr. by Edward Hodges, 1824  
Text- Henry J. Van Dyke, 1907

## MESSAGE

### Closing Prayer

**L:** Lord, we ask that you continue to bless this nation and provide the leaders with the wisdom to guide us in the right direction. We ask that you speak to them in different ways so that they make decisions that honor you and make our lives better. Lord, we pray that they continue to do what is best for all the people and the growth of our country.

**C:** Lord, thank you for allowing me to live in this country.

Lord, I pray for your blessings today on this great nation and on all those who govern it.

I thank you for allowing me to live in a place that lets me pray to you every day,  
that lets me speak out my beliefs.

Thank you for the blessing that this country is to me and my family. Amen

### Doxology and kiss of Peace

We are One in The Spirit,

We are One in The Lord.

We are One in The Spirit,

We are One in The Lord.

And we pray that all unity

may one day be restored.

Chorus

*And they'll know we are Christians by our love, By our Love,*

*Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

We will work with each other,

We will work side by side.

We will work with each other,

We will work side by side.

And we'll guard each man's dignity

And save each man's pride.

We will walk with each other,

We will walk hand in hand.

We will walk with each other,

We will walk hand in hand.

And together we'll spread the News

that God is in our land.

Peter Scholte

### The National Anthem

Jana-Gana-Mana-Adhinayaka, Jaya He

Bharata-Bhagya-Vidhata

Punjab-Sindhu-Gujarata-Maratha

Dravida-Utkala-Banga

Vindhya-Himachala-Yamuna-Ganga

Uchchhala-Jaladhi Taranga

Tava Subha Name Jage

Tava Subha Ashisa Mage

Gahe Tava Jaya Gatha.  
Jana-Gana-Mangala Dayaka, Jaya He  
Bharata-Bhagya-Vidhata,  
Jaya He, Jaya He, Jaya He,  
Jaya Jaya Jaya, Jaya He

