



P: Opening Prayer

God of Freedom and Justice, today we have come to celebrate our country's 73rd Independence day, with all its diversity, beauty and fraternity. We remember and pray for those who have set apart their lives in the service of this great country, those who have sacrificed their lives for our country and those who have brought about changes in our lives. We pray for and honour our Firefighters who are engaged in untiring service day and night. We pray that this service would inspire us into meaningful actions in order to accomplish greater things for our country and to respect all people as God's children. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. 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 or 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; I Thy true son,
Thou in me dwelling and I with thee one.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise;
Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and thou only first in my heart,
High King of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, my victory won,
May I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my vision, O Ruler of all.
by Eleanor Hull, 1912

Kauma

P. Glory be to the Father, to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
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 God.

P. Holy art thou, Immortal Lord.

C. O Lord, the Messiah, who was crucified for us have mercy on us

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)

1st Lesson: Exodus 18:13-27

2nd Lesson: Galatians 5:1-6

Meditation

L: Excerpts from speeches by former President of India APJ Abdul kalam

When I was a boy of 10 years, I would regularly witness the meetings of three people in my house: Pakshi Lakshmana Sastrigal, the head priest of the famous Rameswaram temple and a Vedic scholar; Rev. Fr. Bodel, who built the first church in Rameswaram island; and my father, who was an Imam in the local mosque. All three of them would sit together and discuss the island's problems and come up with solutions. In addition, they built religious bridges with their compassion. This memory always comes to my mind whenever I think of what kind of a world our youth need to strive to create.

India has had a culture of integration of minds for thousands of years. What I wish to say is that we need to teach our youth to transcend the divides that exist in society. That is the only way for them to solve many of the problems plaguing our nation and the world.

I have three visions for India. In 3000 years of our history, people from all over the world have come and invaded us, captured our lands, conquered our minds. From Alexander onwards, The Greeks, the Turks, the Moguls, the Portuguese, the British, the French, the Dutch, all of them came and looted us, took over what was ours. Yet we have not done this to any other nation. We have not conquered anyone. We have not grabbed their land, their culture, their history and tried to enforce our way of life on them. Why? Because we respect the freedom of others.

That is why my first vision is that of **Freedom**. I believe that India got its first vision of this in 1857, when we started the war of Independence. It is this freedom that we must protect and nurture and build on. If we are not free, no one will respect us.

My second vision for India's **Development**, for years we have been A developing nation. It is time we see ourselves as a developed nation. We are among top nations of the world in terms of GDP. We have good growth rate in most areas. Our poverty levels are falling. Our achievements are being globally recognized today. Yet we lack the self-confidence to see ourselves as a developed nation, self-reliant and self-assured. Isn't this incorrect?

I have a third vision, **India must stand up to the world**. Because I believe that unless India stands up to the world, no one will respect us. Only strength respects strength. We must be strong not only as a military power but also as an economic power. Both must go hand-in-hand for the greater good of the country.

Pathways To Greatness: Coming Together For Change by A P J Abdul Kalam and his speech at the Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad, <https://www.dqindia.com/apj-abdul-kalams-vision-for-india-a-must-read-for-all-indians/>

Hymn

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,
God of glory, Lord of love;
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee,
Opening 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 heaven reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flowery 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 to Joy Ludwig van Beethoven arr. by Edward Hodges, 1824 Text- Henry J. Van Dyke, 1907.

L: The Firefighter

Beneath embered brands of burning roof,
The firefighter waits.
His mask is on; he's donned his gloves,
Ready to enter the fiery state.
Once again to battle beast,
Whose heart burns with flaming hate.

On hands and knees he treads with care
Over blackened brittle floor.
Making way through smoke dark rooms
Fighting fear from door to door.
Outstretched arms reach for muffled screams
Heard above the deafening roar.

Hoping to find before too late,
The source of curdling screams.
A scenario played all too oft
Within the hero's dreams.
The task at hand his only thought
And the safety of his team.

Crying, scared a young child waits
For rescue from choking heat.
Then through the blackness something tugs
And pulls his trembling feet.
A Vadered voice says "it's OK"
And hugs him to the street.

The fire alone remains to beat;
And return to fight he goes.
To find the beast alive and well;
Destroying, as it grows.
He aims his weapon at the seat
And from it water flows.

The devil dies as fire gives in
To the water's cooling spray.
The house is gone; but at least,
No lives were lost today.
So back he jumps on bright red truck,
And into night he rides away.

In quiet contemplation,
The firefighter stares.
Holding back a hundred thoughts
That none might see him scared.
But he pushes fear aside,
And treads where others do not dare!
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Cong to stand

Prayer of Confession

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

P: *Heavenly Father forgive us our failures.*

We confess that we have to contribute more of our time and talents to this great nation you have blessed us with.

C: *We have to be truly proud of our country and its great history
We have to respect all individuals irrespective of state or language.*

We have to know and care for our neighbours.

We have to follow the rules and laws of the country and strive to do good without expecting anything in return.

We have to do our duties by keeping our cities clean, saving rainwater, planting and nurturing the environment.

We have to help the poor and those suffering calamities.

We have to be examples of your goodness in our day to day working so that people can see You through us.

Forgive us our failings and lead us in your love. Amen.

Absolution

P: The God of liberation, love and freedom, has forgiven our sins. May He enable us to love and care for all His creation in this world, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson, Kyrie Elieson
Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy

Intercessory Prayers

L: Dear Lord, we pray for our country's political and religious leaders. Guide them to govern the country towards progress and peace. As Civil servants, let them understand that their duty is to serve

God and the country. We pray for the soldiers who protect our borders, for the men and women who police for our safety and for the fire and security personnel who put their lives on the line for our protection. We pray especially for their families, and at this time we remember the widowed and children who have been orphaned by wars, fires and natural calamities. Dear Lord as you have commanded us, help us to understand and respect our neighbour. We pray for your love to bring peace and unity in our country...

C: To be sung

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.

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

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

L: Merciful Father in heaven, look down in Your love upon all those who protect us from the ravages of fire and flame. Grant them the courage and skills to carry out their duties well and safely. When they must go into the face of danger, be by their side in the smoke and flames. Watch over their families, ever reminding them that those who fight fire are also in Your loving care. This, we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Amen

C: *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.....

L: We pray for the Captains of the industries and those in charge of Finance. Help them to understand the morals and responsibility that comes with creating great wealth. We pray for farmers who are affected by drought and flood, be their hope in times of despair. We pray for workers everywhere especially for those who have to find work away from their families.

C: *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 one's dignity and save each one's pride.....

L: We pray for our Church. Let it be a beacon of your goodness O Lord. Let your wonderful light shine through us that we radiate your great glory and love in our society.

At this time, we pray for the many who are affected by flooding. We place in your care all those who are part of the relief operations. We pray that you will guide us to be of help to the many we see suffering. *Amen*

C: *All praise to the Father, from whom all things come,*

And all praise to Christ Jesus, his only Son,

And all praise to the Spirit, who makes us one.....

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 the Evangelist Luke 20:20-25

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)

P: †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

*Fading away like the stars of the morning,
Losing their light in the glorious sun--
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.*

*Only remembered, only remembered,
Only remembered by what we have done;
Thus would we pass from the earth and its toiling,
Only remembered by what we have done.*

*Shall we be missed though by others succeeded,
Reaping the fields we in springtime have sown?
No, for the sowers may pass from their labors,
Only remembered by what they have done.*

*Only the truth that in life we have spoken,
Only the seed that on earth we have sown;
These shall pass onward when we are forgotten,
Fruits of the harvest and what we have done.*

*Oh, when the Saviour shall make up His jewels,
When the bright crowns of rejoicing are won,
Then shall His weary and faithful disciples,
All be remembered by what they have done.*
Author: Horatius Bonar

Honouring of Firefighters

P: Prayer for Firefighters and Home Guards

Our Omnipresent God, We pray for firefighters and others who hold dangerous jobs where lives often hang in the balance...

C: *When they face danger—be their stronghold. (Psalm 9:9b)
When they feel inadequate—help them do all things through Christ. (Philippians 4:13)
When they're upset—give them peace at all times and in every way. (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
When they're exhausted—give them Your strength. (Isaiah 40:29)
When they're overwhelmed—may Your grace be sufficient. (2 Corinthians 12:9a)
When things seem impossible—remind them that nothing is too hard for You. (Jeremiah 32:17)
When they don't know what to do—show them the way. (Isaiah 30:21)
When they're in trouble—be their ever-present help. (Psalm 46:1)
When they're confused—give them a sound mind. (2 Timothy 1:7b)
When they're afraid—help them trust in You. (Psalm 56:3)
When their heart grows faint—be their Rock. (Psalm 61:2b)
Bring them through fire and flood, that they may praise You. (Psalm 66:12, 17)*

<https://www.beliefnet.com/prayers/protestant/work/prayer-for-firefighters-and-emergency-responders.aspx#rdmddOYfOMSJWD0Q.99>

Offertory Hymn

"Great is Thy faithfulness," O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;

Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not
As Thou hast been Thou forever wilt be.

*"Great is Thy faithfulness!" "Great is Thy faithfulness!"
Morning by morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
"Great is Thy faithfulness," Lord, unto me!*

Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above,
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love.

Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!

Lyrics: Thomas Obediah Chisholm (1866-1960); Music: William Marion Runyan (1870-1957)

Message

Cong to stand

Closing prayer

P. Dear Lord, There is no greater feeling of liberation than to experience this freedom from sin and death that you have provided for us through Jesus Christ.

C. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this I am very thankful.

P. On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

C. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that my freedom was purchased with a very high price. My freedom cost others their very lives.

P. Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for our freedom. Meet their needs and watch over their families.

C. Help me to live my life in a way that glorifies you, Lord. Give me the strength to be a blessing in someone else's life today and grant me the opportunity to lead others into the freedom that can be found in knowing Christ.

Almighty God, bless our nation and make it true to the ideas of freedom and justice and brotherhood for all. Guard us from war, from fire and wind, from compromise, fear and confusion. Be close to our President and our Prime Minister and all leaders. Give them vision and courage, as they ponder decisions affecting peace and the future of our country. Make us more deeply aware of our heritage, realizing not only our rights, but also our duties and responsibilities as a citizen. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

P: Benediction

May our country and its people be blessed with the peace that passeth all understanding. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

Doxology and Kiss of peace

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Vast, unmeasured, boundless, free;
rolling as a mighty ocean
in its fullness over me.
Underneath me, all around me,
is the current of thy love;
leading onward, leading homeward,
to thy glorious rest above.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Spread his praise from shore to shore;
how he loveth, ever loveth,
changeth never, nevermore;
how he watches o'er his loved ones,

died to call them all his own;
how for them he intercedeth,
watcheth o'er them from the throne.

O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
Love of ev'ry love the best:
'tis an ocean vast of blessing,
'tis a haven sweet of rest.
O the deep, deep love of Jesus!
'Tis a heav'n of heav'ns to me;
and it lifts me up to glory,
for it lifts me up to thee.

Author: S. Trevor Francis; Tune: EBENEZER (Williams)

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

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Primrose Mar Thoma Church, August 2019