

VIGIL FOR PEACE AND UNITY
Opening Prayer
First Congregational Church Green
January 19, 2021 – 6 PM

This prayer was written by James Campbell and then delivered by the local clergy people listed below.

Gracious God, we thank you for those prophets and sages who have come before us, who proclaimed the peace, equity, and justice that still inspires our best impulses as a community and nation.

-the Rev. Dr. James Campbell, Senior Minister, First Congregational Church of Cheshire

We thank you for those who have labored for this democracy, who have believed that out of many people and languages and cultures and faiths, one common nation could be formed, strengthened by its diversity.

-Rabbi Micah Ellenson of Temple Beth David

We confess that we do not always live into the full promise of this nation. Our fears and desperation sometimes cause us to lose sight of the goal. We forget that our founders wished us to be “a city set on a hill,” providing light and inspiration to others. Forgive us, we pray, and set us back on the path toward a more perfect union.

-the Rev. Kenneth Kieffer, Pastor, Cheshire United Methodist Church

We thank you for all those who serve the common good, who keep the peace, who protect the weak, who speak for those without voice. Strengthen them in their resolve. Protect them as they serve. Bless them and their families with your grace.

-Father Jeffrey Romans, Pastor, Saint Bridget of Sweden Parish

Look with mercy on this nation as we face these troubling times. Give us courage to confront those things that tear us apart. Give us ears to hear our neighbors’ stories. Govern the hearts of those who govern us. And make all human hearts as generous and kind as your own.

-the Rev. Sandra Stayner, Rector, St. Peter’s Episcopal Church

God of Peace, we call upon you now to be our shalom, our wholeness. Let your peace fill our hearts, our homes, our community, this nation, and the world. Bring us to that land of promise, proclaimed by prophets and sages, and dreamed about by the faithful in every age. In your gracious name we pray. Amen.

-the Rev. Alison McCaffrey, Associate Minister, First Congregational Church of Cheshire