

## You are Called to Vote!

*Romans 13: 7-8*

*Pay to all what is due to them- taxes to whom taxes are due, revenue to whom revenue is due, respect to whom respect is due, honor to whom honor is due. Owe to no one anything, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.*

I suspect that many of you have thought about or even decided who you are going to vote for in the upcoming election. As a pastor, I will never tell you who you should vote for, that decision is yours and yours alone. As a pastor, I will tell you that you need to vote. It is part of our civic duty and according to Martin Luther an obligation for us to participate in the voting process.

Some people are frustrated saying there are no good candidates, so they are going to sit this one out. I want to share with you some words shared by one of my favorite contemporary theologians and writers, Diana Butler Bass. She thought about what Jesus might say about this election and about the temptation to just sit this one out.

First, she notes that the world is already in trouble. We are dealing with racism, a global pandemic, wildfires burning the west coast and economic uncertainty. Second, we are dealing with people, so whichever party or candidate you support, recognize that they are human and imperfect. Pay attention to the facts and then act accordingly, pay attention to those who are marginalized in our society and listen to their voices. No one candidate might meet all your expectations but do not dissuade you from voting. Remember that people have fought wars and died to protect our right to vote. Do not give it up!

If you are not registered to vote, please do it now. You can vote by mail or in person. Contact [VotesPA.com](http://VotesPA.com) for more info. There are four ways to register to vote; online, by mail, in person at a county voter office, or at PennDOT license centers. Make sure you register before October 19, 2020 to be eligible to vote in the upcoming November 3<sup>rd</sup> election.

I offer the following prayer as you contemplate voting in the upcoming election.

Gracious and Loving God, we give you thanks for all the blessings you give to us. Guide our hearts and our minds as we approach the upcoming election and help us to cast our votes with care. Help us to hear the voices of those most in need in our society and help us to listen carefully to those who are running for an elected office. The decisions we make on November 3<sup>rd</sup> will determine the direction of our country into 2021 and we pray that you would guide all elected leaders to focus on the needs of those at risk and to promote a more peaceful and loving society. We ask for your strength and your peace as we move through the next several weeks. Give us ears to listen and patience with those who disagree with us. In Jesus name we pray.

Amen

May God's love flow through your heart and spirit as you contemplate your votes for November 3<sup>rd</sup>.

In Peace,

Pastor Suzanne