



## A Pastoral Letter to the people of the Diocese of Milwaukee on the 2016 Elections

Dear friends in Christ,

On Monday of this week, I found myself drawn to the words of the hymn, “All my Hope on God is Founded”, a hymn whose words have comforted me time and time again during the course of my life. I write to you today, the day after the 2016 election, to remind you in the words of this hymn that God will guide us through this time of change, as he has through so many changes before. My prayer, as expressed in our Book of Common Prayer, is that we “who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life will rest in God’s eternal changelessness”.

I know that there are many members of this diocese who are deeply distressed and saddened by the outcome of this election and what they perceive it says about our nation, just as there are those who are delighted by its outcome and the message it sends particularly to all those Republicans and Democrats currently in power. I commend to you the [words our Presiding Bishop, Michael Curry, recorded on Election Day](#) in which he reminded us that we are “one nation, under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.” This is a common creed of all Americans and it is for this purpose we must continue to strive. As Bishop Curry reminded us, if we live up to this creed, we will truly be a shining example to the world.

I am reminded of the words of the Apostle Paul, who wrote to the Church at Philippi that “our citizenship is in heaven and from it we await a savior”. I remind you of these words, not as an escape but as an invitation to engagement. The word that is translated citizenship is *politeuma*, a Greek word which means a way of engaging and living in the world. As Christians regardless of our partisan position, we are called to live the heavenly way, striving to participate in the doing of God’s will on earth as in heaven.

This Sunday, I will, as I do most every Sunday, visit one of our congregations and preside at baptism, confirmation, and reception. Again, I will call the candidates and all present to affirm their renunciation of evil and their commitment to Jesus Christ and all will affirm their commitment to a view of the world we live in as created by a loving God, redeemed through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and sustained by God’s spirit. All will promise to seek Christ in everyone, to love their neighbor as themselves, and strive for justice and peace among all people. That is what we do as Episcopalian Christians. Living out these vows gives credence to our witness. Our Anglican comprehensiveness enables us to be people of both/and rather than people of either/or.

I believe that we have been called for such a time as this to be leaders, healers and reconcilers.

As you come to the Lord’s Table this Sunday, may you receive the grace of the body of Christ, to be Christ to the world.

In Christ’s service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "S. A. Miller".

The Rt. Rev. Steven A. Miller  
Bishop of Milwaukee

