

A Prayer for President Barack Obama

Delivered by The Rev. Timothy Ahrens

May 5, 2012

At The Ohio State University

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Almighty God, Creator of the Universe and each one of us, giver of all that is good, all that we have and all that we are, we begin in You and we are embraced and given strength in the power of Your Holy Spirit. You are gracious and loving and we give You all the glory!

On this Glorious Day, we are mindful that your Holy Scriptures declare: "Hear, O Israel, the LORD is our God, the LORD is one." You are the compassionate and merciful One. You love everyone You have made. And you have made everyone. In You O Lord, we are One.

As we begin today, we confess the times and places we have not fully loved you or loved our neighbors. Forgive us, O God and create a clean heart within us.

Help us to love our neighbor.

Help us to help the forgotten Americans who look to us for help.

Help us to welcome home our soldiers returning from war, as they seek healing and work.

Help us all to be patriots and together to be the nation you created us to be – one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty AND justice for all!

For Your amazing grace and all your love we give You thanks.

On this "Kick-off" Day, we especially give You thanks for bringing us together as

"Buckeyes" as we pray, listen, shout out, organize, sing, and step forward in faith and conviction for your beloved son and our beloved President and leader Barack Obama. We believe Ohio is the heartbeat of America. We pray that our Ohio heartbeat is strong and steady for our president!

We remember that Barack Obama has risen from humble beginnings and ascended to become our nation's leader and our commander in chief. He has shared all his gifts with us in troubling times and we are grateful for him.

We are thankful for the deep and abiding values instilled in Barack Obama by his mother Ann – values of hard work, love for all people, fairness, compassion, and faith. Guide him in the days ahead as he continues to be bold in leading and making tough decisions for the common good of all Americans. May the spirit of his mother live on in him still!

We ask You to love and protect our president, his wife, Michelle, and his daughters, Malia and Sasha.

As You have blessed him with a beautiful family, may President Obama always remember all the families of America – especially the children, especially the poor as their mothers and fathers work so hard to

simply provide food and shelter; love and guidance. May he never lose sight of them when money and power call him to look away. For when he sees their faces, he sees the face of America and all your beloved children.

As President Obama has said, "We are our brothers' and sisters' keepers." May we always remember our brothers and sisters – the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the sick, the imprisoned, the homeless, the helpless, the forgotten and forsaken. And may those whom our nation has lost track of call us to a new day of hope and promise.

Send your Holy Spirit upon President Barack Obama!

Keep him humble. Keep him honest. Keep him hopeful – always living in the promise of hope you first placed in his heart and mind so many years ago!

Send your Holy Spirit upon all of us!

And in the words of the African American Spiritual, "Guide our feet while we run this race, for we don't want to run this race in vain!"

Amen!