

A Litany for those affected by the government shutdown

Officiant: In the name of the One Holy and Undivided Trinity

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: Loving God, You have created us in Your image and redeemed us through Jesus, Your Son. Our lives are interconnected and what happens to some of us affects all of us. 800,000 government workers are not able to do their jobs because of a government shutdown. This affects so many of Your children, Lord, and so we turn to You in our time of need, for You are our Rock and our Stronghold.

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: We especially remember before you today the furloughed employees of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of Agriculture, the Commerce Department, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Transportation, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Science Foundation, the Federal Communications Commission, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Park Services.

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: Be with those workers, Lord, and give them strength to meet the days ahead. Be with their families, friends, and communities. Help us to come together to provide for those in need.

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: Give our elected officials wisdom to find a common path that will enable these workers to return to their jobs.

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: Comfort and sustain those whose financial concerns seem overwhelming

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: For those workers who are continuing to show up, even when a paycheck is not guaranteed, we give You thanks for their labors. Help their work to not be in vain. Keep them safe. Give them constant reminders of Your love and grace.

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: Help those of us who provide support services for these furloughed employees and their families. Give us spirits of generosity, compassion, and abundance.

People: Amen, Lord, Hear our prayer

Officiant: O Lord, whose glory is in all the world: We commend this nation to Your merciful care, that being guided by Your Providence, we may dwell secure in Your peace. Grant to the President of the United States, Congress of the United States, the Governors across this country, and to all in authority, wisdom and strength to know and do Your will. Fill them with the love of truth and righteousness. Make them ever mindful of their calling to serve this people in Your faith and fear. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Amen. Lord, Hear our prayer

Written by: The Rev. Dahn Dean Gandell, rector, Church of the Ascension, Diocese of Rochester, President of Province 2 of The Episcopal Church

Sources: *The Book of Common Prayer*, the *New York Times*