

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH PRAYING ACROSS THE WORLD THIS SUMMER VIA SOCIAL MEDIA

Cambridge, Mass. – Chat, broadcast, blog, protest – social media holds a constant stream of conversation and information, 24 hours a day. It has become a source for breaking news and sports scores, and forum for pop culture and social justice. What’s trending in the world is trending on Twitter, in hashtags that range from #worldcrises to #sports.

The Episcopal Church adds a hashtag to that stream this summer, as it holds its every-three-year General Convention, taking place June 25-July 3 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The hashtag #PrayersOf invites people from all over the world (not just at General Convention) to submit Prayers of the People on a different theme each day, including Thanksgiving, Forgiveness and Celebration.

What does that look like? Prayers can be words or image, can be submitted via Twitter, Instagram or Facebook, and are tagged with #PrayersOf and the day’s theme – for example, #PrayersOf #Thanksgiving. All of the prayers will be read, and prayed, by members of the Episcopal Church; each day some will be chosen to be read aloud as part of General Convention’s worship services in Salt Lake City, attended by 10,000 people.

#PrayersOf was created by the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, an Episcopal monastic community in Cambridge, Massachusetts. SSJE launched a similar campaign in the season leading up to Christmas 2014, #adventword, the world’s first crowd-sourced Advent Calendar.

“Through social media we connect locally and globally. Social media helps us experience relationships in new ways - old friendships, new friendships, friendships with people we might never meet in person,” says Jamie Coats, Director of Friends of SSJE. “Making prayer possible on social media can give a voice to concerns and hopes we all share and deepen these relationships. These shared concerns for common causes create paths to reconciliation and the betterment of the world.”

PrayersofthePeople.org is the online home of #PrayersOf, including a live stream of all submitted prayers, links to resources and the option to subscribe via e mail to free morning and evening audio reflections containing meditations, prayer and music from SSJE. Included with this press release is a schedule of the Prayers of the People.

For more information or interviews, contact Jamie Coats, Director, Friends of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, at jamie@ssje.org or by phone – cell 781-643-2061.

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prayersofthepeople.org

#prayersof

Everyone is invited to add your prayers in words & images to The Prayers of the People at the Episcopal Church's 78th General Convention, 2015

Date	Prayer Theme	<i>The day before, write...</i>
Thu Jun 25	#prayersof # Life	God of life <i>I love ...</i>
Fri Jun 26	#prayersof # Thanksgiving	God of grace <i>I give thanks ...</i>
Sat Jun 27	#prayersof # Praise	God of glory <i>I praise you ...</i>
Sun Jun 28	#prayersof # Adoration	God of love <i>I adore you ...</i>
Mon Jun 29	#prayersof # Penitence	God of forgiveness <i>I am sorry ...</i>
Tue Jun 30	#prayersof # Intercession	God of compassion <i>I pray for ...</i>
Wed Jul 1	#prayersof # Petition	God of the ages <i>I ask your help ...</i>
Thu Jul 2	#prayersof # Oblation	<i>God of vision I offer to you ...</i>
Fri Jul 3	#prayersof # Celebration	God of joy <i>I celebrate ...</i>

*To send in prayers in words & images on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) & [Instagram](#) including the hashtag #prayersof and the hashtag #oneofthepayerthemes. Make sure that there is a space between the hashtags; for example: #prayersof #intercession. **On Facebook make sure your post is set to public and only post ONE picture at a time.***

One day in advance you will receive an email, a **Request for Prayers** in words and images. The next day you will receive a audio morning meditation and evening reflection on the **Prayer Theme**, read and sung by **Brothers of the Society of Saint John the Evangelist**, and a link to the **prayers of the people** read at the General Convention Eucharist.

You can write your #prayersof anytime before the dates listed.