PRAYER FOR THE CLOSING OF GUANTÁNAMO

Voice 1: God of all creation, be with us this day and every day. Encourage us, your people, to seek justice and peace as we live one with another across the globe.

Voice 2: Help us to honor the dignity and worth of every person, treating every person as your unique creation.

Voice 1: O God, empower leadership that seeks to embody our highest ideals.

Voice 2: We pray for the courage, as individuals and as a nation, to do what is right even when we experience fear and uncertainty.

Voice 1: We pray for those who have been tortured and indefinitely detained at the detention center at Guantánamo Bay.

Voice 2: We pray for the family members of those tortured, those who died in detention, and those held in indefinite detention.

Voice 1: We pray for those working at Guantánamo today.

Voice 2: We pray for wisdom for our leaders. We pray for the spiritual healing that our nation can experience from closing Guantánamo and putting an end to this dark and errant chapter in our nation’s history.

Voice 1: We pray for an end to the divisions that perpetuate “othering” our fellow human beings – an end to racism, an end to xenophobia, an end to religious bigotry, and an end to any and all destructive divisions.

Voice 2: O God of grace and peace, may your light shine ever brighter in each and every person.

All: Amen.
Close Guantánamo

20 years after it was opened, 39 people remain imprisoned in Guantánamo Bay – most without charge or trial – a decade and a half after they were first sent to Guantánamo.

Presidents Bush and Obama both ultimately decided that Guantánamo should be closed, and both transferred hundreds of prisoners out of Guantánamo. President Biden has committed to closing Guantánamo and ending the indefinite detention of the people held there. We have a real chance to finally move forward from this unfortunate chapter of U.S. history.

We must continue to make clear:

It is time to close the prison at Guantánamo Bay, Cuba. Many of the prisoners there were tortured and most have been imprisoned for a decade and a half without ever having been tried. It costs half a billion dollars a year to run the prison. It is wrong to continue holding prisoners without trial in an overseas prison, and it doesn’t make any sense to do so at such a high cost.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Show your support for closing the Guantánamo prison by signing the petition to Close Guantánamo and share it in your community: www.nrcat.org/CloseGuantanamo
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper
- Include the issue of Guantánamo in your prayers
- Tweet: @WhiteHouse #Guantánamo is a symbol of our nation’s use of #torture. #CloseGuantanamo @NRCATtweets

Resources for these and other activities are available at: www.nrcat.org/CloseGuantanamo

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