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Letters?

On a trial basis, these two pages, formerly devoted to “Chaff, ” will be dedicated to comments excerpted from your “letters to the editor.” Your responses to *Touchstone* articles will create a spirit of dialogue as issues succeed one another. Please send your comments to peter.wyatt@utoronto.ca.

Meanwhile, having in view the approach of both Victoria Day and Canada Day as I write, here is a prayer developed after Harry E. Fosdick, used two decades ago at Melrose Church in Hamilton, Ontario. While employing a very formal style, perhaps it still may prove useful in stimulating the imagination of readers who are worship leaders.

A Litany of the Nation

O God, before whose face the empires rise and fall away,
establish our nation in righteousness and its people in peace.

Lord, hear our prayer, and mercifully bless us.

From the ravages of crime, the disgrace of political corruption,
and the designs of greed,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From prejudice of race and colour and creed,
making division in the commonwealth;
from the injustice that causes few to be rich
and many to be poor;
from failure of nerve to confront the issues of the day,

Good Lord, deliver us.

From religion that is self-serving;
from morality that smugly condemns the sins of others;
from citizenship that suppresses compassion,
Good Lord, deliver us.

By the faith and labours of our forbears
on which our prosperity and stability arises,
We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

By the suffering and dignity of Native peoples,
from whom we have unjustly profited,
We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

By the courage and sacrifice of reformers
from which responsible self-government has come,
We beseech you to hear us, O Lord.

Give us wisdom to count the blessings of our life in this land,
and make us ready to shoulder the responsibility of such blessing.
Uphold in faithfulness our sovereign lady, the Queen,
and her ministers in the right of Canada,
making them ambitious to serve justice and truth.
We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, our Redeemer.
Lord, hear our prayer and mercifully bless your people.

Peter Wyatt

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