

## **Text of the Inauguration Benediction**

*The Associated Press*

*Rev. Joseph Lowery*

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,  
thou, who has brought us thus far along the way,  
thou, who has by thy might led us into the light,  
keep us forever in the path we pray,  
lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee,  
lest our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee.  
Shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand true to thee, oh God, and  
true to our native land.

We truly give thanks for the glorious experience  
we've shared this day.

We pray now, oh Lord, for your blessing  
upon thy servant Barack Obama,  
the 44th president of these United States,  
his family and his administration.

He has come to this high office at a low moment in the national  
and indeed the global, fiscal climate.

But because we know you got the whole world in your hands,  
we pray for not only our nation, but for the community of nations.

Our faith does not shrink though pressed by the flood of mortal ills.  
For we know that, Lord, you are able and you're willing  
to work through faithful leadership to restore stability,  
mend our brokenness, heal our wounds,  
and deliver us from the exploitation of the poor, of the least of these,  
and from favoritism toward the rich, the elite of these.

We thank you for the empowering of thy servant, our 44th president,  
to inspire our nation to believe that yes we can work together  
to achieve a more perfect union.

And while we have sown the seeds of greed,  
the wind of greed and corruption,  
and even as we reap the whirlwind  
of social and economic disruption,  
we seek forgiveness and we come in a spirit of unity and solidarity  
to commit our support to our president  
by our willingness to make sacrifices,  
to respect your creation, to turn to each other and not on each other.

And now, Lord, in the complex arena of human relations,  
help us to make choices on the side of love, not hate;  
on the side of inclusion, not exclusion; tolerance, not intolerance.

And as we leave this mountain top  
help us to hold on to the spirit of fellowship  
and the oneness of our family.  
Let us take that power back to our homes, our workplaces,  
our churches, our temples, our mosques,  
or wherever we seek your will.

Bless President Barack, First Lady Michelle.  
Look over our little angelic Sasha and Malia.  
We go now to walk together as children,  
pledging that we won't get weary in the difficult days ahead.  
We know you will not leave us alone.

With your hands of power and your heart of love,  
help us then, now, Lord, to work for that day  
when nations shall not lift up sword against nation,  
when tanks will be beaten into tractors,  
when every man and every woman shall sit  
under his or her own vine and fig tree  
and none shall be afraid,  
when justice will roll down like waters  
and righteousness as a mighty stream.

Lord, in the memory of all the saints who from their labors rest,  
and in the joy of a new beginning,  
we ask you to help us work for that day when black  
will not be asked to get in back,  
when brown can stick around ...  
when yellow will be mellow ...  
when the red man can get ahead, man;  
and when white will embrace what is right.  
That all those who do justice and love mercy say Amen.