

**GRASPING FOR MUCH-NEEDED GRACE:  
20 Days of Nonpartisan Prayer in a Polarized Political Season  
Vermont Conference, UCC prayer initiative  
Fall 2020**

Day 20 (Tuesday, Nov. 3)

“Choosing Life”

by Rev. Lynn Bujnak

**Scripture Focus:** *I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life that you and your descendants may live... (Deuteronomy 30:19 NRSV)*

Reflection: As we have prayed our way through these 20 days leading to today’s election, I hope you have found food for the journey, companions along the way and a deeper understanding of your faith. As we vote and then watch for the results, there is bound to be a great deal of tension, anxiety and uncertainty. We may very well not know who won the presidential election for some time.

In this passage from the book of Deuteronomy, the people whom God led out of slavery in Egypt have been wandering in the wilderness for a very long time. But now, they are on the verge of entering the Promised Land at last. This is part of Moses’ farewell speech. It was a time of great uncertainty for this small band of God’s followers. Moses is encouraging them to remember that God is always with them and there will be a future of promise if only they will choose what is life-giving and not death-dealing.

Regardless of who becomes our next president, we will still face choices about how we will go on from here. Will the choices, actions, speech and values we proclaim and live be imbued with life or death, filled with blessings or curses? As we walk through these next days and weeks, as the old hymn says, will they “know we are Christians (people of faith) by our love?”

Prayer: Gracious God, as the tension rises along with voices, when it is difficult to know the truth, when the future seems uncertain, remind us of your never-failing presence. Help us to choose life, for ourselves, for the whole human family and the for the earth. Amen.

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