

Prayer for America

God, bless America,

Land that I love.

Bless us to cherish the freedoms that we have established for our people; bless us to cherish the dignity of each person, regardless of race, creed or color, origin or orientation; bless our communities to be peace-filled and free from violence, addiction, and fear; bless our people to have sufficient food, housing and living wage jobs;

Stand beside her,

And guide her

Through the night with a light from above.

Guide us, O God, with your light of love and peace; guide us to be part of an international community, to cherish and promote just relationships within that community; guide us not to be run by our fears, guide us to take the lead ridding the world of weapons of mass destruction, guide us to a world without end, not terror without end;

From the mountains

To the prairies

To the oceans white with foam,

Lead us, O God, less to dominate the world and more to be part of the world, to love and preserve the land, the water, the air, the species of plants, and animals; teach us reverence for the life of the planet, especially for human life, that we as a nation may find the will and the ways to consume less and contribute more to life, to the culture of life, to a love of life, that the life of our planet and our universe may flourish and glorify you, O God;

God, bless America,

My home, sweet home.

God bless all peoples,

Brothers, sisters all,

Sharing this world

Together,

Grant us peace from the font of your love.

Keep our hearts free,

Loving others,

Even those who wish us harm.

God help our world to be

Your home, sweet home.

God help our world to be

Your home, sweet home.

About the author: Fr. Bruce Bavinger, S.J., pastor of St. Aloysius Church in Washington, D.C., composed this prayer with a little help from Stephen Cleghorn and others on the Parish Council. It was read from the altar after Mass on July 4, 2004 as the congregation slowly hummed "God Bless America."