



**Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor**  
Minister of Word and Sacrament

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January 22, 2009

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## Inaugural Prayer

**Dear Readers,**

*The words used to compose this prayer were spoken by President Obama at this inaugural address. I have "proof texted" these words and strung them together as a prayer, yet they are all his words from the Inaugural address.*

*Let us pray:*

On this day, we gather because we have chosen hope over fear, unity of purpose over conflict and discord.

On this day, we come to proclaim an end to the petty grievances and false promises, the recriminations and worn our dogmas, that for too long have strangled...

...For everywhere we look, there is work to be done.

...Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions – who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans.



Their memories are short. For they have forgotten... what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage.

...And so to all... ...know... a friend of each nation and every man, woman, and child who seeks a future of peace and dignity, and that we are ready to lead once more.

...our security emanates from the justness of our cause, the force of our example, the tempering qualities of humility and restraint.

...We are the keepers of this legacy. ... We will not apologize for our way of life, nor will we waver in its defense.



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...For we know that our patchwork heritage is a strength... We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this Earth.

...We seek a new way forward, based on mutual interest and mutual respect.

...we pledge to work alongside ... to make your farms flourish and let clean waters flow; to nourish starved bodies and feed hungry minds. ...For the world has changed, and we must change with it.

...it is ultimately the faith and determination...

This is the source of our confidence – the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny.

...

So let us mark this day with remembrance, of who we are how far we have traveled. ...

...Let it be said by our children's children that when we were tested we refused to let this journey end, that we did not turn back nor did we falter; and with eyes fixed on the horizon and God's grace upon us, we carried forth that great gift of freedom and delivered it safely to future generations.

*(Amen. Let it be so. So be it.)*

Blessings,  
Rev. Dr. Daris S. Bultena, Pastor  
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