

Prayer of the People from Santa Wiryaman – Sunday, July 4, 2021

Holy One, on this birthday of our country, we lift your name on high.
In your name, the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us.

Almighty God, you have blessed our nation.
Our soil can feed the world.
Our aspirations and dreams can heal nations.
Our strength can secure our freedoms and justice.
But without *you*, our freedom is without meaning.

Our Father, we thank you for our freedoms
individually and collectively as a nation.

You offer us freedom in Jesus Christ.
Help us to exercise our freedoms responsibly.

You gave us freedom of speech.
Yet our speech often is abusive and hurtful to people.

You gave us freedom of worship.
Yet we often choose our freedom to not worship you,
or not to worship you.

According to your servant Mother Teresa, she used to believe that prayer changes things.
But now she believes that prayer changes us, and we change things.

Loving God, grant us the courage, wisdom, and determination to use the freedom you have
given us to love you and worship you with all our hearts, soul, and mind, and to love our
neighbors as ourselves.

In your prayer, we say “Thy Kingdom come”, and we look forward for that day to come. But
until that day come, let us love one another, respect one another, appreciate one another,
forgive one another, and tend to one another.

As the ‘U’ and ‘I’ in the United States, help us, o loving God, to do our part to make this nation a
United States of love and peace, just as you and the founding fathers intended it to be. So it
was, so be it, and may it be so for many years to come.

Amen.