

*Opening Prayer - Arizona House of Representatives
The Rev. Canon Erika von Haaren - Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Phoenix
April 17, 2024*

Let us take a moment to take a breath together, friends, to ready our hearts and minds for the work to be done today...

Creator of all, we come before you with deep humility, knowing that you have designed a world of complexity and nuance that we will never fully comprehend and that we do not control. For you - not we - are the Creator. We are your creations, placed here by you to use our brief time on this fragile earth to love and serve one another, to be makers of peace to the best of our abilities.

We pray for your blessing today upon all the people who serve in this House. Give them a renewed sense of awe and gratitude that they have been tasked with the care of all Arizonans. Help them to respect, seek, and serve the inherent value within every single person they represent.

We pray for your blessing upon those in this chamber today who are worried, frightened, angry, and uncertain; and particularly upon those who feel they have lost a sense of common purpose and community with their neighbors and fellow citizens. We pray for all who are hurting in our state, for those who are struggling and suffering, and especially for those who feel abandoned, neglected, or frightened. We ask for your mercy and grace upon all who are hurting, and we ask you to show us how best to express your love to them.

We pray for your wisdom to guide these elected leaders here today, that as they confront the challenges of governing, they will strive for laws and policies that honor the divinely given dignity of every Arizonan.

We ask you, Creator, to help us come together. You have shown us that we are better in community than separate, better when all are free than when we are controlled, and better when we center our common humanity rather than our differences. Help our leaders here today discern and then create the ties that bind us in mutual wellbeing and safety. Give them boldness to make Arizona a good home for us all. We ask all these things in the spirit of Love and Hope, and in the name of all that is holy. Amen.