

Prayer for Leadership Excellence

God of Grace and God of Glory, we give thanks for this day for we know that this is a day you have made and so we will rejoice and be glad in it.

We stretch our hands to You, for there is no other help we know. It is in You and through you that we live and move and have our very being. “Except you build this house, they that labor, labor in vain.”

We thank you for this place called Tougaloo, “where the moss hangs low and the eagles fly high.” Bless now and protect our beloved institution as we enter a new chapter under the leadership of our new President, Carmen J. Walters.

We believe God that for such a time as this, you have brought Carmen J. Walters to us and to this place. And so we give You thanks for her and for all of her gifts and graces. And we pray that You O God will bless and sustain and lead her as she leads us. Yes, we pray for excellence in her leadership.

And especially in these times of uncertainty and challenge and change, we pray that You O God will keep our new leader safe and well and strong and focused and bold. Increase her vision, so that even in the midst of crisis and obstacles, she sees openings and opportunities. May she be grounded in You and in your Word, knowing that excellence in leadership is not about charisma, but about character; not about popularity, but about principles; not about being first or famous, but about being fit and focused; not about success, but about significance and service.

And God, we pray not only for our new President, but we pray for ourselves – students and their families, faculty and staff, trustees, alumni and the wider community that You would remind us all that we must all learn to live, love and lead with excellence. May we not resign ourselves to apathy and complacency, but with big, bold and full hearts never give up the struggle “until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.”

God of grace and God of glory, grant us now wisdom and courage for the facing of these days. Amen.

- Reverend Dr. Alvin O’Neal Jackson

