

*Prayer given by Rev. Cynthia Hale, pastor of Ray of Hope Christian Church in Decatur, Ga., during the White House Easter Prayer Breakfast on April 6, 2010.*

God of Life and God of Love! You are a gracious and giving God. It is during this Easter Season that we are reminded of your greatest gift of love to us – your one and only Son, Jesus Christ.

This morning, God, as men and women of Faith, we have gathered from all across America to meet with our president for prayer. We begin by asking you to bless our leader and his family. Give him strength and courage to continually bring peace and justice to our nation.

Every one of us, including the president has heard your call, and answered it. We seek to be faithful as we follow the One who came to earth not to be served, but to serve and give his life as a ransom for many. We, like Him, have been anointed with the Holy Spirit and power to preach good news to the poor and care for the least of these.

The least of these are unemployed. The least of these lack adequate healthcare and housing, some are living on the street and in shelters, others in extended stay hotels. The least of these are hungry, their households are food insecure, and they find themselves returning to the same food banks to which they contributed to last year, now as recipients. The least of these are vulnerable, and are living with a sense of helplessness, wondering how they are going to make it and if anyone cares.

For these our brothers and sisters, we pray. But, we not only pray, we are reminded during this season that we are to continue to see ourselves as the answers to our prayers. You, O God, are able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask for or even imagine according to your mighty power that is at work within us.

Thank you for calling us to the Kingdom for such a time as this. It's in your holy name we pray. Amen