

**Rev. Pam Gross, “Prayer for the State of Maine”  
Interfaith Prayer Vigil for a Moral Budget  
Feb. 22, 2017**

**Vigil organized by the Maine Council of Churches and Maine Equal Justice Partners**



I am Rev. Pam Gross, a member of the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network, the legislative ministry of Unitarian Universalists in Maine.

Pause for a moment...

Where did you come from?

Before you lived in this state, who were your people? Your ancestors?  
Today, whether you are descendants of the Native people of this land,  
whether you are descendants of immigrants of 400—100—or 50years ago  
whether you are immigrants of 100s of years or 5 years, 5 months or 5 weeks—  
**We are all the People of Maine. We speak as the People of Maine.**

From many places, we find ourselves here today, standing **together**, regardless  
of race, class, gender, education, sexuality, economics, religion or even political affiliation—  
**We stand here together...** we are the State of Maine.

Years ago, 1889, another citizen of the State of Maine,

Joshua Chamberlain, spoke these words:

A great and free country is not merely defense and protection.  
For every earnest spirit, it is **opportunity and inspiration**....  
The best of each being given to all,  
the best of all returns to each.  
So the greatness, as well as the power, of a country  
broadens every life  
and blesses every home....

We gather here today as People of Maine, earnest Spirits all,  
concerned with **opportunity and inspiration**  
We Stand here today, in our great and free State of Maine,  
to pray for a state “that broadens EVERY life and blesses EVERY home.”

I invite you all to pray with me as THE PEOPLE of Maine...  
May we Pray together: when I say: God of many names...  
You are invited to respond (LOUD) with “Hear our Prayer.”

God of many Names,...

Spirit of Love, we pray for the children of Maine, whose well-being continues to falter in a nation of growing health and well-being. With heavy hearts, we are here as witnesses to the past five years, when we have seen our children fall into deepened poverty. We have moved far from Chamberlains’ words “the Best of Each Being Given to All.” May all who represent us and all who can hear our words be moved out of complacency to work for a state that “broadens every life and blesses every home” of every child.

God of many names...

Source of All Being, We pray for the poor in our State. We pray for the hard working people of Maine who struggle to survive. May the needs of the poorest among us be given priority, so that in a time of plenty we will share our plenty... so we can live in a state where the best of each is given to all and the best of all returns to each.

God of many names...

Source of Wisdom, We pray for those making important decisions for all of our people. In the Spirit of kindness and compassion that is at the heart of Maine people, **we** ask for careful consideration of **all the needs of all our people**... May they work for a great State with opportunity and inspiration for all, a state that broadens EVERY life and Blesses EVERY home.

God of many names...

Spirit of Life, with gratitude for the air, the waters and the earth of our state, we pray for continued stewardship of our resources, these resources we have received from our ancestors, entrusted to us for passing on to generations yet to come... May we The People of Maine, be guardians of this land, which nurtures, holds, and blesses us all...

God of Many Names...

May the People of our State~  
Truly broaden every life  
and bless every home.  
Every Life. Bless Every home.  
God of Many Names...

So May It Be. Amen.