

## *A Fourth of July Prayer*

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*We lift up our hearts, O God, on this day of celebration  
in gratitude for the gift of being Americans.*

*We rejoice with all those who share  
in the great dream of freedom and dignity for all.*

*With flags and feasting, with family and friends,  
we salute those who have sacrificed that we might have the  
opportunity to bring to fulfillment  
our many God-given gifts.*

*As we deny all prejudice a place in our hearts,  
may we also clearly declare our intention to work for the  
time when all people, regardless of race, religion or sex, will  
be granted equal dignity and worth.*

*Come, O gracious God,  
who led your children Israel from slavery, keep us free from  
all that might hold us in bondage.*

*Bless our country and join our simple celebration  
that we may praise you, our Source of freedom, the One in  
whom we place our trust.*

