

This week's announcement of a General Election has taken us all by surprise. Many are likely to want to make some reference to events in Sunday services, while not losing sight of other key issues and concerns in our world. The prayer below is offered as a resource that might be used in local churches. Further reflections are also available at:

<http://www.baptist.org.uk/Groups/254955/Election.aspx?redirected=1>

and

<http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/issues/politics-and-elections/general-election-june-2017/>

God of every time and season,
Whose reign and rule extends beyond any earthly realm;
In the midst of the uncertainty,
The debate and expectancy of a forthcoming General Election,
Help us to centre ourselves afresh on you;
Not to escape the issues and argument,
But that we might be engaged
With wisdom and faithfulness
That reflects our identity as your people.

Protect us from indifference
That we might promote attitudes of grace
And seek to uphold the narratives of truth and goodness.
And may we not become so consumed
With the agendas of our own concern
That we forget the lives and needs
Of a world that extends beyond our immediate horizons.

We pray for those who seek office
And those to whom this responsibility will be given
May we never take for granted
The service that they offer
Or the freedom we have
To determine those who govern us.

Help us to act wisely;
To listen prayerfully;
To debate honestly;
To disagree graciously;
And to seek the ways of your Kingdom
In the decisions we make together.

Through Christ our Lord and King AMEN



Prayerful
Listeners