

**Prayer as America is on the Brink of War**  
**Convocation**  
**Firestone Fieldhouse**  
**March 19, 2003**

Oh, God, we come to you as the creator of all humankind and of heaven and earth, beseeching you to hear us in this hour of critical need. We come in humility before you and acknowledge you as the Lord of our lives and to you we give all honor and glory.

We fall before you as we await the prospect of war in Iraq and we lay our fears, our concerns, our dread at your feet. We pray earnestly for all who are in harms way. We pray for the men and women, many of whom are very young, of our armed forces who are serving our country this very hour on foreign soil and who await orders to go forth into battle. We pray for their families who wait with them and us for the terror of war to begin. We know that your compassion extends to the ends of the earth and your loving kindness endures forever. So surround us with your grace and mercy at this time of great danger and great need.

We also pray, as you have taught us, for our enemies. We mourn the loss of lives both ours and those of our enemies. We pray for all who will die and for their families. Remember their names, O God, and mark the places where they fall. For you alone can know the unknowable and see the unseeable.

We pray for the leaders of the world, that they will seek your face and the wisdom that is from above. We pray for our country and our leaders. Draw near to them in your grace and give them guidance.

We ask for a swift end to this conflict so that fewer lives may be lost. And oh God, we yearn for your peace. We long for the day that there will be war no more. To that end we pray for a new heaven and a new earth wherein dwelleth righteousness, and where there will be no more death, no more weeping, no more pain, and no more war.

Come Lord Jesus, Come. It is in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, that we pray in whom we place our hope and expectation. Amen

D'Esta Love  
University Chaplain