

*Invocation given at
Lehigh County Commissioners
Swearing In Ceremony
Allentown
January 6, 2014*

Gracious God, each of us in our own way, from our own traditions, would invoke your presence with us here tonight as we gather on this ceremonious occasion. In your wisdom, Loving God, you have set us within families; you have gathered families into communities, communities that combine to make us a strong nation. We are thankful for the people of the communities of Lehigh County, and we are grateful for these individuals who have come forward to serve in elected positions on their behalf.

Bless Thomas Creighton, Percy Dougherty, David Jones, Geoff Brace, and Michael Schware as they take the oath of office. With these solemn words come a public trust, so we pray that you would confirm in them: a commitment to what is true, what is right, and what is fair. Endow them with both wisdom and humility. And along with Vic Mazzioti, Brad Osborne, Scott Ott, Lisa Sheller; County Executive Tom Muller; and the administrative staff, inspire them, that they may lead us in renewing ties of mutual respect which form our civic life.

Fill us all with a renewed commitment to work for the people of our county. Deliver us from the political pessimism that so afflicts our age. Keep us attuned to the highest standards of public service. Grant us the vision to work for goals and purposes larger than ourselves, and give us the energy and zeal to carry the vision forward.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have set us within communities and called us to promote the common good. Amen.