

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. REID. Madam President, the Senate will convene tomorrow at 10 a.m. and resume consideration of the motion to proceed to the aviation security bill. There is every hope we can complete that bill in the immediate future.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. REID. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator GRAHAM of Florida and Senator TORRICELLI of New Jersey.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Florida.

PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, throughout America the events of September 11 have touched our people and have brought forth a level of thoughtful eloquence which has contributed to our ability to understand and to be able to deal with the extreme shock and pain of those agonizing images we all hold of the events of September 11.

On Sunday, I attended the services at my church, the Miami Lakes Congregational Church, where our pastor, Rev. Jeffrey Frantz, delivered an exceptional sermon. I would like his words and thoughts and message to be made available to a broader audience, and therefore I ask unanimous consent, Madam President, that Reverend Frantz' sermon, "Proud to be an American," be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the sermon was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

"PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN!"

Living Out Our Faith in a Dangerous World

(By Dr. Jeffrey E. Frantz, Miami Lakes Congressional Church, Miami Lakes, FL)

Isaiah 42:5-9, Matthew 5:1-16

I

In these past few weeks, now, since the *September 11th* nightmare, our lives have been jolted and challenged, stretched and turned upside down, like never before. It's like so many have commented: *everything has changed.*

1. First, the sweeping impact, on all levels, of the tragic event itself . . . the anger and rage, coupled with the mourning and grief. We were left numb with disbelief.
2. And then, later, the realization that we have to somehow get on with our lives. We have to put our lives back together. We can't let fear tell us who we are. We have to dig deeply into our self-understanding, our identity as a people, and affirm the best of our traditions.
3. We've been dealt a deathly blow; and its reaches have touched virtually every part of our lives: the economy, all levels

of our government, the entertainment world, our psychological and spiritual life.

I was reading an issue of Time Magazine this past week that predated the *September 11th* disaster. And it was like virtually all of the news seemed suddenly irrelevant and inconsequential. Suddenly Michael Jordan's possible comeback to the NBA seemed trifling and insignificant. We weren't much interested in who Jennifer Lopez might be marrying and where, or in the latest rumor about Julia Roberts or Tom Cruise.

Suddenly all of the usual quibbling and whimpering that clutter our lives seem out of place and so, so harmless. Indeed, it's a new day. And a swelling patriotism is everywhere. I've never seen America so united. We're coming together as we never have in the past fifty years or more.

People, all over, are coming together. There are problems, to be sure, with some of the understandable, but inexcusable profiling that has been going on. And we must do all we can to curb any such intolerance or injustice. It is a difficult time to be an Arab-American.

Also, there's an eerie frenzy about the prospect of biological warfare and chemical or germ warfare—scary stuff. Still, people are coming together. Literally hundreds, if not thousands, of relief efforts are underway around the nation, even the world. The amount of money being raised in relief support is already staggering.

American flags have never been in such resplendent display. Patriotic hymns and expressions of one kind or another are on every radio station and on every street corner.

American pride is rising to a magnificent height, and it makes us proud.

I say this because, at our best, America is a wondrous land, a delightful rainbow people of God's creative hand. Our freedom is our heartbeat, our pulse. But our marvelous diversity is freedom's precious child.

Reports suggest that people from as many as sixty nations perished in the rubble of the World Trade Center. You see, friends, we are the world! That's not a pronouncement of arrogance; but rather it is a description of the incredible variety of human beings that fill the reaches of our land.

II

Perhaps some of you saw the televised memorial observance last Sunday afternoon from Yankee Stadium in New York City. With some initial words from James Earl Jones, and emceed by Oprah Winfrey, it was a moving and touching service throughout.

Along with tear-streaked cheeks and broken hearts, the diversity of America was everywhere. In the stands, to be sure, with family members, deeply saddened, holding pictures of missing loved ones. And up front around the podium: clerics and clergy, holy men and women—arrayed in their sacred garments, gathered to pray and read holy writings—a magnificent diversity.

There were Christian and Jew, Muslim and Buddhist, Hindu and Sikh, believer and non-believer—from every imaginable ethnic group and tribe. America is the world!

O beautiful for spacious skies,

For amber waves of grain,

For purple mountain majesties,

Above the fruited plain.

I'm proud to be an American

America, America!

God shed God's grace on thee.

And crown thy good with brotherhood

From sea to shining sea.

III

This is our vision; this is our dream. It's part of our inheritance, part of our history

and tradition. Almost from our inception, we have been what Second Isaiah called Israel, *a light to the nations.*

This wasn't always Israel's self-understanding. She had been *God's chosen people*, yes. But her chosenness didn't necessarily extend beyond her borders. But, now, in exile . . . seemingly defeated, a new vision of Israel emerged:

I will give you as a light to the nations,
said the prophet.

That my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.

This universalizing of Israel's role and purpose marks a break-through for Israel's self-identity. Israel's *chosenness*, now, is to be shared . . . to the ends of the earth. *That my salvation may reach out to all people*, says the prophet.

Friends, America too, is such a light! Whether chosen or not, America has always felt that God's hand was on us in a special way. There is a tantalizingly thin line, that lingers: between the arrogance of presumption and the humility of endowment.

Still, no matter how we understand ourselves as Americans, we are a nation of vast resources, of tremendous power and wealth. We have so much to be grateful for. We have been so wondrously blessed.

Along with our power and wealth comes great responsibility. Whatever *salvation* God can work through us comes most abundantly and effectively through our humility. And no matter how we choose to construe our present national crisis, our responsibility—in the way we respond—is enormous. Clearly, all of the world is watching our every move, picking up cues from what we do.

1. I'm proud to be an American . . . in an America that indeed is *a light to the nations*. An America that stands tall, to be sure, but an America whose greatness is seen in its *humbleness of spirit*.

2. Such humbleness of spirit, grounded in the teachings and example of Christ, IS the key to our future, and indeed to the future of the world, as we work our way through the chaos and the complexity of these difficult times.

Blessed are the poor in spirit,

for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are the meek,

for they shall inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger for righteousness,

for they shall be satisfied.

Blessed are the pure in heart,

for they shall see God,

Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they shall be children of God.

IV

There's been much talk, since *September 11th*, of our vulnerability. Our vulnerability is, however, nothing new. We've always been vulnerable. It's the human condition. These *blessed* conditions, *the beatitudes of Jesus*, are transparent reminders of this truth.

We cannot save ourselves. Understandably, we're frenzied in our rush to make our lives safe again, to get our life back. We see this abundantly exemplified, now, as we invest enormous dollars and effort to beef up our national security and intelligence on all fronts, as we clearly must do.

And yet, as people of faith, We've never lost our life. Our life is in God and in God's eternal love and saving grace that have no end.

Part of what is so vividly apparent in all of this is that we live in a world that is irreversibly interdependent and global; and we must increasingly see ourselves in this light.