

# The White House — White-washing Prayer

by Dr. Catherine Millard © 2023

**Of all the public buildings** in the new capital city, designed by Pierre Charles L'Enfant in 1791, the cornerstone for the President's House was the first to be laid. This took place in 1792. L'Enfant's original three-point plan incorporated the **President's House**, executive branch of the government, the **Capitol**, its legislative branch, and **a monument** in honor of **George Washington**, first President of the United States.

Of the designs submitted for this mansion which was to accommodate the first officer of the United States and his family, one was by a mysterious Mr. A.Z., later known to be Thomas Jefferson; another by a certain James Diamond of Somerset County, Maryland, and one by James Hoban, Irishman born in County Kilkenny, Ireland. Hoban received an award for his design which won the competition sponsored by the commissioners of the District of Columbia.



The White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C.  
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The north façade of this spacious mansion is said to resemble Leinster House in Dublin, Ireland. It is constructed of sandstone from Aquia Creek in Virginia and now comprises 132 rooms, 20 bathrooms and 5 elevators, the latter added during President Truman's administration. The south façade of the mansion resembles the Chateau de Rastignac in the Perigord, France. The design is Palladian in style and comes from the famous Italian architect, Andrea Palladio.

The magnificent south balcony is where Heads of State are received by the President of the United States, and where they deliver their public addresses to a large crowd assembled on the South Lawn during official state visits. An inspection of the military guard ensues, while the Marine Corps band adds color, music and pageantry to this splendid tradition.

The President's helicopter alights on the south lawn.

Today, the East Room is the largest room in the White House and is used for State balls, receptions, press conferences, and

many other special events. Several weddings have occurred in this beautiful room, to include those of Nellie Grant, Alice Roosevelt and Lynda Bird Johnson. This was also the historic scene of funeral services for Presidents William Henry Harrison, Zachary Taylor, Abraham Lincoln, Willie Lincoln (Lincoln's 12-year-old son); Warren G. Harding and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

Following is an excerpt from Abraham Lincoln's Memorial Service sermon:

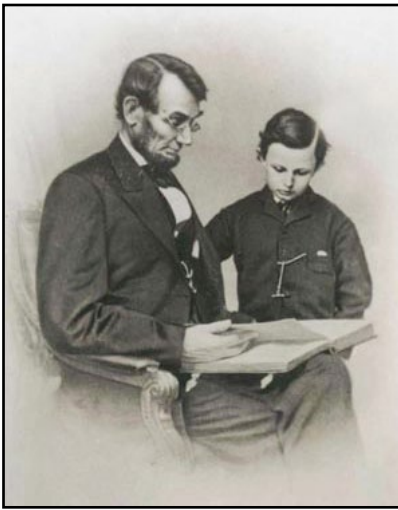
“HAVE FAITH IN GOD” – Mark 11:22  
A Sermon  
Delivered in the East Room of the Executive Mansion  
Wednesday, April 19, 1865  
At  
THE FUNERAL OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN,  
PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES  
By  
REV. P.D. GURLEY, D.D.  
PASTOR OF THE NEW YORK AVENUE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WASHINGTON, D.C.  
(Pastor, and intimate friend of Abraham Lincoln).

“As we stand here today, mourners around this coffin and around the lifeless remains of our beloved Chief Magistrate, we recognize, and we adore the sovereignty of God. This throne is in the heavens, and His kingdom ruleth over all. He hath done, and He hath permitted to be done, whatsoever He please.

...The people confided in the late lamented President with a full and loving confidence. Probably no man since the days of Washington was ever so deeply and firmly embedded and enshrined in the very hearts of the people as Abraham Lincoln. Nor was it a mistaken confidence and love. He deserved it – deserved it well – deserved it all. He merited it by his character, by his acts, and by the whole tenor, and tone, and spirit of his life. He was simple and sincere, plain and honest, truthful and just, benevolent and kind. His perceptions were quick and clear, his purposes were good and pure beyond question. Always and everywhere he aimed and endeavored to be right and to do right.

He saw his duty as the Chief Magistrate of a great and imperiled people, and he determined to do his duty, and his whole duty, seeking the guidance and leaning upon the arm of Him of whom it is written, ‘He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might He increaseth strength.’ Yes, he leaned upon His arm, He recognized and received the truth that the ‘kingdom is the Lord’s, and He is the governor among the nations.’ He remembered that ‘God is in history,’ and he felt that nowhere had His hand and His mercy been so marvelously conspicuous as in the history of this nation. He hoped and prayed that that same Hand would continue to guide us, and that same mercy continue to abound to us in the time of our greatest need. I speak what I know, and testify what I have often heard him say, when I affirm that that guidance and mercy were the props upon which he humbly and habitually

leaned; they were the best hope he had for himself and for his country. Hence, when he was leaving his home in Illinois, and coming to this city to take his seat in the executive chair of a disturbed and troubled nation, he said to the old and tried friends who gathered tearfully around him and bade him farewell, 'I leave you with this request: pray for me.' They did pray for him; and millions of other people prayed for him; nor did they pray in vain. Their prayer was heard, and the answer appears in all his subsequent history; it shines forth with a heavenly radiance in the whole course and tenor of his administration from its commencement to its close. God raised him up for a great and glorious mission, furnished him for his work, and aided him in its accomplishment. Nor was it merely by strength of mind, and honesty of heart, and purity and pertinacity of purpose, that He furnished him; in addition to these things, He gave him a calm and abiding confidence in the overruling Providence of God and in the ultimate triumph of truth and righteousness through the power and the blessing of God...



Abraham Lincoln reading the Bible with his son, Tad. Photograph taken in the White House by Matthew Brady, 1864.

Never shall I forget the emphasis and the deep emotion with which he said in this very room, to a company of clergymen and others, who called to pay him their respects in the darkest days of our civil conflict: 'Gentlemen, my hope of success in this great and terrible struggle rests on that immutable foundation, the justice and goodness of God. And when events are threatening, and prospects very dark, I still hope that in some way which man cannot see, all will be well in the end, because our cause is just, and God is on our side...'

He is dead; but the God in whom he trusted lives, and He can guide and strengthen his successor, as He guided and strengthened him...but the cause he so ardently loved survives his fall, and will survive it..."

**The greatest influence in the "Martyred President's" life,** was his mother, Nancy Hanks Lincoln, whose only book at her death was a Bible (King James authorized translation), which she had already put deeply into the heart of her 10-year-old son. Years later, presiding over 30 million people as Chief Magistrate, Lincoln stated, "God bless my mother! All I am or hope to be, I owe to her." A Library of Congress book on "The Religion of Abraham Lincoln," affirms that,

No president has ever had the detailed knowledge of the Bible that Lincoln had. No president has ever woven its thoughts and its rhythms into the warp and woof of his state papers as he did.

Another book housed in the Library of Congress' Rare Book Collection informs readers that the five most formative books in Lincoln's life were, chronologically:

1. The Bible. (King James authorized translation.)
2. Pilgrim's Progress, by John Bunyon (1678).

3. A History of the Life and Death, Virtues and Exploits of George Washington, Esq., faithfully taken from authentic documents, by Mason L. Weems (pastor of George Washington). 1800.
4. Robinson Crusoe by Daniel Defoe (1719).
5. Aesops Fables, first printed in English (1484).

**Displayed in the East Room** is the most distinguished portrait in the house, that of George Washington, painted by Gilbert Stuart. Dolley Madison had the foresight and presence of mind to have the canvas taken out of its frame and moved to safety during the 1812-1814 war, when the British set fire to all the public buildings in Washington. Afterwards, in order to camouflage the charred walls, the house was repainted white. It was only in 1905, however, that the mansion gained its new, official name: "**The White House.**"

Facing the north entrance, a white corridor serves to connect the main part of the mansion with the President's Oval Office, from where he makes his appearance on television. To the right of the Oval Office is the Old Executive Office Building, which serves the administrative needs of the White House, together with the New Executive Office Building a block away.

Each Christmas marks the anniversary of the "Pageant of Peace," begun by President Calvin Coolidge. The ceremonies commence with a lighting of the National Christmas tree, a lovely Colorado blue spruce, which directly faces the White House South Lawn from its location on the north side of the Ellipse. Each year, fifty smaller trees form a wide semi-circle on either side, one for each state in the Union. Since 1923, almost every President of the United States has been involved in these ceremonies. Winston Churchill participated in the joyful event of 1941, while visiting Washington after Pearl Harbor. President Harry Truman lit the tree by remote control switch from his native Missouri.

Every four years a President is inaugurated into office. He takes an oath of allegiance to uphold the Constitution of the United States with his left hand upon the Bible. George Washington, first U.S. President, began this unbroken American Christian tradition, his Scripture of choice, upon which his left hand lay was, Genesis 49: 22-25c:

Joseph was a fruitful bough. Even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches run over the wall: The archers have sorely grieved him and shot at him, and hated him; But his bow abode in strength, and the arms of his hands were made strong by the Hands of the mighty God of Jacob (from thence is the Shepherd, the Stone of Israel); Even by the God of thy father, who shall help thee, and by the Almighty, who shall bless thee with blessings of Heaven above...

# White-washing Prayer

The first President to occupy the White House was John Adams, second U.S. President. When Adams first arrived at his new residence on November 1, 1800, he penned a letter to his wife Abigail, which included this Prayer:

I pray Heaven to bestow the best of blessings on this House, and all that shall hereafter inhabit it. May none but honest and wise men ever rule under this roof.

His magnificent prayer was carved into the State Dining Room mantel by a succeeding President, years later.

This Prayer, glorifying Almighty God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, the God of John Adams and the founding fathers of the American Republic, announced unabashedly throughout the years to foreign dignitaries, heads of state, monarchs, presidents, prime ministers and others on official State visits, dinners, luncheons or events, that America is a God-fearing nation whose first allegiance is to Almighty God – the State Dining Room seating 140 persons.

Tragically, disregarding and disrespecting second U.S. President, John Adams' Prayer to the **Supreme Ruler of the Universe**, as the founders frequently called Him – the 44<sup>th</sup> U.S. President, Barak Hussein Obama had this blessing pronounced upon the United States white-washed a few months after arriving at The White House for his 4-year residency. History teachers of

foremost Christian schools and students on our *Christian Heritage Tours*, eager to view this famous Prayer were devastated by being confronted with a blank, white-washed, painted over Prayer above the mantel of the State Dining Room, evidenced by close-up telescopic photographs displaying a deliberate cover-up of John Adams' 1800 Prayer from public view.



“John Adams’ Prayer,” engraved upon the mantel, State Dining Room, The White House. The night after his arrival at the White House, November, 1800, he wrote to his wife, Abigail, incorporating a beautiful Prayer to Almighty God. It was later engraved upon this mantel.



“John Adams’ Prayer,” 1800, blanked from the mantel, State Dining Room, The White House. As it now appears since the 44<sup>th</sup> incumbent in the White House was installed resident in 2009.

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There is a lot of talk in the year 2023 about criminal actions, aimed at discrediting often innocent people. However, nothing is said, or even intimated about “criminal action” performed against Almighty God who gave Americans their freedoms and liberties in the first place. The question arises, “Why should the Supreme Ruler of the Universe continue to bless these United States, if He is deliberately disrespected and ignored in the mansion occupied by its Chief Magistrate?” Remove the white-wash from founding father, John Adams’ Prayer glorifying the God of the Universe, restoring His blessing upon this nation – prior to vainly attempting political, economic, social, or other, unsuccessful remedies. The choice, similar to that of Israel of old – *is yours*.

To quote the author of the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, in his 1785 *Notes on the State of Virginia*:

God who gave us life, gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be thought secure when we have removed their only firm basis, a conviction in the minds of the people that these liberties are the gift of God?

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