

Red Cliff's Utah Temple



The dedicatory prayer



A transcript of Elder Jeffery R. Holland's dedicatory prayer is as follows:

"Our beloved and holy Father in Heaven, on this windy but beautiful fall morning, in the full view of the red hills of November, we, a select few, represent the many who would like to be here for one of the sacred events of the Kingdom of God on earth: the groundbreaking for a new temple in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

"Sadly, the limitations and danger, dangers of the pandemic, are still with us. We pray that this plague will soon be lifted and that the many who are restricted from witnessing this groundbreaking will soon be able to witness the dedication of a beautifully completed House of the Lord.

"Father, as we gather here in the abundance of the 21st century, we're particularly mindful of those who went before us in the 19th, settling as they did this breathtakingly beautiful but rugged and challenging corner of thy vineyard. We salute those pioneers who, with sacrifice and sweat, built just a mile or so away the beautiful St. George temple that has provided a symbolic anchor of our faith in this part of the state for a century-and-a-half. Now, it will be joined by a sister temple to serve the growth in this region and particularly those living to the east of this site, up the course of the Virgin River and on out to the communities in the red and blue and pink and purple geologic formations of this magnificent temple district.

"Father, although this temple will not require quite the same sacrifice and struggle that our earlier edifice did, we still face challenges of a more modern kind, for which temple attendance and worship experiences there are the sweet and soothing answer to our problems. We who are gathered here can attest to the burdens that so many in our day carry. These, our brothers and sisters, need the strength that only a temple of the Most High can provide. We are grateful they will have another temple in which to worship, in which to save their kindred dead and from which they can go back to their homes armed with power and with great glory round about them.

"Father, would thou please bless the faithful tithe payers from all over this church who have made this groundbreaking possible? May they and we continue to be mindful of where these temples come from, and ultimately who pays for the great expense of constructing them. Would thou open the windows of heaven and pour out blessings on those who have given of their tithes and offerings to see these miracles come to pass in our day of hastening and saving and exalting?

"In that spirit, we bless and thank those who've worked on the plans and preparations of this site, and those who will now work on its actual construction. May those workers not only be safe from the dangers inherent in such a large project, but may they sense the presence of heavenly beings who will watch over this project according to the sacred assignment given them in heaven. May the language used here, the habits exhibited here, the spirit felt while engaged on the construction work here all be evidence of the sanctity of this temple and of the divine presence that will come to reside here upon its completion. May all who work here or have any hand in the construction of

this holy sanctuary be protected and feel the same presence of angels that will be felt when the temple is completed and opened for faithful participation.

"Now, Father in Heaven, under the direction of President Russell M. Nelson and his counselors in the First Presidency of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and bearing the holy apostleship in the sacred and restored holy Melchizedek priesthood, I dedicate this site, break this ground and turn this soil to initiate the construction of the Red Cliffs Utah Temple, to bless the living and the dead under the keys restored by the prophet Elijah, the modern prophets, and apostles. In doing so, I pronounce a blessing on this property that once divided the bounties of thy hand into growth of hay and grain and other products of the soil. So, too, will it now provide the bounties of thy hand into growth of baptized, ordained, endowed and eternally sealed families on both sides of the veil, a blessing made possible by the atoning sacrifice of thy beloved son Jesus Christ.

"To that end, Father, we dedicate unto thee and thy holy purpose this acreage, the construction effort on it and all the preparatory labor. May the breaking of this soil and the development of this site not only be evidence of the dedication of the parcel of land, but may it also mark a re-dedication of our personal lives, a dedication in which we take true delight in watching the temple rise in doing our family history for the names that will be taken here and to cultivate true worthiness to enter it ere long.

"For this we pray, in the sacred and holy name of him whose soil this is, whose temple it will be and whose disciples we are forever, even the Lord Jesus Christ, amen."