

Pastoral Prayer
May 24, 2020

This is graduation weekend here in Hilo. In another year, we would have recognized two graduates from our church family today. We have delayed that until we have the opportunity to congratulate them in person, but please do bring their names to God today with celebration of their spirits and accomplishments and with prayers for their good health and joy in the days to come. Timothy Nakamoto has graduated as a valedictorian from Waiakea High School this weekend. He will enter Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, this fall, with an ROTC scholarship. He plans to become an Air Force pilot. Wataru Hokulea Jason Hayashi is graduating from the University of Nevada at Reno with a Bachelor of Science in Physics. He plans to continue his education this fall, entering a Ph.D. program at the University of California at Irvine.

I must also ask your prayers for a family in our congregation that is grieving. We held the funeral for Charles Seikin Kamimura this week. May God embrace all those who mourn him.

Let us pray:

O God, as is not unusual, we greet you with a range of mind and heart. We are so proud of our graduates. The love we gave them as children has blossomed so as they become adults. May your care be constantly with them. May their senses be open to joy and wonder. May their hearts be open to the inspiration of the Spirit.

And we grieve today. We grieve that we cannot honor their successes in person at this time. We grieve that they do not receive the ceremonies others have enjoyed. We grieve at the loss of Chuck Kamimura, and pray that you would hold Hatsue and all the family closely in your arms because we cannot hold them in ours. We cannot read the front page of the New York Times today because it is blurred by our tears.

Yes, we grieve today.

We pray also that we read the signs of the times aright. We see options for our days expanding. We may be able to participate soon in activities we had laid aside two months ago. We see in our state and community a decline in the number of people who are sick.

May we be reading those signs aright. Help us maintain our caution, O God, so that we do not rush to actions that put people at risk. May we be wise. O God, make your people wise.

In times of stress and times of rejoicing – and in times that are both – you are our God. You are our Maker. You are our Savior. You are our friend. Equip us and renew us and inspire us and comfort us in these days, Holy One, for we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.