

Pastoral Prayer

June 14, 2020

Holy One, be with us.

We are enduring this time, these days. We are enduring the sense of loss in disconnection from family and friends, relieved some – but not enough – by means of technology. We are enduring the losses of income and security, or we have neighbors who are. We are caught between the need and desire to work and create something of worth for our society and the health risks we would create for ourselves and for others. We are enduring this time.

We see others whose endurance has been pressed, and pushed, and punctured. Where we share their experience and their pain, we join our voices. Where their experience and their pain is different from ours, we also join our voices, so that individual bigotry and racist structures might someday not rule the lives of African Americans, Native Americans, Latinx, Hawaiians, Micronesians, Asian Americans. We pray that not just our eyes and hearts but also our minds and mouths might be opened to insist upon a just society. We pray for your guidance and intervention to make us the nation that some, and that may include parts of us, are reluctant to become.

We pray for 117,000 grieving families, O God, bereft of loved ones by the COVID-19 virus in the United States. We pray for 306,000 more grieving families in other places around the world. We pray for even more people who mourn the passing of a loved one for the reasons with which we are more familiar, the diseases and accidents and yes, the deliberate violence of each day on Earth. Comfort them, O God. Assure them of love. Assure them of grace.

May we, in our uncertainty and confusion, turn about at any and all times and find you with us. Even as we wait for you to create the world you have shown us in vision, may we be assured by the fulfillment of your most basic promise: to be with us. To be loving to us. To be our God.

We pray in Jesus' name: Amen.