

Pastoral Prayer

June 21, 2020

God who know the good koa from the bad – God who knows the needs of canoe builders and of the ‘elepaio – God who knows the right from the wrong, the good from the bad, the timely from the timeless – be now our wisdom.

We confess our sins to you. We confess our anger and our selfishness. We confess the way we prioritize our comfort. We confess the ways we have known that some action would grieve you or sadden someone else, and that we did it anyway because... well, there was a reason. It wasn't a good reason. We know it. We confess it.

We confess that we are complicit in the sins of our society. Sometimes we have accepted faulty justifications of the clear inequities we see. Sometimes we have created them. Sometimes we have endured the suffering of racism or sexism or homophobia and let it break our hearts. Sometimes we have accepted the privilege of our place in society to which others have limited access at best. Sometimes we have been unaware of it. Sometimes we have known full well.

Hear our confession, O God. We pray your grace to guide us in apology, restitution, and amendment of our ways. Grant us your forgiveness as we seek the forgiveness of those we have offended.

Our world needs you for more than forgiveness, O God. We need guidance for the choosing of our leaders. We need wisdom for living amidst a pandemic. We need righteousness to relieve people of the burdens they endure. We need healing in a world where 8.8 million have fallen ill, where 140,000 people are diagnosed every day, where 465,000 have died. We need you in a nation where new diagnoses are rising again, where 122,000 people have died.

We need you.

We need you in the sorrows of our lives, in the separations, in the grieving, in the recovery from other illnesses and injuries, in the daily labor we offer to you as service. We need you in the celebrations and the reunions, increasing our joy, sharing our love.

Today we recognize fathers and fatherhood. We thank you, O God, for those who bring loving hearts and minds to the role of parent, whether they be related by blood, law, or affection. We pray for those who have the role of father but not the skills; guide them, we pray, for the sake of the children. We pray for those who mourn their fathers, those lost to time, years, and illness, and those lost to men's failure to be good and loving fathers. Bless them and keep them in your love that surpasses all we can imagine.

We pray in Jesus' name: Amen.