

Pastoral Prayer

June 28, 2020

Holy One of righteousness and justice – Holy One of healing and renewal – Holy One of forgiveness and redemption – hear our humble prayers.

We cry out for a just society, one in which wealth and power do not lie in the selfish hands of a few, but are distributed to all people. We cry out against the forces of racism, sexism, ableism, and heterosexism that place barriers in the way of so many people's efforts to live their true selves and share their true gifts. We cry out against the enduring structures that, in their familiarity, can be so hard to see. We cry out against those whose explicit bigotry defends those structures, raise new obstacles to progress, and speak words that batter the human soul. We cry out for righteousness and justice.

We cry out for healing in the midst of a global pandemic. We cry out for wisdom among our leaders. We cry out for a value system that places human health above human wealth. We cry out for your power to be at work in the world among us, strengthening the bodies of the sick and the spirits of the fearful. We cry out for your comfort in our own losses and griefs. We cry out for healing and renewal.

We cry out for our sorrow at our own failings and sins. We cry out for the knowledge to do well, to live righteously and to foster justice. We cry out for your mercy when we do not follow our Savior. We cry out to be made new, each hour if necessary, to be your true people, vulnerable and generous, brave and joyful. We cry out for forgiveness and redemption.

Holy One, we plan to gather once more to worship you together next week. May we be wise enough to distinguish the risks and choose well. May we be cautious enough to protect our health and that of others. May we be joyful enough to greet each other with smiles behind our masks and still see within the image of you, our Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

We pray in Jesus' name: Amen.