

Pastoral Prayer

July 19, 2020

Gracious God, we would take the wings of the morning to flee from this pandemic – ironically, using our technological wings has risks we would rather not take. We still fear the illness, with its affects upon our nation, our neighbors, our livelihoods, our health, our families, our friends, our world. We pray for your guiding, healing, and comforting presence to lead us to a day in which we can fear less. We pray for your assuring presence to support us every wingbeat of the flight to the wings of the morning.

We pray your grace, O God, upon those grieving for two great leaders of the Civil Rights struggle who died this weekend, O God. Comfort those who mourn for C. T. Vivian and for John Lewis. Lead us so that their vision of a truly just society, still unrealized in their lifetimes, may somehow be realized in ours. As you comfort us in loss, Holy One, make us uncomfortable with bigotry and the enduring structures of racism. Let us reshape this twisted society into one more like that which you intended.

We raise our prayers for the family of Jonathan Hara, who died in a car accident this weekend. Hold his family and friends in your loving arms. When we have run out of tears, bear witness to our sorrow with your own.

Be with us also, O God, in the joys of this world. Let us rejoice in a child's first birthday cake and in a graduate's achievements. Let us delight in memories while we are separated and in telephone or video conference calls with loved ones where those stories get shared again. Let us feel the satisfaction of accomplishment and the pleasant weariness at day's end that will be refreshed by sleep. In human voices, in the sighs of the wind, in the drumming of the rain, in the songs of the birds: let all creation praise your name.

Amen.