

Pastoral Prayer

July 26, 2020

Holy One, whatever sort of living thing we might compare ourselves to, we are your children. We are children seasoned by the years, and we are children in our first years of learning. We are children who have suffered much, and we are children who know just a few frustrations. We are children who have refined our experiences into wisdom, and we are children who have had relatively few experiences with which to form wisdom, and we are, I regret, children who have let our learnings go and chosen to dance with folly.

We are your children.

In this body, we are your children who are grateful that the worst of a dangerous storm has passed us by. We are also aware that the storm endangers others of your children. Hold them and protect them, O God; may they find safety amidst the gale. May all your children rejoice in the sun when the storm has passed.

We pray your guidance, your encouragement, and your wisdom as this world of your children strains to endure the global pandemic. May your grace lead researchers to effective vaccines, and producers to the means to rapidly distribute it. May your love invoke the generosity of human hearts so that this does not enrich a few and impoverish many. May your justice be visible such that those who receive the vaccine first are the ones at greatest risk, and those who receive it last are those at least risk.

We confess, O God, that left entirely to human will, we fear the outcome will be otherwise.

Give us that greatness of heart of which we dream, O God. Give us that expansiveness of soul we credit to only a few. May we be visibly the signs of a loving, generous, and merciful Creator. May we be the body of Christ on Earth.

As we are, remind us again that ear has not heard, nor eye seen, nor human imagination envisioned what you have prepared for those who love you. In that assurance we will live and love and serve. In Jesus name:

Amen.