

Pastoral Prayer  
August 9, 2020

O God, we are frustrated. We are frightened. We are fed up. We are tired of our little boats. We are tired of the wind. We are tired of feeling battered by the waves.

We are tired of working toward a place or a time or a future that it seems we cannot reach.

Come to us, Jesus. Come to us and reassure us when we squawk at seeing you. Come to us and, please, if we say anything so foolish as Peter, tell us to stay in the boat like sensible people. Come to us and make us comforted in your presence. Come to us and still the winds.

We pray that the winds of COVID-19 might be stilled with safe distancing, with a commitment to care for one another, and with a vaccine. We pray your aid to meet the economic challenges to care for those losing livelihoods. Let no one lose their home because of this disease. We pray your comfort for Americans grieving 162,000 souls, for a world mourning 728,000 people gathered now to you. We pray your healing for five million Americans and 19.7 million people around the world who have suffered this disease.

We pray your aid for the people of Beirut, where the storm of a terrible explosion has swept away lives, homes, and dreams. We pray for those on the US East Coast battered by tropical storm winds last week, making us doubly grateful that similar winds passed us by not so long ago. We pray your aid for our community still recovering from the lava flows two years ago. We pray your aid for those afflicted by the greed, arrogance, and injustice of human power, for those victimized by individual criminals and by collective systems.

We pray your aid for our wind-seared souls, tuned now to the moans of the wind that echo the groans of human beings. We pray your aid to restore our spirits when they falter and to renew them when they collapse. We pray your aid to hear, amidst the rushing of the gale, your reassuring voice. We pray your aid to discern the breath of the Holy Spirit amidst the hurricanes of the world.

Be with us, dear Jesus, as we pray the prayer you taught us.

Amen.