

Pastoral Prayer
August 16, 2020

Bring us tears of joy, O God. Bring us tears of joy to wash away the tears of sorrow, of anger, of uncertainty, and of loss.

Tears flow around the world, O God. Worldwide, loved ones grieve for 772,000 people who have died of COVID-19. In the US, 170,000 families are in mourning. Whether this pandemic, another illness, violence, or another tragedy of life has ended their time on Earth, hold the souls of the departed in your keeping, O God. Embrace those who weep with sorrow. May they know the consolation of your love.

As our state wrestles with rising numbers of sick people, bring your healing strength to those who suffer. Whatever the ailment or condition, we look to you to aid them in their need. Strengthen the medical professionals who labor for their recovery. Keep them safe and well for the benefit of their patients, their families, and because they are your children themselves.

Help us find homes for the houseless, jobs for the incomeless, guidance for the directionless, morals for the compassionless. Be with those in prison, those at risk of violence, those who dedicate themselves to serving the public.

Bless this church, O God, that we may hold one another in love and prayer as we frustratingly cannot hold one another with our arms. Guide us to serve our neighbors well and faithfully. Hold us when we stumble from weariness, heal our hurts, and be with us as we take up our journeys once again.

We give thanks for the occasions to weep tears of joy, O God. Today we celebrate the birth of Oscar Tanouye to Jeribie and Christopher Tanouye. May he be healthy and live with a light heart and a loving spirit.

For the gifts of dawn and sunset, of ocean wave and flowing stream, of budding flower and koa swaying in the breeze, we give you thanks. In sight and sound and touch and taste and perfume, in love and friendship and affection, in faith itself, O God, you have given us abundant cause for tears of joy. May we always rejoice in you.

Amen.