

Pastoral Prayer
October 4, 2020

Holy One,

We are, as people, accustomed to the consequences of our folly. More than once we have had to rework or remake the work of our hands, or the meditations of our minds, or the relationships of our hearts. We have had to wait for the healing of bruises and burns. We have had to pay fines and late fees and apologies.

We have prayed to you to deliver us from the worst of our failings.

We pray for those whose follies have made them more vulnerable to illness, and we pray for those who have fallen ill because of others' follies. O God, give healing strength to the bodies of all afflicted by COVID-19, from the President and the First Lady to those at Yukio Okutsu Veterans Home. We pray that people might turn from their follies and embrace a wisdom of self-care and of compassion. We pray that carelessness and hubris might harm fewer, and finally none, of your people.

On this World Communion Sunday, gather your people together and nourish us. Fill our spirits to embrace truth, to understand justice, to live righteousness. May we repudiate the ideologies and the structures of white supremacy with your aid. May we dismantle them with your guidance. May we live in a blessed community by your grace.

Buttress the weary caregivers, O God. Give aid to the homeless and the hungry. Comfort the grieving. Embrace the dying. Encourage the fearful. Love us all. We pray in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.