

Pastoral Prayer
October 18, 2020

O Holy One,

We might prefer it if we could see your face, or see something we can understand, something familiar, something like what we know. As Moses long ago, we would like you to be something, someone that we can grasp, that we can describe, that we can know, and yes, that we can control.

Yet you are none of those things, are you, O God?

Keep us, we pray, from doing harm to ourselves. Let your hand rest upon us so that we do not spring forth either into an experience of your glory we cannot endure, or into some disaster of our own making that we cannot survive. Truthfully, our folly is so great as individuals and as peoples that we do not need to approach you to find great risk. We do it in poor diets, we do it to entertain ourselves, we do it during floods and fires and pandemics, we do it in war.

Help us lay aside our love for folly, O God, and turn to your wisdom.

We pray for citizens and candidates as this election proceeds, O God. May there be wisdom in those who run and in those who cast ballots. And when folly and cruelty and appeal to selfishness win election, O God, we pray that those candidates might govern out of wisdom and compassion and generosity.

May they – may we – act like you do as long as we bear your image. May we bring care and compassion to those who are ill with COVID-19 around the world, especially near to us here in Hilo in the hospital or at Life Care Center. May we embrace in love if not our arms our neighbors who are grieving. May we be your face to the world.

For wisdom, for healing, for guidance, for strength, and for courage we pray, in Jesus' name, who taught us as we pray to say...

Amen.