

Pastoral Prayer
November 1, 2020

Our spirits ebb and flow, O God, much like the waves ebb and flow on the beach. Sometimes we are on a rising tide of optimism and enthusiasm, and our waves reach high. Other times we feel as if we strain to reach the high water mark achieved just a short time ago, and not even our furthest flung droplets of spray moisten the rocks once submerged.

Our spirits ebb and flow, O God.

We pray for our neighbors on Lanai as illness spreads through that community. Strengthen them and help them, O God, to endure the dangers of COVID-19, and protect those who have not contracted the virus. As diagnosis counts rise – as the tide of illness comes in – we ask your aid for this nation and for all nations. Speed the work of the researchers developing a safe and effective vaccine. Root the leaders and the citizens of the world in caution and prevention and compassion. May we be wise, truly wise, truly wiser than we have been.

Our nation's election reaches its conclusion this week. May our citizens vote with hope and with confidence in your guidance and grace. May they vote with wisdom, yes, with wisdom, without hatred or selfishness, without malice or greed.

In a few moments we will seek your grace at your table, O God, your table in many places, your table of many shapes, your table with many forms of bread and cup upon it. Bring your grace to our tables, O God, and fill us with your love. May our spirits reach new heights upon the shorelines of our lives. May the ebbing water bear away the sin and sorrow and sighs of our lives.

We pray in Jesus' name, who taught us when we pray to say...

Amen.