

Pastoral Prayer
November 8, 2020

Holy One,

Many of us are breathing a little more freely this morning. Many people have experienced something like hope fulfilled. Many people see wider possibilities than they did a week ago.

Others, we know, breathe shallowly in fear. Some fear the results of this election, some fear the circumstances around them, some fear the pandemic – most of us, truthfully, fear the pandemic – some fear the workings of their own body and mind that do things they don't like or control or understand.

Holy One, in our fears and in our relief, be our God and our friend.

I do not ask for a false human unity. We must be united, O God, but we must be united in justice and righteousness and yes, in love. These are the most difficult unions, unions hardly attained in the history of the world. Do not let us accept a cheerfulness that disguises pain beneath. Do not let us proclaim righteousness when injustice continues. Do not let us pause in the work to build the human 'ohana you envision, except to gather strength for the next endeavor.

We pray for the Ohata family as they grieve for Roy. Hold all of them in your loving arms. Be with the others who grieve today, mourning those who passed to you in recent days or many years ago. Assure us once more of a future that restores the entire human family.

We have seen evil in our lives, O God. We have seen suffering. We have endured pain. Be the Righteous One that defends us from evil and leads us in the ways of righteousness. Be the Redeeming One who delivers the oppressed from their oppression. Be the Healing One who restores our bodies, mind, and souls.

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

Amen.