

Pastoral Prayer
November 15, 2020

Holy One,

We in this congregation know more than we like about the dangers and uncertainties of life. We have lived with loss. We have known people to arrive and become parts of our lives. We have treasured their presence and their being. We have lost them to distance, to decisions we or they have made, and we have lost them to death.

In an uncertain existence, O God, be our constant friend and companion.

We pray for those who are grieving today.

We pray for those who are lonely.

We pray for those who are without shelter for the night, or breakfast for the morning, or security at noon. We pray for those whose homes have been shattered by war or whose larders have been emptied by famine. We pray for those whose neighborhoods have been devastated by storms and fires and earthquakes. We pray for those who know even better than we, who know with sorrow and pain, just how uncertain and fragile life can be.

As we raise these prayers, O God, we also raise our prayers of gratitude. Yes, we have known the loss of love. We have also known love. We have known the kindness of a smile and a gentle welcoming hug. We have tasted the sweetness of cookies and the sweetness of friendship. We have enjoyed the glory of sunrises and sunsets. We have lifted our faces to embrace the rain. We have, and we will again.

Bring us more flowers and fruits, more ulu and sushi, more songs and more dances, O God. Bring us more deep friendships and new acquaintances. Bring us more life, more humanity, and more of you. Be our constant companion in life, and welcome us into new life at our death.

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

Amen.