

Pastoral Prayer
November 29, 2020

Holy One,

We rejoice in the sun. We rejoice in the rain. Both light and water shower the Earth with goodness and summon forth green things from the ground. While one blessing may sear our skin, and the other may drive us beneath shelter, both together maintain our lives in this world. We are grateful.

We ask that your grace might pour down upon your people in this nation and around the world, still suffering with this pandemic with all its ills: over 62 million people sickened around the world, of whom nearly one and a half million have died. We pray for the overworked medical professionals in so many places, trying to care for too many patients in not enough space with not enough help. We pray for those idled by exposure quarantines, slowed business, and interrupted systems of supply. We pray for those whose folly or hubris lead them to expose themselves to illness and for those they expose in turn. We pray for the researchers and production teams and distributors of vaccines.

We pray for ourselves. May we maintain our wisdom and our patience long enough that when we can celebrate together, whenever we can celebrate together in safety, we can all celebrate together.

We pray for justice to arrive in our time. Too many citizens face daily pressures because of their race, their national origin, their gender, or the people with whom they fall in love. Others face daily pressures because of obstacles for those with disabilities or mental illness. Others face daily pressures because of their own sins and errors. Lift up those cast down, O God. Guide us all into new ways of living as one. Forgive us our sins. Help us repair our faults.

In a world filled with folly, may we be blessed with your wisdom, O God.

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

Amen.