

Pastoral Prayer
January 17, 2021

Holy One,

We might seek for wings to fly, and find that we have flippers to swim. We might seek holy beings above, and find that we have holiness within. We might seek angels to make things right, and find that we are the messengers of grace we have been seeking.

May we find these things.

May we find the path to health, justice, and peace. Our complacency as much as our peace has been bruised by the events of this month, just as our complacency as well as our health has been unsettled by twelve months of pandemic. May we be guides on this path of health, justice, and peace. May we be summoners that bring people to this path of health, justice, and peace. May we be guided on this path of health, justice, and peace, so that we do not mislead. May we be guides of truth, messengers of truth, and followers of truth, through all the deceptive enticements of our time.

We ask that your strength be with those who are ill, no matter the source of their injury or ailment. Breathe healing into their bodies and hope into their spirits. Guide the skills of those who tend them as medical professionals or as family caregivers. May hearts be open to share human compassion as well as human medicine.

We pray for the leaders of this nation, from the mayor and council of this county to state legislators and executives to those who hold office of the United States. May they and those who serve in other capacities, military and police, fire and public health, transportation and social services, administrative support and legal services, and countless more, be guided by your wisdom and deeply rooted in your compassion. May we as citizens select such leaders, hold them to account when they fail of this trust, and build up new generations to serve in greater faithfulness than those who preceded them.

May this week's transition of power occur without violence and without insurrection. May we affirm the ideals of our republic and acknowledge its less-than-ideal reality. May we continue the work to end white male supremacy. May we draw closer to your peaceable realm.

In Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.