

Pastoral Prayer
February 14, 2021

God of love,

We give you thanks today for the gifts of romance, of attraction, and of embrace. Hearts and flowers and chocolates will grace many relationships today, and may these and other, deeper, expressions of affection give delight to those who give and receive.

Romance is not, however, an evenly distributed gift, O God. We ask comfort for those who are lonely and ease for those who are grieving a loved one who is gone. We ask your presence with those who are content in their singleness and that you would give guidance or correction to those who do not love well. As we celebrate romance, may we also celebrate the deeper love to which you call us: a love that relies not upon feeling but upon decision, not upon attraction but upon compassion. May we love one another as you love us.

We pray for those affected by the earthquakes in Japan. May the injured have your strength to help them. May those seeking to restore lost power and communication have their skills reinforced. We pray also for the nation of Myanmar, with its government overthrown. What can we do but cry for justice, O God? What can we do but ask your aid to the people.

We pray for our nation, O God. We have seen the precipice from which our republic could topple. We know from the history of Hawai'i how vulnerable a constitutional government is. We ask your guidance and your justice, but as we do, we know that some proclaim your guidance and your justice with words and deeds of violence. Help this nation's people to discern you: your love. Your righteousness. Your grace. Your will.

Be with us in our daily living, O God, to make the abundant choices of our lives consistent with your call to us. May we show your grace.

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

Amen.