

Pastoral Prayer
February 28, 2021

O God who is always with us,

Hear our prayer of confession. We have heard your words. We have known what you expect of us. We have trusted in your wisdom. We have even been able to conceive what our lives might be like if we followed your words. And... more often than we care to admit, more often than you desire, more often than is good for the world, we have chosen our way over your way, protected our comfort of life, or prejudices of life, or privilege of life, and it has come with a cost to others.

We keep trying to save our lives, or what we believe our lives should be, and in doing so we sacrifice the lives and wellbeing of others, and for certain we sacrifice our lives with you.

Forgive us, O God. Renew this strange covenant with us that you made in Jesus, not turning aside from suffering because there was a world and a people and an entire universe to heal. Renew us as more faithful disciples. May we embrace the way of Christ, embracing the neighbor and the stranger, bringing healing rather than harm, bringing love rather than power.

We pray for those still cold upon the continent. We pray for the people of Myanmar struggling to maintain a representative government. We pray for the people of the world who are laboring for breath, or kept from their labor, or laboring in grief because of this pandemic. We ask your aid for those sick with any ailment or injury, for those caring for them as their profession or out of their relationship, for those who have reached the end of their earthly lives, and for those whose tears flow for loss.

Beneath our rainy skies, O God, people struggle to sleep without roofs. Some of our neighbors will wake hungry and have no means to improve their state. Some of our neighbors wonder if anybody love them at all.

We know you do, O God. May all your people come to find that we, your disciples, love them, too.

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

Amen.