

Pastoral Prayer
March 14, 2021

Holy One,

The night of a pandemic will soon, we pray, give way to a dawn of a day when our lives are less at risk of a spreading virus. It has been a long, long night – just a year since it was pronounced a pandemic – and in some ways it seems like forever.

Thank you, God, for being with us through that time.

Give us grace and guidance to endure the remaining time, however long it may or must be. Help us endure our feelings as we watch others be vaccinated before our turn has arrived. Help us maintain our caution after our vaccines so that we do not put others at risk. Help us work to provide protection not just for ourselves and those we love, but for those we barely know, those we do not know at all, and those we do know and don't care for. Guide us to generosity in our sharing of the means of life.

Bless those who endure suffering and deprivation in these days, O God, when even the end of a pandemic may not bring them much relief. Help the homeless to find shelter and the hungry to find food. Help those beset by war and violence find safety. Perhaps better yet, O God, guide us, the people with greater safety and comfort, to work for a world without poverty, without war, without selfishness and evil. Bless us with the wisdom to see a new "normal" that is better than the old one.

You are not a parent limited by time and space; you are the Creator of the universe. Whether we have felt your presence or not, you have never left us. Make your comfort and strength known to us, O God, because we still need it. Make your wisdom and guidance known to us, O God, because we assuredly need it for our courses ahead. Make your love and compassion known to us, O God, that we might share it as faithfully as Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.