

Pastoral Prayer
March 21, 2021

Holy One,

We pray for 541,000 grieving American families, for 2.7 million families around the world, who mourn the loss of a loved one to COVID-19. We pray for the places where disease transmission is rising and where hospital beds are filling. We pray for the sick and we pray for the caregivers and we pray for those anxiously waiting for someone they love to recover.

We pray for those ill with cancer or heart disease or a respiratory condition or a host of other illnesses or injuries. Bring them healing strength, O God, but if their bodies have reached their limit, take them gently into your care. Assure their weeping families of your love.

We pray for those who mourn for victims of violence in Atlanta this past week: those who grieve for Xiaojie Tan, for Delaina Yaun, for Paul Andre Michels, for Daoyou Feng, for Yong Ae Yue, for Hyun Jung Grant, for Soon Chung Park, for Suncha Kim. We pray for Elcias Hernandez-Ortiz, that he may recover from his wounds. We hardly dare ask for your guidance, O God, to prevent such horrors in the future, because our society has steadfastly refused to acknowledge its racism, its sexism, its easy access to weapons, or its sad tendency toward violence. May we, somehow, choose this moment to make that turn, to choose a gentler, more compassionate, better way.

The rains continue to fall, and the green things of Earth continue to grow. Though it seems like it happens just for a moment here in Hilo, the sun continues to shine. You continue to love us, O God. May your love grow in our hearts, may your peace abide in our spirits, may your redemption take shape in our lives.

We ask these things in Jesus' name, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.