

Pastoral Prayer

April 11, 2021

We grieve the passing of Stuart Hall, spouse of Carolyn Lum-Bellem.

O Holy One,

We have felt the harsh touches of the world. We know the lingering fear of this pandemic and the cold grip that grief places upon us. We know the harsh touch of illness and the deep pain of insult and abuse. We know the breaking touch of violence and we know the mind-blurring touch of anxiety, mental illness, and addiction. We have known, we have felt, or we have witnessed the hard touches of the world.

Today we mourn the touch of death upon Stuart Hall and we ask your comforting presence be with Carolyn Lum-Bellem and all the members of their family. We ask your loving embrace surround all who grieve for him, wherever they might be, and that you hold all those who ache for the loss of a loved one today, whether the loss is recent or years in the past. Love and life are precious, O God, and in their loss we weep.

We pray for your gentle touch in our needs, O God, to bring food to our mouths and sustenance to our spirits. All these harsh touches wear us down. May your gentle touch bear us up. May it bear us soon to receive vaccines, or to find treatment for other ills, or to reconcile with our neighbor, or to come to peace with a long-felt grievance. May your touch revive us, restore us, and renew us for another year, another month, another week, another day, or even just another hour when our energies and our inspiration run low.

Jesus bore the harsh blows of the world's ungentle touch, O God, and you restored him to life and raised him to life everlasting. For this sign of loving power and of gracious touch, O God, we give you thanks and praise. May we live on in the hope instilled by Christ's resurrection and be embraced by Jesus when, in the fullness of time, we come to you.

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

Amen.