

Pastoral Prayer

April 4, 2021

Gracious God,

Your resurrection has been... subtle, nearly silent. Those first to hear the news could hardly believe it. They dared not share it, at least for a while.

Love had overcome death, and the world rolled on, unnoticing.

To this day, O God, the world seems not to notice that love has overcome death. The forces of hatred and fear and greed and power and prejudice and privilege racism and selfishness and pride roll on, roll on and on, and they leave suffering and death in their wake. We cannot keep up with all the names, O God, so we are relieved that you already know them all, even as we are shamed that there are so many names for you to remember for their grief and pain.

Could we ask for your resurrection to get a little bit... louder?

You changed the world for us, and we, well, we have settled right back as if we preferred the world of pain and suffering. You changed the world for us, and we, well, we have applauded and sung, "Alleluia!" and gone right back to our needs and, to be honest, our greed. You changed the world for us, and we, well, we praised you with our lips.

There are those we cannot care for. Their needs are beyond our resources. For them we ask your urgent aid. But there are also those we can care for and do not. For them we ask your urgent inspiration, that your name may be glorified in our response.

You banished the power of death, and so we praise you. You have gathered us into your arms, and so we thank you. You summoned us to life, and so we seek to live as the risen Jesus lives.

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

Amen.