

Pastoral Prayer

May 9, 2021

Holy One who would welcome all the world beneath your mothering wings,

On this Mother's Day we pray that those who take on the challenges of fostering the next generation – the mothers, the fathers, those who take on a mother's role – may do so with all the great outpouring of love that you have shown to us. May mothers who do not know what they are doing learn quickly. May mothers who are short of what they need to care for their children find those needs met. May mothers who are wrestling with the challenges of illness or poverty or homelessness or mental illness be cared for and comforted and carried in love so that they may love their children.

We pray for the mothers who ache for their children's needs, needs that may be beyond their ability to meet. We pray for the mothers of children who are very sick, or whose families live in war, or who suffer from addictions, or who have done things that they should not. Provide the guidance and care and healing that human beings can not, O God. Restore and renew the love of mothers, fathers, and children (of whatever age) so that forgiveness, reconciliation, and restoration can come.

We pray for this world full of suffering. We pray for three and a quarter million families grieving the loss of a loved one to COVID-19 around the world, with 580,000 of those families in the United States. We pray because even as more people receive vaccinations, more people are getting sick around the world and more people are dying. For those in India, Sweden, Uruguay, Mongolia, Argentina, the Netherlands, and other places where the virus is spreading rapidly, we pray your urgent aid and care.

We also pray for Myanmar, for Afghanistan, for Yemen, where wars continue amidst a global pandemic.

Bless us, O God, as we seek the courses of compassion and of wisdom. Bless us, O God, for you have washed not just our feet but our spirits. Bless us, O God, to bring that grace to all those around us, and to all those you have made.

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

Amen.