

Pastoral Prayer
May 16, 2021

Gracious God,

It seems like we ask for your care in more places each week while we remain concerned for places we'd asked your care for last week. We continue to pray for those in India, experiencing the highest per capita rates of new cases of COVID-19 in the world right now, followed by Brazil and... the United States of America. We pray for those in Myanmar, but also for those in Israel and Gaza where rockets and bombs keep claiming lives while leaders make... claims.

When will we be able to simply pray in thanks that all things are now well?

In our own lives, we grieve for loved ones gone from us to you. Some died recently; others died long ago but our hearts still ache. Our friends and neighbors have hurts and pains and illnesses and injuries – we do ourselves. Some are traveling, and others yearn to travel. Some are managing to get by. Others are not.

Holy One, guide us to the ways in which we can be effectively compassionate to our family members, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens of the world. Holy One, guide us to the ways in which we can care well for ourselves, to find healing and sustenance and rest. Holy One, gather us together in your grace to settle gratefully into your blessings and revel in the wonder of your love.

May your peace grow in us. May your love blossom in us. May your compassion bear fruit in us for our own lives and souls, and for the lives and souls of your people and your Creation.

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

Amen.