

Pastoral Prayer

July 11, 2021

Gracious God,

We seek the strength, the courage, the resources, and the wisdom to endure the bad days, bad weeks, bad seasons of our lives. We seek your grace to come from them into good days, days that we have helped create, days that learn from the past, days that ensure that the bad days will not rule over us, over our neighbors, or over your beloved world.

In this moment we pray for those grieving for the lives lost in the Surfside condominium collapse. We mourn for firefighters killed in the western wildfires. We hold the people of Haiti in prayer amidst the violence that took the life of President Jovenel Moise. We pray for rapid production and distribution and administration of COVID-19 vaccines around the world. We pray for wisdom among our people to protect themselves, their families, and their neighbors from this ongoing pandemic.

We invite your spirit into our lives, O God. Help us to see the ways our decisions affect others, and how we might do better for family, friends, and neighbors than we currently know. Soothe us in our cares and our anxieties. Help us to understand our needs – our true needs – and help us find the means to meet them. Heal us where we need healing; revive us where we need reviving. Bless us with your love embracing our hearts. Bless us with the assurance of your constant care.

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

Amen.