

Pastoral Prayer
August 1, 2021

Holy One,

We continue our prayers for those gathered for the Olympic Games in Tokyo. We pray that they might be kept well in body and in mind, and that the world around might honor the successes of skill, training, and achievement as well as the successes of self-care and self-knowledge.

Oh, God, as more and more people fall ill from COVID-19 this week around the world, around the nation, and around our island, we pray your aid and guidance. Once more we confess that we have seen the works of folly take pride of place. Once more we confess that folly has demanded its price. Once more we confess that wisdom weeps to humanity's terrible rush to embrace folly and its consequences.

Once more, O God, we beg you to make us wider than we are, as wise at least as we need to survive, and as wise as you wish us to be.

We gather shortly to embrace your gifts in the bread and the cup, gifts whose worth we still do not fully understand, gifts with which we honor and celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, gifts which we pray will nourish us in body, mind, and soul. For these gifts, and the manifold gifts we recognize, and the even more manifold gifts that we do not, we give you thanks and praise.

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

Amen.