

Pastoral Prayer  
September 5, 2021

Gracious God,

On this Labor Day weekend, we remember the working people of the world. We remember those who toil upon farms with undernourished soil with limited fertilizer, and those who can barely keep up with weeds growing about their crops. We remember those who sit at desks typing meaningless things, and those who stand behind counters as people buy snacks. We remember those whose work is highly rewarded, and we remember those who work long hours at multiple jobs in order to make the rent.

We pray for those who would like to work but can't: because the jobs aren't there, or because employers won't accommodate disability despite the law, or because they have dependents to care for at home, or because their age or race or gender or other condition is one that someone, somehow, decides isn't suitable for a job.

We pray for the peace and justice of Afghanistan, and for those who continue to grieve the ones lost in these decades of war.

We pray from our condition in this pandemic, asking you to help reduce the suffering of this disease. Protect especially those vulnerable people of our community, those who work in the high-contact jobs in stores and schools and medical facilities. Lead your people to act with consideration for their neighbors and with wisdom. Lead your people better than we lead ourselves.

May we, in this community and this congregation, find your love and mercy where we are. In our abilities and our disabilities, you hold us in grace and invite us to the table of thanksgiving. Bless us, O God, in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.