

Pastoral Prayer
September 19, 2021

Loving God,

We are your children. Just like that keiki that Jesus held in his arms centuries ago, we need your invitation, your welcome, your embrace, your care. We are in the midst of a global pandemic, and this week our nation's deaths from it will exceed those of the 1918 influenza outbreak. We have been kept separate from one another for all these long months for the sake of our physical health, but it has drained our emotional and mental health. We have labored to maintain our spiritual health through this worship and through music and through prayer and through study and...

God, we are suffering.

Breathe yourself into our spirits, O Holy Spirit, ruach Adonai, breath of God. Breathe yourself into our hearts. May we weep for the restoration you bring, O Healer of Galilee. Breathe yourself into our bodies, O God, as you gave breath to lifeless dust. May we live and thrive and grow.

Breathe into those whom you have called to comfort and care for those who are sick. Other ailments and injuries still afflict your children, O God, and we pray both with gratitude that you have called people as physicians, nurses, aides, cleaners, administrators, and clerks, and with urgency that you would bless these caregivers with your love and bless their charges with your healing.

We pray for those affected by recent storms and disasters, for those living beneath the scourge of conflict, for those who fear an outbreak of violence in their homes, for those who wonder how to make the resources of the day match its needs. They are suffering, O God. They are your children.

And we are the disciples of Jesus, so in this moment we recall that you have summoned us to welcome the child, and in the child, to welcome Jesus, and in Jesus, to welcome you. Renew our courage for true greatness, O God. Let us welcome, comfort, feed, and bless your children, our siblings, our 'ohana.

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

Amen.