

Pastoral Prayer  
September 26, 2021

Loving God,

We are your children. We are beset with our own demons: the demons of fear, of uncertainty, of limited influence, of limited means. We suffer the ills of life: disease, fatigue, ignorance, injury. We face the stumbling blocks, the obstacles, the firmly erected barriers of the world.

We face the cruel ironies of the world. We and our neighbors work hard, yet others work less and receive more. We and our neighbors live with compassion, but those who follow their greed all too often obtain their desires. We and our neighbors strive for justice, but somehow those in power define justice in such a way that it maintains their security, their comfort, and their place. Removing those barriers, O God, is a difficult task.

The world remains beset with this terrible pandemic, still claiming lives and still eliciting both the best and the worst from your people. We ask that you would amplify the voices of wisdom and that you would soften the voices of folly. We ask that you would comfort the sick and that you would give strength to their caregivers. We ask that you would grant your own healing power to struggling humanity. Hasten the day when we view COVID-19 in our past, and not in our present.

We come to World Communion Sunday next week with an acute awareness of our fractured Church. Over two thousand years of Christianity and we favor the identifying brand names of our churches over the name of Christ. As we make our slow and painful efforts to bring unity to the followers of Jesus, bless this work, and help us take away the barriers we, ourselves, erected, and make us aware when we make new ones.

For you are one God, one Savior, one Holy Spirit in unity and in the mystery of Trinity, and in your goodness and grace we find our hope. Hear our prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray, saying...

Amen.