

Pastoral Prayer  
November 21, 2021

O Ruler of the Universe, who came to us in the majesty of love and care, let your aloha rule in our hearts today.

May your wisdom guide our decisions, leading to comfort for those who suffer, to peace for those subjected to violence, to justice for those afflicted, to food for those who hunger, to health for those who ail. May your compassion guide our direction. May your hope guide our commitments. May your grace guide our hope for ourselves and all your people.

We pray for grieving families today. There are grieving families in nations torn by war. There are grieving families in households torn by violence. There are grieving families in homes struck with illness. There are grieving families in the shattered remnants of their houses, thrown down by wind and rain, earthquake and fire, and the acts of their fellow human beings. Comfort those who mourn, and listen to their cries. Awake in us and all humanity a response of care and compassion.

Holy One, we passed a terrible milestone in Hawai'i's course of COVID-19 this week. A thousand of our neighbors in these islands have now died in the course of this pandemic. As well as comfort for those who mourn, we ask your grace to strengthen those who serve: the medical personnel, mortuary staff, ministers, friends, and loved ones who journey with them on the road of grief. May they be sustained in their work and shielded from the threat of illness. May we have the wisdom to continue practices that preserve life and health. May we choose to act in the interests of our neighbors.

Be with us in our needs, O God. We are lonelier than we care to be after these months of pandemic precautions. We are still at risk for serious illness and death – and not just from COVID-19. People we love are sick. We have needs that we do not know how to address.

And we are also in a season of Thanksgiving. In hardship, you have accompanied us. In struggle, you have strengthened us. In success, you have rejoiced with us. In all things, you have blessed us. Receive the thanks of your grateful people, and may we recognize each day, not just this week, the gifts with which you shower us and all this world.

Be our ruler, O Christ, as you have always been: creating, caring, calling, and conserving us through grace. With Jesus' words we pray together...