

Pastoral Prayer
January 2, 2022

O God of the changing times, hear our prayer.

Hear our prayer for the year at hand. There is always a mystery to the future for us, O God. Sometimes that raises the possibilities of hope. Sometimes it turns what we believe to be wisdom into error and folly. Sometimes we gaze into the mystery in tears. Sometimes we cling to its promise.

Shepherd us through this year, O God. May we find the ways that preserve and enhance life, and may we steady our course in them. May we have the necessities of life, and may we help others obtain them. May we assist our neighbors, and our more distant neighbors. May those left homeless by fires in Boulder, Colorado, that destroyed a thousand structures in the blink of an eye find themselves held in your comfort and also in our assistance and support.

Shepherd us through our memories of last year, O God. Our hearts carry the past within them. May we be reassured by the blessings of 2021 and may we heal from its blows. We had so hoped to leave COVID-19 in the past. We pray your guidance, your healing presence, and your care for all the world's people as we continue to live in troubled times.

Shepherd us through the present, O God, for though we anticipate the future and remember the past, we live in the now. If now brings illness, bring us healing. If now brings grief, bring us comfort. If now brings need, bring us relief. If now brings joy, may it echo in the heavens to your delight.

With the words of Jesus we pray together...