

Pastoral Prayer  
January 16, 2022

O Holy One,

We pray for the people of Tonga, struck with a violent eruption and tsunami this weekend. We do not yet know the extent of their need, O God, because the communications are out, but you know. We pray that you will comfort and strengthen the people as they seek to aid the injured, house the homeless, and feed the hungry. We pray that you will speed the response of the world. We pray for the relatives and friends living here and elsewhere, aching for news, praying for good news, from those they love.

We pray with gratitude that the people of Congregation Beth Israel in Colleyville, Texas, have been rescued after a standoff that began during their time of worship. We ask that your Spirit move within those who have been terrified and give them healing from their suffering. We ask that you give us all guidance to better align our world with your vision of peace and justice.

On this weekend we recall the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., renew the commitment to righteousness within us. A world in which difference can be celebrated is your intent, O God, but it remains our labor to achieve. To commitment give energy, to energy give endurance, to endurance give... accomplishment.

As COVID continues to swirl around us, O God, we ask again – and again – for your guidance as well as your healing grace. Give strength to those who have contracted the disease that they might recover well. Give aid to those who care and comfort the sick, that they might be well and that they might not be struggling to pour themselves out from empty jars. Give wisdom to your people, that we might all take the steps needed to stem transmission of this illness and keep our community well.

We have been struggling to do our work, to share our gifts, even to praise your name, O God, in these hard times. We have often tried to pour from empty jars. Help us fill ourselves with your Spirit and with the gifts of your Spirit. In the time and space we set aside, be the overflowing fountain that fills us to the brim.

With the words of Jesus we pray together...