

Pastoral Prayer

April 24, 2022

God of resurrection,

Be with our siblings in faith among the Orthodox churches as they celebrate your resurrection today. May they, and may we, emerge from these festivals with our souls strengthened and our trust in you renewed. May we together bear witness to your life and love in joy.

We give thanks for the return of the Merrie Monarch Festival with its celebration of dance, music, and culture. Thank you for the grace of the victors, and for the talent of their competitors that encouraged all to their best. May those making their way home travel safely, and may all those who came together for this event be well.

May we all be well, O God, for we still live amidst the reality of this global pandemic. Lend your healing power to those who fall ill and your wisdom to community and political leaders. May we not shirk from doing what is right to protect the health and welfare of our neighbors. May we love one another in truth.

We thank you, O God, for your presence as we gather for the first time in ninety weeks. We have worshiped you in many places – and we still do. From those present in this sanctuary, for those worshiping in this moment, for those who lift their prayers in other moments in time, we ask your grace and blessing. Receive our humble praise and revive our humble hearts.

Bring your peace to the world, O God, where we have failed. Bring your justice to the world where ours is sadly lacking. Bring your grace to the world, O God, for we have fallen short of your command to love one another, and it is in your love that we hope to grow and thrive and flourish.

Hear our prayers, O God, as with the words of Jesus we say together...