

Pastoral Prayer

June 19, 2022

Holy One of love and grace,

Bless us on this day of acknowledgement and remembrance. Bless those who are fathers in this world. May their children rejoice in the love and care and compassion they receive from their fathers. May all the members of their households celebrate their contributions to their families and enjoy the circles of their spirits.

We pray also for the families in which love is damaged or absent. For fathers who grieve the distance of their children we pray. For children who miss the compassion of a father we pray. And for all who fill the role of father – to people who may have no relationship we would call adoption or hanai – for all those who bring guidance and support and love in a fatherly way, we celebrate and ask your blessing.

On this Juneteenth we rejoice in the end of legal slavery in the United States of America even as we grieve the persistence of slavery in the history and the present of the world. We ask your deliverance for those still held in bondage. We give thanks for the wisdom of the Hawaiian Kingdom in banning slavery before the USA. We pray that the ongoing evils of racial prejudice and racist systems might come to a rapid end – an end later than it should, but an end.

Be with us in our struggles, O God, with health issues, with financial pressures, with questions to be faced and answered, with the particular conditions of our households. Give us the wisdom or the healing or the resources we need to live and thrive and serve you well. Be with us in our daily efforts to bring your love to those around us and those far away. Be with us to sustain us in our most basic needs.

We offer you these prayers in the name of Jesus, who taught us to say together...