

Pastoral Prayer

August 7, 2022

O God whose fulfillment exceeds our hopes,

Support our faith, we pray, with your gracious presence in our lives. Support our faith with examples of goodness and righteousness, with people finding healing, with nations finding peace. Support our faith with deeds of love and mercy you perform and which you encourage in human beings. Support our faith, O God, so that this world may look more like, and even become, that which you have dreamed.

We pray for those beneath the bombs and shells, those in the line of fire of rifles and rockets, in Ukraine, Palestine, Tigray, Yemen, Myanmar, Afghanistan. We pray for those who are ill and we pray for those who are grieving. We pray for those who labor to care, to bring peace, to lead communities. We pray for ourselves in our willingness to accept the evils of the world as inevitable. We pray that we, with others, may come to correct and end them.

We do not come to you with great power. We come to you with faith whose richness we have hardly explored. We come with mustard seeds unsprouted and we come with mustard seeds grown to leafy profusion. We come, however, frequently unsure as to which we are, unaware of how our faith has grown, unsure of what it means. Be tender with us in our confusion, O God, and help us find the confidence to do the things to which you've summoned us. May our faith be signs of wonder in the eyes of all the world.

Hear us as we pray in the name of Jesus, our teacher, redeemer, and friend. Amen.