

Pastoral Prayer  
September 18, 2022

O God of Comfort,

The circumstances of life shift. Sometimes they bring joy and success. We learn new things. We create new things. We meet new people. We form new relationships. We bring children into the world. We laugh and we smile and we raise our voices in song.

The circumstances of life shift. Sometimes they bring loss and sorrow. We fail. We fall. We fall ill. We lose relationships. We lose friends and family members. We find it hard to get up in the mornings. We weep and we frown and our voices crack with grief.

Be with us, O God, in all the circumstances of life. Be with us in the high times and in the low, in the successes and in the sorrow. May all that we celebrate be worth celebrating, may we always strive for what is beautiful and for what lightens the burdens of our fellow creatures. May our lament be for having taken the risk of loving, for making ourselves vulnerable to loss by extending ourselves in care. Help us to avoid celebrating the triumph of greed or malice. Help us avoid grieving the loss of gain which cost someone else too much.

Be the present help and strength of our neighbors near and far. Calm the furious hearts of warring people. Break the shackles that bind the oppressed. Embrace the grieving. Heal the sick. Guide the directionless. Lead the self-centered in righteousness.

You are our God, our Creator, our Redeemer, our Advocate, our friend. Bless your world in Jesus' name.

Amen.