

Pastoral Prayer
November 27, 2022

O God of Hope,

We have come to a season of expectation, of anticipation, of what has been fulfilled and what awaits fulfillment. On this Sunday of Hope, we pray that you would inspire, strengthen, and embody our Hope.

The evils of this world, O God, summon up our need to hope. As more succumb to the violence of human beings, whether in the mass conflict of war or in the murders of individuals, we hope for a world in which violence has ceased. As we suffer injuries, illnesses, and deaths from viruses and cancers and accidents and follies, we hope for a world in which random suffering has ceased. As human beings assert themselves and their interests over others in evils from systematic oppression to persistent prejudice to theft and fraud, we hope for a world in which people treat one another with dignity, respect, and compassion.

We hope for these things, O God, because you have fulfilled our hopes over the course of millennia. You have sent guidance, deliverance, and comfort in hard and confusing times. You have sent people inspired by your saving Word to bring not just reassurance but also renewal. You have sent Jesus.

Inspire our hope once more, O God. Strengthen our hope in the face of the contradictions of the world. Embody our hope, O God, in Jesus the Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.