

Pastoral Prayer
February 12, 2023

Holy and Gracious One,

We are staggered by the suffering and loss of life in Turkey and Syria, shaken by a powerful earthquake. We raise our prayers for the homeless and hungry survivors, for the injured, and for the grieving. We ask your strength for those struggling to aid them, most of them survivors of the quake themselves. We ask that you speed the supplies offered from around the world, so that they swiftly reach those in need.

We pray today aware of the United States' annual celebration of the Super Bowl. May those on the field be cushioned from injury. May those gathering around television sets enjoy both the game and one another, and when the evening ends, return safely to their own homes. For both those who rejoice in winning and those who sigh in loss, may the day end in peace, in serenity, and in comfort.

We pray for ourselves and our neighbors amidst the heavy rains of this weekend, that we might not endure floods. We pray for ourselves and our neighbors in all the illnesses and injuries we're suffering, from a stubbed toe to cancer. We pray for ourselves and our neighbors that some lack shelter to keep off the rain – and we pray your guidance that we may do something about it.

Let your rain fall, O God, so that our island may be green. Let your sunshine fall, O God, so that the flowers may lift their heads to you in praise. Let your love fall, O God, so that we, with all Creation, may return your love to you in wonder, joy, and peace.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.