

Pastoral Prayer

March 5, 2023

Holy One,

We ask your care for the vulnerable of the world – those who are ill, those who are young, those whose bodies do not work the way they used to. We ask your care for those living amidst war and poverty and disaster. We ask your care for those who believe themselves invulnerable until a chemical train overturns or a car turns unexpectedly or they hear an unwelcome diagnosis.

We ask your care for the vulnerable of the world, O God, and when we do, we know that we ask your care for all the world.

Help us to love the world, O God. Sometimes we are overwhelmed with the task, and sometimes we are overwhelmed with bad feeling about others. Sometimes we wish to protect ourselves from risk, and sometimes we simply do not have what is needed to make things right, or even better. Help us to love the world, O God, by showing us over and over again the way of Jesus. May we follow in that way.

As we follow, we thank you for Jesus and the way he led. We thank you for the love that surpasses all understanding. We thank you for the sustenance of bread and cup and Holy Spirit. We thank you, O God, for your grace and peace expressed in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.