

Pastoral Prayer
March 19, 2023

Holy One,

We have made the better part of our Lenten journey with you. Easter is just three weeks away. In the last days of the season, may we find our way closer to you. May we find the doors we'd closed opened. May we find the barriers we've encountered lowered. May we find the confusing ways clearer. May we find your arms wide open to welcome and embrace.

May we come to Easter in astonishment and joy.

Care for your Creation, O God, for the birds of the air and the beasts of the field. Care for your Creation, O God, for the fish of the sea and the molten rock of the deeps. Care for your Creation, O God, and teach us to be better stewards of your bounty than we have been. Help us so that our comfort does not imperil the survival of other living things. Help us so that we value the life of Earth.

We pray for the people of Earth who suffer today, O God. May those living beneath the clouds of war soon find their skies brightening with peace. May those living with pain, injury, and illness, find healing. May those with disabilities find themselves fully included in their families and communities. May those who mourn find the comfort of your love.

As we move into the claims and demands of this week, grant us strength for the tasks and wisdom for their accomplishment. Grant us courage in the struggles and rest at day's end. Grant us joy in your presence and love always.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.