

Pastoral Prayer  
March 26, 2023

Gracious God,

We ask your tender care for those who struggle today. In Mississippi and Alabama tornadoes have shattered homes and taken lives. We pray for the injured, the grieving, and the homeless, and we pray that further storms may be less fierce. We pray for those whose homes are in the path of war in Ukraine, Myanmar, Ethiopia, or those places in the world where the casualty counts are lower but the grief is just as acute. We pray for those struggling to recover from illnesses of the body or the mind or the spirit. We pray for those who care for them as professionals or as loved ones. We pray for the planet itself, its climate changing because of our activity as human beings, and we ask for the wisdom to change our ways.

We pray for ourselves, O God, for we have some idea what it is to feel like dry, dry bones – even beneath the blessing of Hilo rain. We have tried things and failed. We have lost loved ones to death or to distance. We have endured illnesses and we have found our bodies changed by time, sickness, or injury. We have known loneliness and we have known the ache of guilt.

Be with us, O God, to restore us. Assure our spirits that the driest of bones can live, and may that spark our courage to continue our journey of loving faith and compassionate service. May we rejoice in the beauty about us and in the souls that accompany us. May we look to the future with confidence in the One who came to be the resurrection and the life. May we be beacons of this faith to those around us, that they may also know the depth and breadth and height of your love.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.