

Pastoral Prayer

April 2, 2023

Gracious God,

Once more we ask your tender care for people whose loved ones – children, spouses, friends – have been taken from them by a tragic and senseless outburst of violence in a Nashville school. Once more we ask your tender care for people who grieve those lost in severe storms and tornadoes across the American Midwest and South, and for those whose homes and workplaces lie in ruins. Once more we ask your tender care for those beset by the terrible violence of war and by the terrible violence that rules some homes. Once more we ask your tender care for the sick, the injured, the frightened, the dying, the grieving, the aimless, the homeless, the hungry... we ask your tender care for the needs of your people.

Save us, O God. Save us.

Our hearts wave the branches before you. Our hearts lay the cloaks in the road before you. Our hearts cheer you on. Enter the gates of our hearts, O Christ, in humble majesty and in power restrained by love. Fill us with hope, confidence, and wisdom. May we be healed – may we bring healing – in peace.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.