

Pastoral Prayer
January 28, 2024

O God who surprises,

Surprise us this day with the presence of your Holy Spirit. Revive us amidst the pains and sorrows of our days, and fill us with a hope that endures them all. Restore us from the sufferings of our bodies and our minds, and nurture our spirits to grow and bear fruit. Comfort our grief, and embrace our hearts.

We pray for peace in the places where there is no peace: in the restless minds, in the strife-torn homes, in the political conflicts, in the communities oppressed by their own governments, in the cities and farms occupied by foreign governments. We pray for a peace that ends the wars and goes beyond the end of the wars. As the old round goes, let everyone 'neath their vine and fig tree live at peace and unafraid.

Bring your healing power to the sick, O God, and to those recovering from injuries. Bring your guiding power to the leaders of communities and of nations. Bring your energizing power to those who celebrate the wonders of life. Bring your loving power to those who embrace their fellow human beings in compassion and in peace.

Bless us, O God, with the power to keep the demons of our own souls, and the demons of human communities, away from the center of our selves. May we have the freedom to choose, and to choose in righteousness.

Amen.