

Pastoral Prayer
March 24, 2024

O Glorious One who has come to us in a humble Christ,

We confess our attraction to, our obsession with, the gilded signs of power. If Jesus and Pontius Pilate had entered Jerusalem from opposite sides of the city on the same day, we can't be sure which parade we would have attended. Would we have laid palm fronds before the humble animal, or stood to watch the stately horses and the gleaming armor march proudly by?

We can't be sure.

Forgive us when we fall into temptation, O God.

Come to our world obsessed with power and might, and bring your grace and healing. Comfort the mourners of Moscow and guide the Russian leadership toward truth and justice. We pray that you would move them and all leaders of the world, near and far, away from the temptations of lying for power and deceiving for adulation. We pray that you open the hearts of your people, near and far, to discern truth and falsehood, right and wrong.

Be with us in this week we call Holy. We offer the movement of our souls to follow where Christ has led, to feel some of what Christ has felt, to choose at least some of what Christ has chosen. Despite the chaos and conflict of that time, lay in our hearts the simplest truth: Christ followed a course of peace, love, and grace. May those gifts fill our hearts.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.