

Pastoral Prayer

April 28, 2024

O Holy God,

What a delightful universe you have created. The distant stars dance through the galaxies. The nearest star bathes us in warmth and light. From the heights of the sky descends the refreshing rain. From the depths of the earth emerges the flowing rock which, though it destroys, even more builds up our island.

You have surrounded us with people created in your image, and given us not just the command but the capacity to love one another. At the most unexpected moments, we find ourselves cared for. At the most unexpected moments, we find ourselves in the place to care for someone else. What a gift you have given us, O God, to love and to be loved.

The world is not always kind, however. We pray for those affected by tornadoes in Oklahoma and in China. We pray for those whose homes have become war zones in Gaza, Ukraine, and too many other places around the world. We pray for those who suffer oppression for their race, gender, religion, sexual identity, or simply because somebody wants to maintain their unjust power. We pray for the oppressors, too, because they are also your children, but our first prayer must always be: let the oppressions, the wars, the violence, and the hunger come to an end.

The world is filled with our folly, O God, and we pray that you might relieve its harms. The world is filled with our love as well, O God, and we pray that you might multiply its blessings. The world is filled with your love, O God, and for your grace we offer you our thanks and praise.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.