

Pastoral Prayer

June 16, 2024

God of Grace,

Turn our hearts to love and peace. Life, love, and peace are your greatest gifts to us, and how often have your children squandered them, turning to war, hate, and death. Let your Spirit be with those who make war, or wreak violence, or deny love. Let your Spirit so overwhelm their hearts that they turn once more to life, love, and peace.

Let your Spirit fill our hearts. We pray first for the guidance we need to do your will in our days. We pray also to be filled where we are empty: in the hollows of our pains and illnesses, our confusion and fear, our grief and loss. Bless us this Friday as we honor the life of Reilly Narruhn. Bless us in each coming day as we seek to follow his example of loving service.

We pray for this church, for the Hawai'i Island Association, for the Hawai'i Conference, and for the United Church of Christ. We face abundant challenges, O God, for our neighbors suffer and we suffer from the stresses of the world. We face the prospect of rising illness, we face the legacy and ongoing reality of systemic racism, we face the multiple scourges of sexism, homophobia, and ableism, we face the frailty of our own bodies, we face the many people who insist that we accept their lies as truth and their power as persuasive. May our Church, let the whole Church, resist these powers of evil. May our Church, let the whole Church, warmly welcome those who flee the world's harshness. May our Church, let the whole Church, reflect your gracious love and guide your people to your arms.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.