

Pastoral Prayer

June 23, 2024

O Holy One,

We have been deeply blessed by your presence in our world, in our lives, and in our hearts. You have given us comfort in grief, joy in celebration, reassurance in doubt, purpose in confusion, strength in adversity, and always love. Always love. We thank you for the abiding peace you promise and which, at least in part, we receive.

We pray that we might more fully appreciate and accept your grace. Sometimes our pride tells us we do not need you. Sometimes our fears tell us that you do not care. Sometimes our pains tell us that you cannot aid. Hold us in such strong and tender care that we cannot deny you, cannot discount you. Help us be joyful witnesses to your love.

We pray for the sufferers of the world: those who grieve, those who hunger, those who sleep without shelter, those who clothe themselves in rags. We pray for the poor of the world, that their labors might find rewards. We pray for the powerful of the world, that their comforts might be shared. We pray for the sick and the injured, that they might find healing. We pray for the lost and the uncertain, that they might find direction and choose hope.

In the storms of life, and in the calms of life, you are our God, our Savior, our Guide, and our Friend. We praise you for your power, and thank you for your grace.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.