

Pastoral Prayer

July 14, 2024

Each week, O God, we pray that you would protect your children from violence, whether it be the violence of war or the violence of family and neighbors. Each week, O God, we come to pray once more knowing that the wars continue, that people suffer injury, that people die. We continue to pray.

God, help us to effectively act.

Help us to better embody your commandment against killing, and Jesus' command, "Enough of this." You would think that we have had enough of this and more over human history. Still, some raise their hands, their weapons, their anger. Still, some shatter lives, take lives, deny life. Still we mourn.

What is the way, O God, to living out Jesus' direction? What is the way, O God, to do your will? Help us, please, to know it, to live it, to grow it so this it is not just one small community of blessing, but a world that celebrates that violence has ended.

Help us in our hurts, pains, and illnesses, O God. Help us in our uncertainty and exhaustion. Help us in our successes and rejoicing. Help us in our efforts to follow Christ.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.