

Pastoral Prayer
August 25, 2024

O God of Virtues,

Equip us with what helps us to serve you, our family, and our neighbors, O God. May we have the gift to share truth in ways others can hear. May we carry a righteousness that is not self-righteous. May we foster peace. May we center ourselves in a welcoming faith. May our salvation invite others to their salvation. May your Holy Spirit flow from us to all those around us.

May this armor open our hearts.

The world is filled with hardened hearts, with those who direct war and death, those who steal and assault, those who break their vows for convenience, those who grasp their gifts and do not let go. Where we can, may we help to soften those hearts. Where we cannot, we pray for your Holy Spirit to do the work that leads human beings to your grace.

We hear of wars and the rumor of wars. God, help the peacemakers in their long and frustrating work. God, soften the hearts of the war-makers in their long and bloody work. We ask your protection for ourselves and our neighbors beneath this storm, and we pray that when it has passed and we see what it has wrought, that we find the resources to assist those beset by wind and flood.

We will shortly welcome new people into the membership of this congregation, O God. We give you thanks for them, for their gifts, for the communities of faith who have nurtured them through their lives. Bless them through us and us through them, for we are the Body of Christ together. Make us whole.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.