

Pastoral Prayer
September 1, 2024

O Holy One,

We do not come to you with clean feathers or clean hearts. We have worked our bodies hard, and they show it. We have alternately hardened and softened our hearts, and they show it, too. We offer you our repentance for our failures to follow your ways. We ask your forgiveness and renewal. We pray that you renew our weary bodies so we may share the good that is within us.

We pray for those affected by storms of the air and storms of human action. We give thanks for a pause in fighting in Gaza to bring vaccinations to the children. We pray that wisdom might prevail such that a pause lengthens to days, weeks, months: forever. Bring peace, O God, to this and all the other warring places of the world.

Tomorrow we celebrate the working people of our nation. May those who labor do so with integrity and dedication to you and to those they serve. May those who manage do so with integrity and with regard for those who do the work. May those who purchase or inquire or receive benefit from the work respond with respect and appreciation. Above all, may those who work find themselves able to afford the comforts of home.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.