

Pastoral Prayer  
September 15, 2024

O Holy One,

We live with astonishing means of communication. We speak with people half the world away with barely a pause. We see images of people going about their daily lives, or struggling to maintain themselves in calamity. We know what is happening in so many places, and people in so many other places would like us to know more.

Frankly, God, it's overwhelming.

Especially because we are not always certain what is in our own hearts.

Help us to explore our spirits, our souls, our values, our commitments. Help us to understand what invigorates us as well as what wears us down. Help us to find the mustard seed of faith and trace out its roots and branches. Help us to let faith and love guide not just our hands and feet, but our lips and voices.

We breathe in your love, O God. May we breathe your love out again to all those around.

For those we cannot affect with our love, we pray your grace and compassion. Let your wisdom bring wars to an end. Let your justice raise up the downcast. Let your healing fill the sick and injured. Let your salvation free those imprisoned in body, mind, and spirit.

And then, in all those myriad ways in which we communicate, may we sing your praise.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.