

Pastoral Prayer
September 29, 2024

O God of Grace,

We live in a world subject to disaster. We look to the southeastern United States with horror and with pity for those who grieve, those who have lost homes, those who face a long, hard recovery. We grieve with those in Nepal who have lost family and neighbors to landslides. To these events, human beings have added war and poverty, oppression and greed. As we make efforts to meet the needs of those who suffer, may we also strive to overcome the systems that limit our neighbors across the globe.

We pray for leaders of churches, of communities, and of nations, O God. Bring wisdom and discernment. Bring listening ears and open hearts. Guide those with power to the knowledge they need. Guide those with knowledge to the compassion they need. Guide those with compassion to the fostering of peace.

Bless us in our needs, O God. As we tend our injuries and seek recovery from our illnesses, grant us the strength to heal. Comfort us in our loneliness and empower us in our helplessness. May your Spirit be our life, helping us to speak words of truth and love, words that inspire our family and friends to their own service to you and to your people.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.