

Pastoral Prayer
October 13, 2024

Holy One,

The flood-ravaged, storm-tossed, war-torn, and unjustly oppressed people of the world cry to you. Hear their voices, we pray, and bring them the comfort of your gracious care. Bring them also the coordinated compassion of the world, that their suffering might be relieved and their needs met.

Holy and gracious God, embrace the sufferers of the world.

Bring healing power to the sick and injured. Bring help and comfort to those whose minds are not under their control. Bring comfort to those who grieve for lost love, lost friends, lost hopes, lost vocations. Bring hope to those so burdened with sin and shame that they believe themselves utterly lost.

Holy and gracious God, embrace the sufferers of the world.

Embrace us in our distresses and guide us in our anxieties. Help us understand the resources which we might share and our own needs we require help to fill. We confuse ourselves, O God, with the sorrowful desire for possessions or recognition or position. Clarify our comprehension of who we are, what we can do, and how we can do it.

Bless our hesitant discipleship. We have not turned away from you, but we have not left our burdens behind, either. Bless us with a confidence in your love that casts out our fear.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.