

Pastoral Prayer
November 3, 2024

God of Love,

You are better at showing your love for us than we are of showing our love for you. You have given us the sun, moon, and stars; the life-giving rain; the beauty of birdsong and flowers; the magnificence of ocean and mountain. You have given us companionship along life's journey, and you yourself accompany us in your Holy Spirit. Most of all, you have given us the promise of salvation in Jesus Christ.

May we acknowledge your love better than we have.

Give us the wisdom to see the ways in which we discount or disregard your gifts to us. Give us wisdom to see the ways in which we scorn and degrade what you have given. Give us wisdom to treat your Creation as sacred, your people as sacred, your Holy Spirit's presence as sacred. Give us wisdom to live lovingly in your world.

If we seem to scorn your gifts, forgive us. If we seem to damage your gifts, teach us. And if we seem to respond to your gifts with loving gifts extended to others, encourage us. We would be your loving children, O God.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.