

Pastoral Prayer
November 17, 2024

God of Love,

We must admit that you have provoked us. You have given us commandments to follow. You have given us prophets to speak your word. You have given us Jesus to show us the way, and to open the door for that way. You have done all those things, and we are provoked, but not always to love and good deeds.

For our impatience with your love, for our irritation with your guidance, and for our failure to follow Christ's way, we offer you our confession and ask for your forgiveness.

May your provocation work within us so that we recognize the places in which we can make a difference, bring more love into the world, change a bad situation to a good one. May your provocation work within us so that we encourage our families, our neighbors, our friends, and those others who worship with us here at Church of the Holy Cross in following your call to them, which may not look much like our own. May your provocation not be something that we shut away in our heart, but something that opens up our hearts to one another, to the world, and to you.

We pray for those places in the world which have been struck by natural or human-made disaster recently. Comfort the grieving and strengthen the injured for healing. Be with the sick and the mentally ill with your renewing power.

And hear, O God, our gratitude for your presence with us, for the wonders you have shown us, for the love you have given us. We thank you for your grace, for your peace, and for our Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.