

Pastoral Prayer
December 15, 2024

O Holy One,

The challenges of the world are frequently bigger than we are. They are beyond our power. They may even be beyond our influence. So we turn to you for the aid you alone can provide. Speak into the flinty hearts that make war. Speak into the closed minds that seek to satisfy their own greed. Speak into the souls that, for whatever reason, cannot live in peace.

Do, O God, what we cannot.

Help us to do what we can. Help us first to meet our own needs of comfort and confidence, renewal and recovery. Help us to heal from our ills. Help us to rise when we have stumbled. Help us by forgiving what we have done badly. Help us by assuring us of your love and grace.

Strengthened by you, may we be your faithful apostles of gentleness and healing. May we assist those whose ways have been rocky; may we comfort those who grieve. May we help the burdened make their way to where they can lay the burden down. May we make our gentleness known to all.

May we make a difference, such that captives find liberty, the oppressed find relief, the homeless find shelter, the hungry are filled. May your will be done on Earth, in us and through us, toward the reign of peace.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.