

Pastoral Prayer
January 19, 2025

O God of daily grace,

We pray for the residents of Los Angeles affected by the wildfires. We pray for those who have lost homes and jobs, for those who have lost loved ones, for those who have suffered injury, for those who strive to turn back the fires. We pray for those who live beneath the smoke, for those who do their best to help, for those who wonder each night whether they will have to flee before morning.

We pray earnestly for the success of the ceasefire in Gaza. There has been too much death, too much destruction, and the only proper future is one with no war. Open the hearts of those committed to hatred, that they may see another way, perhaps a distant one, but a peaceful one.

Likewise we pray for those in other war-torn places of the world including Ukraine, Myanmar, Russia, Maghreb, Sudan, Ethiopia. Shield those who just want to live and care for one another. Bring the wisdom of peace to those who now direct the wars.

Jesus of Cana, be with us in Hilo. We do not have all we need to do all we want to do, either to relieve the needs of our neighbors or to celebrate together. Help us find housing for those on the street, jobs for those who've been looking and turned away, medical care for the sick, and company for the lonely. Some of those needs may be ours, and others may be needs we can assist. Help us in either situation, for we would be disciples who follow their teacher's example, and we would be followers who ask for our teacher's grace.

Help us make your world a more joyful place.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.