

Pastoral Prayer

May 4, 2025

O Holy One,

Thank you for your grace of the last three months for this church and for its pastor. May your Holy Spirit carry us through the joys and sorrows of life and discipleship ahead as we serve you and your people here in Hilo and beyond.

We give you thanks for the ordination of the Rev. Charlene Taketa yesterday at Lanakila Church, and we pray for her and for her congregation as they, too, follow your call and do your work. We pray with deep thanks for the Rev. Dr. Diane Weible, who led this church so well these last three months. And as we continue to mourn the passing of Pope Francis, we pray for those who will gather this week to select the next leader of the Roman Catholic Church. May the one chosen be wise, compassionate, and a person whose heart is open to receive you and to share you.

Wars rage in Gaza and in Israel, in Myanmar and Maghreb, in Ukraine and in Russia, in Sudan and Ethiopia. Violence erupts on city streets and in country lanes. You told us not to kill. What more can you do, or can we do, to set aside the deadly anger that oppresses our world? Teach us. Lead us. Guide us.

And care for us, O God. Care for our illnesses and injuries. Care for our confusion and our aimlessness. Care for our sorrow and our weariness. Care for our bodies, and care for our souls.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.