

Pastoral Prayer

May 18, 2025

O God of grace,

Storms and tornadoes have struck the St. Louis region, leaving shock and grief in their wake. In New York City, a training ship adrift has taken lives and inflicted injuries on its crew. In American prisons, people wonder if they will be deported for things they said. In war zones around the world, civilians huddle in spaces and pray that they will survive the next attack.

Be with all these sufferers, O God, and may we be part of the community that brings them aid.

In homes and hospital beds people groan with illness or injury. In fire stations and police stations first responders wonder if the next call will hurt them or if they will see something they'd rather not see. In some homes children wake to empty cupboards, and in other homes children wake afraid of what mother or father will do when they get frustrated and angry.

Be with all these sufferers, O God, and may we be part of the community that brings them aid.

Standing along the palis of the Kilauea summit, we watch in awe at the power of your creation. Downwind of the caldera, some of our neighbors breathe the fumes uneasily. So many blessings come with a cost to ourselves or to someone else. We struggle to know what's best in a given situation, how to bring your love most completely to everyone around.

Be with us in our joys and triumphs, in our sorrows and confusion, and let your love flow through all your people. May we be part of the community that shares your love.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.