

Pastoral Prayer  
August 17, 2025

O God of compassionate love,

We love the world as it is. We in Hawai'i are, perhaps, more familiar with the beauty of your Creation, but we could find the beauty you intended in any place on the globe. We are grateful for the sights and sounds and scents, we are grateful for the wonderful people who accompany us on life's journey. We are grateful for the little mysteries that unfold before us to spark our wonder.

Yet, God, we also pray for the world to be different than it is. Sometimes people are not so wonderful, harming us, harming those we love, harming strangers across the world. Sometimes the little mysteries turn out to be bitter. Sometimes the great beauty turns to disaster. Help us to be the people you call us to be, O God, people of compassion and caring. Help us to respond to the needs of those around us, whether they are great or small. Help us to recover from our own injuries and illnesses, comfort our sorrows and griefs, forgive our sins, and restore us to the people you have called us to be.

We pray that discussions toward peace may advance, and that they not betray those who suffer from violence and conquest. We pray that people might be dissuaded from committing crimes, but that those who lack homes might receive compassion, not condemnation. We pray that your will might be done.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.