

Pastoral Prayer
August 31, 2025

O God who labors,

We pray this weekend for the working people of the world, whether they occupy a manager's office or install components on an assembly line or write code or interview people or do their level best to coax plants from stubborn soil. You labored as you made the universe. We labor to contribute our own creations within Creation. Bless those who contribute, O God, to the beauty that surrounds us.

Bless also those whose labor has been cut short by illness or injury, or by economic forces, or by prejudice, or by greed. Bless them with the assurance of their worth and bless them with the fulfillment of their needs. Bless them with ways they may not have considered to make new contributions to their households and their communities.

Some labor to bring peace, O God. Further their efforts. Some labor to build justice, O God. Give them strength. Some labor to lift hearts, O God. Amplify their voices. And some labor to gain power, to assert their will, to exploit others for their benefit. Thwart their efforts, O God, and transform their spirits, that they may repent, reform, and reconsider their place in the world.

Be with us, O God, as we live with our own struggles of health, confusion, tangled relationships, or shortage of resources. Be with us, O God, as we bring what we can to the aid of others whose health, confusion, relationship problems, or resources are such that we can help. Be with us, O God, and fill us with your love, so that as each day dawns and sunsets we bless you.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.