

Pastoral Prayer

June 28, 2026

Loving God,

We pray that you bring your life-preserving power to Venezuela and the Philippines, rocked by earthquakes in recent days. May your guidance speed the aid that compassionate human beings are gathering and dispatching to support the residents and rescuers who are doing the work on the ground. As we have with our neighbors on Maui and Kauai and O'ahu, may we continue to remember these more distant neighbors in the months and years of recovery that lie ahead.

We ask your guidance for the warring nations of the world, who continue to bomb and shell and shoot. May we find the paths to just peace for ourselves and Iran, for Ukraine and Russia, for Palestine and Israel and Lebanon, for Myanmar and Mexico, for so many places afflicted by violence and conflict. In the midst of human folly and pride, it will take your wisdom to attain peace, and it will take your wisdom to attain justice, and so we pray with full hearts for that guidance.

Bless us, O God, for we grieve in these days. We grieve the loss of dear friends and members of our church and family. We grieve for the hardships we endure of illness, injury, and long recoveries. We grieve for the suffering of friends and neighbors. We grieve for those who end each day short of food, or bereft of shelter. We grieve for those who look about them and fail to perceive a friend. Bless us, O God, and our neighbors, for you are our first and dearest friend.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.