

Pastoral Prayer
August 23, 2026

Gracious God,

We are amidst the storm once more, and though this one is neither so strong nor so close, we're holding our breath. Our 'ohana on this island suffered terribly in last weekend's hurricane, and we mourn the lives lost, the homes and businesses torn up, and our tears flow to see the resting places of our dead disturbed by the floods. We pray that those who have suffered so much may not suffer more hurt in this storm, or in the next. We pray for the resources and the will to see that our neighbors recover as well as they can amidst the pain and grief.

We pray further for wisdom among the leaders of the nations. We pray for effective conversations between diplomats as opposed to blustering statements of politicians, punitive trade policies, or worst of all, war. We pray for our own nation in its conflicts, and we pray for those nations with whom we are in conflict. The people of the Earth are your children, our family, O God. May we have the guidance and the grace to live together in peace.

Come to us in our needs, O Healer and Holy One. We endure pain and illness, injury and disability. Comfort the hurts and harms. Help us to live our fully human selves. Comfort us in our grief, and accompany us in our joy. May we find the still small voice that assures us once again of your abiding presence.

Bless us, bless our island, bless our world, O God, in Jesus' name.

Amen.