Pastoral Prayer
November 8, 2026

Creator and Holy One,

We ask your guidance for all those who have received the votes of the people and will take or continue in public office in the coming months. May they be wise to discern the likely results of their decisions. May they be compassionate to choose for the welfare of the people and of the planet. May they be diligent to learn what is true. May they be stalwart to resist the temptations of power and of influence. May they be blessed with safe homes and the love and support of those around them.

We pray for those in Krakow, Poland, reeling from an outburst of violence, one Americans know all too well. We pray for the injured and the grieving, and we pray for the community as they seek to heal. Cure your children's warring madness, O God, in our homes, on our streets, and among our nations. Guide us to a place where we can resolve our anger, our disagreements, our conflicts with words, not weapons.

Bless us in this church and this community, O God. We pray for those among us who are ill or recovering from injury. Speed their healing. Comfort their hurts. We pray for those among us who grieve a recent loss, or whose sorrow returns over many years. Embrace their hearts. We pray for those among us who face challenges of resources, overextension, fatigue, confusion, or those who simply do not know what to do to meet a challenge. Expand their awareness and set a light for their wisdom.

We pray as well for those who celebrate and those who laugh. We pray for those who move confidently through the day assured of their calling. We pray for those who draw breath freely after anxiety or crisis or illness made it catch in their throat. May our successes multiply and our calling bring blessing to those around us, near and far, so that all may breathe freely in the knowledge of your loving presence.

In Jesus' name,

Amen.