



Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

February 13, 2022
by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Loving God, we greet you together as we pray opening our hearts more fully to Your presence. Each breath we take, reminds us that Your Spirit surrounds and enfolds us all, moving around and through each one of Your children, You bind us together as Your body called the church. Even as we open our hearts and minds we find within, the picture the idea of You, Holy One that has anchored our idea of who you are. Being human we cannot possibly know the full truth of Your Being, so dear God help us to understand more deeply that which You are, and wipe away the misconceptions of that which You are not. Let Your Spirit work in each of our lives so that we grow in community to look and act more like You, Our Creator. We pray that we will walk faithfully along side You, so that those who grieve will know comfort, and those who are isolated will be welcomed as neighbors. We ask for healing for those who suffer from injury and from physical and mental illnesses, and we pray You will use us to accomplish these tasks.

Let your justice roll down like water and righteousness like an ever flowing stream, stop us in our tracks when we fail to see the needs of others before us. You have blessed each one of us with gifts to care for others, but we are sometimes too stubborn or scared to try them out. As the psalmist prayed, let the words of our mouths and the meditations of our hearts be acceptable and pleasing in Your sight, oh God, and so let our actions be also. We pray that in a world so bent to separation and categorization, that You will guide us to actions of inclusiveness, spurred by love that You will open our eyes to incorrect assumptions we make about each other, and let us truly see Your Beloved without the trappings of economic or cultural labels. You call us together as Your body to model Your heaven on Earth. Make us one in Christ and one in each other as we pray together the words Jesus taught his disciples saying:

Our Father
Who art in heaven;
Hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom Come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven;
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses;
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from Evil;
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, Forever.

Amen

