



Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

February 27, 2022
by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Holy and Almighty God,

Your being and Your power are beyond our understanding. Though we may know what You have revealed to us about Yourself, the fullness of Your ways remain out of human reach infinitely more than we could even imagine. Your love... Your peace... Your healing all manifest in ways we expect and also in ways we could never expect or explain. When all we can see with our human eyes is dark and still, we have faith in Your light, which we cannot perceive racing to fill every shadow. Your Spirit moves constantly in the world so as to bring it and us ever closer to Your kingdom. At all times You love and care for us, Your creations, though we can do nothing to deserve such love, in Your grace, You draw us to You in times of trouble and distress.

We are assured You cover us as a mother hen with her wings. We pray for Your protection for all who suffer and fear, but especially today for the people of Ukraine. May Your spirit give them comfort, hope and peace once again. We pray for all the leaders of the world that You will guide them to ways of peace, the ways of Your kingdom. Part of living in this broken world means we will face trials - some of those trials can be small, some change us forever and in all circumstances, God, we're thankful to be in relationship with You for how lost would we be without knowing You are by our side. You show up in our grief and in the presence of friends and family. You show up when we are ill, though sometimes we may not realize it until our bodies are stronger or are minds are clearer. You show up in the middle of chaos with a gesture or word that reminds us we are not alone. You show up when we wander off the path ever on our heels and welcoming us with open arms. You show up in Your body called the church, a body of diversity with a multitude of gifts, together reflecting Your wondrous loving image. Use us, we pray, to spread Your uncontainable love in this broken yet beautiful world. Let Your spirit bind us together in Jesus Christ, Your Son. Make us instruments of Your peace in all we do and say as we pray now the words that Jesus taught us:

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

