



Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

April 17, 2022

by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Good morning Holy One,

One in Three and Three in One, you are life giver, liberator, conqueror of death, source of all that is good, knowable and yet unknowable, Alpha and Omega, present in all times and all places. You reveal your nature in everything you create, your Spirit opens our eyes to see it, and Christ Jesus revealed your way of love in his life, death and resurrection. You fill us with awe, wonder and joy, and on this day most of all, we can only respond with loving gratitude.

Our joy is magnified by the gift of gathering together, for it cannot be lost upon anyone that this is our first Easter celebration in 3 years where we are able to gather together in the traditional way. So God, we thank you. Receive our thanks in our prayers, in the flowers on the cross, in our music and song. Yet you know that even as we gather together, we mourn the empty seats left by those who now live on with you. Hear our sorrow in our prayers, in our slowed steps, in our silence. Your arms are opened wide for all your children in all our circumstances. Teach us to extend your loving embrace to all who are in need, and let us be the bearers of your peace and comfort. Stand us up in the face of injustice or exclusion, and in our actions let us show the world what your kingdom should and will look like.

Send us forth from the empty tomb to live in the ways you have called us to live. Let your Holy Spirit bind us together with all the saints and with each other as your Church and as your body in the world. We pray all of these things in the name of your beloved son Jesus, who taught us to pray:

"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