



Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

May 22, 2022

by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Good morning Lord,

You have made this morning, you have made this day, and we praise you for the breath and bodies you give us to live into it. No matter how we feel when morning comes, you are present with us to offer hope and guidance for every step we take. Always, God, you are redeeming this broken world through your love, and we strive to live and act in ways that will help others to know your Kingdom is near, that it is here even now.

Gracious God, by your hand we humans are fearfully and wonderfully made. Muscles move without conscious thought, internal systems work in sync to make us well, emotions and thoughts help us relate to you, to others and to the world – there are so many amazing ways you designed us to be. It is even more astonishing to know that you designed us humans in your own image. We want to reflect your image, your love, though we are blurry, scratched-up mirrors on our own. And that is just the surface, for underneath what the world can see we carry the pain of this broken world. Grief and loss, injustices to ourselves and others, mental and physical illness and injury, feelings of powerlessness, anxiety and worry – all these and more feed into our thoughts and actions and cloud up our ability to show your love and grace.

We pray you will open us to the gift of your Holy Spirit to buff out the scratches, so that we might show your face to all who need your healing. Breathe into us new life that we can offer to others who struggle with burdens of their own.

Instill in us a loving and forgiving spirit, that we will be slow to judge others by what is on the surface, remembering instead that each person wrestles with the burdens they carry. Connect us through your Son to your community of believers so that together we can better reflect your redeeming love to a hurting world.

All these things we ask in the name of Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, who taught us to pray these words together:

"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