



## Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

July 24, 2022

by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Good morning Lord,

We greet you now in this moment, and breathe in the life that you have granted. Open our hearts and widen our imagination so that we may more fully experience what it is to be your children, to be in relationship with you our Creator. You have chosen us to live out this part of your creation story, to partner with you in your mission for the redemption of the whole world, and we wonder at your belief in us, as if we have room to question your wisdom. O God, when we try to understand the majesty and power of your being, we miss the mark in so many ways. For how can we reduce your limitlessness to the boundaries of our human minds and experiences? You are likened to the lion, the mother hen, the light, the wind - and though all these and so many more represent your characteristics, none can encapsulate the fullness of the one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You are a holy mystery to us, known and yet unknown.

Sometimes we get complacent, allowing our images of you to become small enough to fit into the daily hustle and bustle. Sometimes we go even further, allowing the distractions of the world to lure us away entirely. At all times, in your grace, you call us back to you. Through your deep, deep patience and forgiveness, you offer us second chance after second chance to remember, to return to knowing that you are our God, to embrace the mystery and to live in the example of your Son. You call us back so that we might call out to the lost, the broken, the suffering and lonely people and show them the love that overflows from you into us, all around them. Make us instruments of your compassion that the world will know your justice. Guide us in your ways of healing, in your ways of peace. In all things let us make you known to a world who has yet to know you.

Heavenly Creator, we pray all these things in the power of your Holy Spirit and in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who taught all his disciples to pray, 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