



Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

August 28, 2022
by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Good morning Holy One,

Bound together in these moments of prayer, we turn to your outreached arms as one body, to be claimed as your own. Open our hearts now to your loving instruction. Bend us and stretch us, soften out our rough edges, so that we may be better formed to answer your call of transforming this broken world. Fill our lungs with your breath of life, and fill our mouths with your words of love, that we may spread your life and love to all who need them so desperately. Teach us, we pray, to live in your ways of hope and faith, to know that the hardships of this world will ultimately be overcome. Dear God you know all the trials and troubles that fester in your Creation. Homes and livelihoods are destroyed by fire and floods, bodies and relationships are destroyed by addiction and by violence. Communities are torn apart by wars and by hatred. The pain of grief affects every person who has loved and lost. Illness of body or mind can sometimes be too much to bear, especially alone. We each carry hurts and worries for ourselves, for our friends & family, and for the world. Hear us now as we offer these silently to you.

Though we are apt to grow weary and lose hope in the face of such overwhelming problems, we trust in you, our Creator. Grant us the courage to use all the gifts you have bestowed to partner with you as you bring in your Kingdom of Heaven. Let us not worry so much about our place at the table but more about making sure everyone has a seat. You have made us for relationship, to be in community so that we may be your hands and feet not by our own strength, but by yours. May we treat everyone we encounter as worthy and honored, as a reflection of the honor you bestowed by offering your life so that your children are redeemed.

As we go forth to follow in the footsteps of our Savior to turn the world upside down, let the words that he taught us make us one as we 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