



## **Central UMC Pastoral Prayer**

**November 20, 2022**

**by Rev. Lisa Rettew**

Good morning Lord,

We thank you for the gift of this day, of waking with breath in our lungs and your Spirit within us. Whether the journey to this moment was relaxed and without obstacles, or marked with effort and struggle, God we are grateful to gather together as your body, welcoming this conscious connection to each other and to you in prayer. For you are the one God, holy Three in One. No matter the goings on in this world, for all eternity you continue to work your purposes for the redemption of your Creation. So much more than our minds can comprehend, in your love you hold all the universe together and at the same time offer relationship with each one of your flock. You know us inside and out, our strengths and our weaknesses, our desire to be the persons you made us to be, and all the struggles we encounter within ourselves and from without.

For ones who are stretched to the limit with full calendars and multiple deadlines, God, send your strength. For your children who wish they had purpose for the extra time they have, God, show them new paths. For all who miss loved ones at any time of year, but especially in these next weeks, God, bestow your comfort. For ones struggling with mental and physical illness or injury, God, grant your healing peace. Make us your instruments so that we might be a part of the grace you offer to the world. And whenever we speak about our gratitude, keep us mindful of the ones who go without the basics we so often take for granted, so that we will take part in bringing shelter, food, justice, and human kindness all the way out to the margins.

We long to be united under the reign of your son Jesus Christ, when Creation will be at peace and the Kingdom of Heaven will be revealed for your glory. Until that day, we ask that you work within us, perfecting us in love so that we might be your emissaries. Cultivate our faith so that we trust in your power, power that exceeds our efforts, power that extends beyond our knowledge or even lifetimes. Bind us together in one Body, even as we pray together now the prayer Jesus taught all his disciples, 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