



Central UMC Pastoral Prayer
November 27, 2022
by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Holy and loving God,

You are the trustworthy lamp amidst the fog and darkness, the beacon who directs your people to carry out your work of transforming the world. We strive to stay connected with you so that you will keep us oriented in your way while we wait faithfully for you in this earthly existence. Our sure foundation who grounds our thoughts, feelings and actions, you allow us to partner with you in the building of your heavenly Kingdom on earth.

You call us all to ministry, to reflect your love into a hurting world. With the unique gifts you have bestowed, you have made each of us able to make room for your Kingdom. Grant us your strength, for we are not made to do your work by ourselves. Let us model the example of our Savior Jesus Christ by being in community, making sure everyone is welcome without exception and being advocates for equal justice. Let us listen to each other, knowing that every human is made by your hand and in your image, and help us to amplify the voices of those who have difficulty being heard.

As we await your coming, let your Holy Spirit deepen and develop our faith so that we might be your hands and feet. Let us bring your gracious acceptance to any who feel set aside by human standards. Help us to let go of our own fears of not being enough and instead trust in your call, so that we might give your comforting presence to others who feel anxious, lonely, or inadequate. Let us offer your peace to those who struggle in mind or body and to those who suffer the pain of loss. And let us remember that when we are the ones who are struggling, you have given others the very gifts we need to help us through. Open our eyes so that we can see every encounter with each of your children as another way that you reveal your image hidden within each of us, so that we can begin to grasp the vast fullness of your being.

Unite your Church dear God, into one body so that your Kingdom of Heaven will spread throughout all creation. Bind us together as we worship, as we go out and serve, and as we pray the prayer Jesus us taught us, 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