



Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

January 29, 2023
by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Holy and loving God,

Thank you for welcoming us into your presence, for inviting this connection with you and with each other in prayer. Here with you there is comfort, a familiarity no matter how long or short our conscious belief and faith in you, for we are creatures made in your own image, recognizing the touch of our divine sculptor. Though the fullness of your being cannot be understood with our limited human minds, you reveal yourself within all Creation, in the movement of your Spirit, and in the life, death and resurrection of your Son. Your truth is told in stories, in song, in works of art, and in the loving actions of all whom you call your children.

We are grateful for the gift of your peace. In spite of the knowledge that you are more powerful than all the trials and struggles this world can conjure, it is easy to succumb to the worries that plague us. God, help us to breathe in your peace as we lift up our concerns in prayer. We pray for healing for all illness and injury, that bodies and minds will be made whole again; we pray for all who've lost independence in some way, and for their caregivers. We pray for grace and kindness in the midst of discord, for peace and respect when the possession of power overshadows relationship, and for justice and mercy where injustice has ruled. We pray for love and connection when loss and grief become oh so real. Make us aware that we are never alone, that you are beside us before we can even think to ask. You offer your strength and comfort. You sustain us when we think we have nothing left to give.

You provide what we need even in the most unexpected ways. You show up in silence. You show up in a loving touch. You show up in a whisper, a nudge, always beckoning us to you. Make us, your children, your instruments of peace, comfort, grace, connection and kindness, for we want to reflect your love into this hurting world. We want to be part of your Kingdom of Heaven.

Gathered together in community now, we ask that you open our minds and our hearts to hear what your Spirit is saying, so that we might follow where you lead. Bind us together with the saints and with all believers as one Church as we pray the prayer Christ Jesus 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