



## Central UMC Pastoral Prayer

May 28, 2023

by Rev. Lisa Rettew

Holy and loving God,

When we pause for a breath and really take stock, we remember that there is no time or place that we are not enveloped in your gracious presence. You are there in the quenching rain; you tuck us in with the soft swells of the mountains, you bring peace in birdsong and soft breezes blowing through the leaves. When other sights and sounds seem to drown you out, we still feel your life-giving Spirit in the warmth of the sun, in the touch of a loved one, and in the very beating of our own heart. In all of these ways and more, you remind us that you hold your children in your constant embrace.

As you continue to reveal your self and your purpose, the destination of your impending Kingdom of Heaven seems clear, it's just that often we have difficulty finding the path. And yet, you have breathed on us the gift of your Holy Spirit. You give us the guidance we need even as it may take patience and hard work to bring that path into focus. And we are never left to struggle alone. You send us into the world equipped by your strength and by the example of Christ Jesus, to live in your ways of love and offer your peace to a hurting world.

Holy One in Three, let your Spirit help us speak your hope when we encounter people facing hardships. Let us reach out to grieving spouses, parents, and friends, even when we feel nervous about saying or doing the wrong thing.

Let us greet with the same love you bestow on all your children those who look or act or speak differently from ourselves. Unite us in prayer for all who suffer in body and mind, and grant your peace and comfort to those who are victims of hatred and violence. We pray also for those who cause such pain and suffering. Show us how to care for the lost and excluded, and inspire us to raise our voices for justice for the ones whose voices have been silenced.

You created your Church to be the body of Christ. Unite us now together as we seek to hear what the Spirit is whispering today, joining as one in the prayer that Christ Jesus taught us,

"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

Text John 20:19-22

Based on Pentecost prayer 2019