



## **Central UMC Pastoral Prayer**

**June 11, 2023**

**by Rev. Lisa Rettew**

Holy and loving Lord,

Your purposes are all encompassing. In your creativity you connect all things and beings to each other as an expert weaver directs colors and textures throughout all parts of an ever expanding cloth. Throughout it all, you reveal your very self in every thing and every person we encounter, and you are there in all we have yet to discover. Your presence within your Creation is so vast, so incomprehensible and yet, you invite your children to partner with you in the care of it all.

In your own grace you beckon us into your presence, in spite of human standards that would distance us from such power and majesty. But worldly ways are not your ways, for in your Spirit you do abide with us, within, alongside, always pointing out the way. You lead us in love so that we may share that love with all of your creation.

You guide us to where the world is broken, to people who struggle. Strengthen us to use your gifts so that we may offer your peace and comfort to those dealing with difficult life situations, with mental illness in themselves or in loved ones; those with physical illness or injury.

Help us to recognize persons who feel isolated or lost, so that they will know your love within community. In your actions throughout the human story, you have proven your care for each and every one of us. Let us not forget our call to care for each other, everyone without exception. Give us compassion for each other, so that we might recognize your image reflected in the faces of every person.

You meet us when we pray, and we can trust that you listen when we ask for healing, for justice, for solace, and for the world and all who live in it to be transformed into truer reflections of the One who made them. Transform us as your Church, and make us into the body of Christ Jesus as we follow your Spirit to carry out your mission. We offer ourselves for your great purposes as we pray together now the way that Jesus taught all the disciples to 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