



## **Central UMC Pastoral Prayer**

**September 25, 2022**

**by Rev. Lisa Rettew**

Holy and Loving God,

You are faithful. You have remained true to your people for all time, making covenant with Abraham and Sarah, delivering us over and again from slavery and bondage into the freedom of redemption. Though we wander and become distracted by what the world would call worthy, your Spirit moves continually about and through all that you have created, engraving an invitation calling us back into relationship and showing us the path you would have us follow.

That you might even turn your gaze upon we mere humans seems impossible, for you are the exalted One in Three. Father, Son and Holy Spirit, your being is beyond our ability to understand, far beyond the grasp of scholars and computers and telescopes. Sometimes you see fit to declare your powerful love in ways that cannot be overlooked. Other times you prove yourself in small quiet ways that can only be seen with hindsight. So often you show up in ways your people do not expect, teaching us that your ways are not those of the world.

We pray that you will give us the strength to use those ways and let us partner with you as you make your presence known. Let our loving actions feed hungry bodies, bring comfort to hurting hearts, and give compassion to ones who struggle. We pray for healing for persons with illness and injury in mind and body. We pray that all who are able will help in those faraway places that can seem so out of reach, where refugees shelter from war and oppression, where victims of storms and fires are on the edge of losing hope. We pray for peaceful and just actions from leaders around the world, that all who wield power will be guided by your hand. With all of these prayers we offer our small gifts for your use in bringing about your Kingdom of Heaven, for we know that it is through your grace that all things work to your good.

We pray all these things in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who came not as a conquering ruler but as a helpless infant, who taught us the depth of your faithfulness and who taught us to pray together:

"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