

Pastoral Prayer

Gracious God, we offer thanks for this day and for the opportunity to be here together in worship. During this time, may we be able to put aside the concerns of our daily lives, let go of all the demands that crowd upon us, and simply be present here to your Spirit and your words. In the spirit of the psalm, may we be still and know that you are god.

We offer you prayers of thanksgiving for life and all those things that make life good. In these high summer days, surrounded by nature's beauty, we offer gratitude for the abundance and fertility of the earth. The wonders of nature take us unaware and raise our hearts to you. Help us in our gratitude not to take this abundance and beauty for granted. Help us as we work to maintain the health and the beauty of the earth for generations to come.

Help us as well as we seek to make this good earth a safe home for all your children. We confess that though your earth is abundant, many of your children live in poverty and want. We know from your words through prophets and apostles that this is neither your will nor your purpose. Sustain us with the gift of hope as we work to do your will, so that all people might share fairly in the good things of your creation. .

We bring to you our concerns for peace in our community and the world. We bring our concern for the family and loved ones of our former pastor Phil Reller. We bring our concerns for the family and loved ones of Justine Damond and for the people of Minneapolis. We bring our concerns for gun violence in whatever form it takes. We bring our concerns for refugees and for those living with fear of deportation. We bring to you our personal concerns for ourselves and our families. In all these things, we ask for the strength to face the hard realities of our world, not to despair, but to stand with the vulnerable, the victims of violence and injustice, and those who live on the margins of life.

Amidst our concerns we bring you our joys as a congregation. Joy for Ann Sawyer Heniz and Jody Heniz as they celebrate the birth of their son. Joy, that after a long hospitalization in Minneapolis, Bill Woehrlin will be returning home. Joy that our church members are home safe after a weekend of renewal and shared community at Pilgrim Point camp. Joy that we are here today, gathered together in your presence.