

Pastoral Prayer

God of abundance, You have ordained that creation yields fruit, and that the earth will put forth plenty. You have promised a banquet in your presence for all those who seek you. And yet, so many in the world are hungry. So many suffer under the weight of poverty, made greater now by the burden of illness. In this time of struggle and uncertainty Lord, hear our prayer.

Guide us to share what we have in faith, so that even our smallest gifts might be transformed by your love. Take our offerings of compassion, so that even when we doubt your abundance, all might be fed. Forgive us when we cling to what you have given us; when we believe in the world's story of scarcity more than your promise of plenty. Forgive us when we fail our neighbors, building up treasures for ourselves when we should be caring for the most vulnerable in our midst.

Teach us, as Disciples, to walk in the way of Christ, who leads us in paths of plenty; who seeks the one lost sheep, who calls in those who have been cast out, and who feeds those he loves with a generous hand. Give us a new Spirit of hope, that all might be fed in your presence, if only we plant the smallest seeds of love. Call us from our places of fear and into the open fields of generosity, God; we place our trust in you, and in the gospel truth that you are in all things: alive and moving in the world even now. May this body of Christ move in new ways, in this new season, to share the abundance we have known in you. In your name and by your grace we pray, Amen.

