

(Pastoral Prayer 10.21.18)

Faithful God, we give you thanks for the beauty of a dawning day, and for the way it dawns on us that we need---and have---your steadfast presence in our lives. We don't always understand it, but we hold fast to it.

We offer a prayer of thanks for love. We acknowledge you as its Source and Creator. Thank you for the imagination of love that enables us to envision a world more just; more peaceful; and more kind. We pray from deep in our hearts that our politicians might govern with compassion, and that all world leaders might work for the welfare of the least of their people.

We ask that your healing love come into this world community of ours that is in great need---into North Korea, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Honduras, Guatemala, Yemen, and into so many corners of the globe; to people whose names we do not know, but whose lives are precious to you.

We pray for those whose names and lives we know *so well*: parents and children, spouses and friends, ourselves. For those who are suffering loneliness or pain---fill *them* with hope and healing. We offer prayers of solace for those who are grieving the passing of dear ones. Hold them especially close.

In all the times of our lives, we stand together as your people, to comfort one another and to lift up our hope in Jesus Christ. Keep us alert and prepared, so we don't miss the wondrous ways in which---and where---you work. Keep us ever ready to see the Light, to *be* light, and to trust in your grace. In the name of Jesus the Christ, we pray. **Amen.**