

ALL SAINTS PASTORAL PRAYER

NOVEMBER 4, 2018

In the busyness of life, it often seems like a waste of time to slow down, and to spend time with God. I am learning that it is no more a waste of time than stopping to put gas in my car when it's almost empty. It is necessary. Stopping for a moment with God creates more time, more peace, and more joy in our lives.

O God of all creation, it is so easy to see your beauty in a blazing sun emerging from the mists of the morning, or in the majesty of a cascading waterfall. But, we confess that it is sometimes difficult to see your face in the thorny situations, which find their way into every life and every relationship at one point or another. Open our minds to see you walk alongside each one through life's shadowy passages. Enable us to glimpse your holiness in the midst of life's disturbing images of pain. O Lord, help us to trust you in the waiting times, pointing us to your fingerprints wherever we are on life's pathway. Remind us that you stand with us offering both the gift of comfort and hope's unexpected optimism.

O Lord of all life, in this time in our communities and in our nation, lead us to seek and to discover what unites us instead of on what divides us. We pray for both humility and the willingness to be open to dialogue with those with whom we might disagree. As we come to this Tuesday, enable us to be both wise and discerning in our voting. Help us to have courage in the dark places of our times to stand with you.

Today, we lift up those who need your presence in special ways – we pray especially for Bud today. We lift up those who are mourning –

We lift each person who is engulfed in grief or sadness on this special day, those bowed down in worry or anxiety, those burdened by disappointment or betrayal, that your Holy Spirit would be at work in ways too deep for words. We offer our own prayers for those situations that we need to surrender into your care. . . God of the journey, we offer our own lives to you now in worship and in service. Empower us in the opportunities you give for hidden serving – those moments you place before us to offer a moment of kindness with no need for recognition. Lead us on pathways of generosity, opening us to wherever you might lead us to do whatever you might call us to do, trusting in your power at work in our lives, in the name of Christ. Amen.