

SEPTEMBER 16, 2018 WORSHIP

Pastoral Prayer

○ Lord of all, we celebrate the richness of a new day – the sunbursts of morning light melting away the last glimpses of darkness. We celebrate the gifts of family and friends, who offer support and strength when we need them the most. We celebrate the myriad of ways you show your presence in our lives with grace bursts. God of all praising, we enter these moments of worship, to worship you and to seek a sense of your peace that meets us in this sacred space.

Eternal God, we come with open hearts, anticipating that you have a word for us today – that we might hear the very thing we need to hear – through Scripture or song or prayer or the words of someone we meet. Whenever we gather in your presence, we admit that there is a hope stirring in us, that you will reach out and meet our needs in ways we cannot even articulate. We simply want to experience that you are closer than we can imagine.

○ Lord, we lift up the things that are stirring within us. We begin with the scenes from the storm that are imprinted on our minds – for those who are mourning lives upended by this disaster. Grant each one the gift of your presence and peace. Give us the compassion to provide from our own resources to ease the pain. We pray for our relationships – those that are enriching as well as those that are troubling. Where we need to release hurts or resentments, we ask that you would give us the desire and the ability to let them go. Where we need to reach out in affirmation to the ones around us, give us just the right words of encouragement. Lord, we pray for all those with burdens that are much too heavy to carry without your strength. Our prayers encircle all those in our midst who are dealing with times of waiting, or concerns over family, those who are facing health challenges of their own. We especially lift up _____. And now we offer to you the prayers of our own hearts in this time of silence. . .

○ Lord, lead us to offer those same gifts that you have given to us to those we know – that we might bring your peace where there was anxiety, that we might bring assurance of your presence where there was fear, that we might offer a glimmer of your hope where there was none, all in the name of the one who is our strength and our peace, in Jesus Christ, Amen.