

## Pastoral Prayer

God, you are the creator of all the wonders that make up this world...and then you are the God who loved this world enough to come and live in it with us.

It is beyond our understanding that you, the Creator of all things, would also care for us, need us, call us to be your partners, in the times when our power is faint, our knees unsteady, when we are not at our best, our strongest, our most appealing.

Save us from those times when our concept of you is too small.

Let us not hesitate to bow before mystery we do not understand.

Let us not fail to see beauty because we pass through life hurriedly.

Let us never fail to feel wonder and awe in the face of the enormity of your creation...and the remarkable truth that we have a place in it.

Remind us that you are still creating and re-creating...us...*and* the people whom it is hard for us to love...*and* this world that seems so broken.

Let us stop before you and simply be thankful...and humble...as small, and as great, as you long for us to be.

A broken and mended people, called to holiness not out of our own strength, but yours.

Fill us again with your creative power, so that may be constantly re-created, reborn; honoring you in and through who we are, what we say, what we do; in the ways we work alongside of you for justice, for peace, for healing.

We pray in the name and with the words of Jesus...