

Pastoral Prayer
October 22, 2017

Timothy L. Carson

Mysterious and Creative Presence of all that is Who dwells in the hidden places of our hearts and minds:

Before we say a word or think a thought, You are there.
Before the good is done or not done, You are there.
Before the Church gathers to praise your name, You are there.

Inescapable, ever-present, and always waiting God, You wait for your creation to know You, love You, to become one with You. We gather together, Eternal One, hoping to find you, to become the ones Christ has already made His own.

We assemble in this place on this Sabbath, not because You are absent everywhere else, but because we transform every other day by setting aside this one and making it holy. Show yourself to us, our hearts and minds are open:

We join our prayers with the prayers of the whole assembly and our voice with the many voices.

We share, remember and commit to the path that is ours as Christians.

We lament with those who lament and rejoice with those who rejoice.

In this space between heaven and earth, Loving God, speak and we will listen:

Prod us into restlessness, not willing to settle for a life not lived in You.

Draw us out of our littleness to the larger life You have for us.

Help us plunge into the sacred story in order that our personal stories are transformed.

Warm the hearts that have become cold and quiet the anxiety that plagues the land.

Forgive us the thousand ways we made ourselves little gods, and transform our arrogance into servanthood.

Bind up the wounds of yesterday and the day before yesterday, your healing balm for every tragedy that shakes the foundations.

Spur us out of complacency in the face of every injustice, show us the path of unity when your children are divided, and satisfy our inner hunger with the things that really last – faith, hope and love – let us always live in love. Amen.