

Pastoral Prayer April 28, 2013

Eternal God, even as we speak to you our human minds cannot quite comprehend the vastness of your creation. Some mysteries are beyond us, yet we sense your presence and your love. We can feel your spirit within us, moving us toward song and prayer and thanksgiving. Don't let us smother it, Lord. Keep us alive and fresh. Use these few moments when we pause to worship as your time for shaping and directing us.

Make us strong, but loving. Keep us attuned both toward heaven and toward this world around us. Make us sensitive, but not touchy. Fill us with energy, but temper our zest with patience. Give us wisdom, but keep us kind and tenderhearted. Let us be peacemakers, but make us forceful when dealing with evil people and evil actions.

We thank you for the green meadows and flashing streams. We enjoy the work and play you set before us. You surround us with warm friendship in this room. We recognize how you set us in the most lovely spot on earth. Let us absorb the beauty, and enjoy it, and radiate it to others around us.

We pray your mercy upon those who cannot relish life because of illness or depression or dullness of mind. Please touch them with your healing hand and make them whole again. Help us follow the example of Jesus, and with compassion care for the ones who are difficult to love. Hear us also when we beg your power when we face problems of our own.

In this church on the hill we lift our prayers, raise our songs and make new resolutions in the name and strength of Jesus Christ. Amen.