

PASTORAL PRAYER – March 8 2020 – Rev Courtney Richards

-- RISING --

God of healing and wonder, of community and grace,
God of each of us and of all that we are:
Be with us in this moment, we pray.

For the concerns of our hearts, for the needs in our
spirits,
for the celebrations in our world.

We give you thanks because we know that you are a
God who can hear all of those at once:
You can hear the needs and concerns that we carry
and you are with us in moments that we rejoice.

We are grateful for a community of faith that
surrounds us in this moment
For responsible leadership
For thorough caregiving
For unexpected graces in the forms of friends who
pray, friends who pack and move our belongings,
friends who visit us when we are sick, friends who
bring meals to help us feel better.
For family and all of the forms that it takes we are
grateful.

For times like this when we need to cling to each
other more closely - even with health precautions in
place –
We know that is our spirits that you bind together,
and that when we are together we are most closely
yours.

We pray that you would guide us and direct us
that you would inspire our living
that you would challenge us
that you would send us into the world that needs us ...
that needs you.

May we be agents of your compassion and your
grace, of your peace and your healing.
We pray in the name and for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen.

-- TRADITIONAL --

Gracious and merciful God you are one of healing and
one of wonder.

For all the ways you are at work in the world, we give
you thanks.

For the things that happen that we aren't even aware
of, but have been your hand at work in our lives,
for all of the ways that you move closely through our
community,
the ways that your hands and feet of Christ are made
known by the hands and feet and hearts of those
around us.

We come today in a new season
with time that has shifted by an hour
with lives that have changed dramatically since last
we were together.

We pray for calm, for peace, for leadership, for
responsibility.

We know that you are a God who overcomes all
things,
that you are a God who will overcome our fears as
well.

You will help us to be wise, to be compassionate, to
be just,
to bring healing, to offer mercy, to extend grace.

Even as we must find new ways occasionally to move
in the world,
you are a God who is always moving, always doing
something new.

So draw our hearts more closely to you.

Bond us more closely to one another.

Even in those moments we need to make different
physical choices,

we know that it is our spirits that rise to greet one
another,

and our hearts that are bound together.

In this moment and in this place, we are your people.

Remind us that that doesn't only happen here:

that we are always yours

that you will always be our God,

to whom we give thanks and praise.

Amen.