

Rev. Carleen Gerber
Pastoral Prayer
May 31, 2026

Jesus said, "My House Shall be Called a House of Prayer."

Would you join me in prayer,

God of the wide creation, we praise you this day for the clarity of morning light.... the light of an early Spring morning that somehow enhances the beauty of a season already resplendent with glory. The new green of the foliage and the feathery blossom of the chestnut... the majestic iris and the simple buttercup... light falling of these treasures is a gift. The sunlight that casts out the dark of night is the first gift of each day.

The gospel of John likens light with life. In Spring we know that, even in the world of nature, life and light are wonderfully intertwined. Help us to take heed. Help us to ponder that perhaps we ourselves might add light to this darkened world. We could be more like spring unto the winter of a weary world.

In yesterday's gusting wind, we saw something of nature's response to trial. The trees bent and swayed, but most often they did not break. Help us to remember the storm-tossed trees, God, when we are burdened by trial and storms in our own lives. We lose people we love who have battled valiantly against the forces of illness ... we watch those we love endure savage challenges... we feel the weight of anxiety in our own bodies and souls.... we feel buffeted by a world that is often in turmoil... and yet we strive to be able to stand strong in the bluster; to be for others a beacon of strength and courage. Help us, merciful God, we pray.

The broad world around us can be frightening, Lord. We think of the Congo and those who cower under the real threat of the Ebola virus, and we grieve for our inability to reach them with the kind of aid and assistance we were proud to offer in the past. Help us, Lord, to unravel the knots of obstruction that plague the generosity and wisdom which could be offered. We think of the critical lack of affordable housing in this land of plenty, and we grieve for those for whom a home of their own remains a stubbornly unattainable goal. Help us to unravel the knots of obstruction that plague the generosity and expertise of which we are fully capable. We think of the countless people who feel cut off from the kind of medical and social assistance that had preciously enabled them to imagine a pathway to health and wellbeing. Help us to unravel the knots of obstruction that impede their journey toward wholeness. We **are** capable, God of mercy.

Let us find the voice to speak loudly and clearly about what must happen in this world you **so** loved. Let us fulfill the call of the prophets to change all that can and should be changed; for the sake of your Son who still remains for us the exemplar of all that we **can and could be**.

In the week to come, stand closely beside us we pray. When our strength fails, lend us Your own. When our courage weakens, lend us Your own. When our power to forgive those who have wronged us waivers, remind us that our forgiveness only foreshadows that which You have promised to us.

Our blessings are many. But our struggles to be fully human are a constant reality. With your help, Loving God, we can fulfill the potential you have imagined. We can yet **be the *best we can be***.

Hear this and all our prayers in the name of a God who is expansive beyond all our imaginings... and in the name of Jesus the Christ, our Redeemer, friend and guide. Amen.