

Pastoral Prayer August 24, 2025

Rev. Carleen Gerber

From the prophet Micah, these words... "What does the Lord require of you but to do justice and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God?"

Would you join me in prayer,

Loving God, we come before you this day to seek that which enables us to stand strong against the winds of change and the tides of turmoil. We come knowing that through your steadfast guidance we can come to look with mercy upon the world. We need the well-spring of your mercy to fill our own; for without Your love and grace it would be easy to be hard and unbending.

We know there is a tender and fragile web that holds all that is precious together – the natural world in all its vulnerability... the relationships upon which we depend...the creatures great and small who weave their lives in and amongst our own. It is only with mercy that we can take our rightful place on the web of life; for it is not dominion but mutual dependence, and deep appreciation that we must seek. Help us, Loving God, to love mercy.

God of the ages, you have asked us to **do** justice. To work for justice...to strive for justice...to fight for justice. To **do** justice is a call to action. Open our eyes and guide our feet toward the work that you would have us do, we pray. For timidity and confusion, and sometimes even fear, cloud our sight and stymie our will. It is grievously wrong for some of your beloved children to go hungry while others have unlimited access to much more than they need. It is a tragedy for some of your beloved children to struggle for survival in a world that could provide a social safety net, and relative security, for all. Wars wage, and dictators wield their narcissistic power, and corruption flourishes: but you have spoken of a world where peace and love triumph over the forces of evil, and you have called us to speak boldly about that world, and to **do** the justice work that could bring it to fruition. Give us strength, we pray. Give wisdom from on high, we pray. Let us put upon our shoulders the mantle of justice; and let us go forth to do the work you have called us to **do**.

You have asked us to walk with humility upon this earth; lest we take the easy path of judging others, or taking more than we need from the earth's store, or lauding power over those who are weak. You have called us to love your children near and far as if they were not only our neighbors – but our beloved family. For indeed they are. Your children the world over are one family to you. Loved, nurtured, watched over by the mother and father God who is God of all. Humility does not come to us easily, for humanity is often riddled with competition and selfishness. But you have called us to be faithful to the teachings of your Son, Jesus the Christ. Following him, emulating him, seeking to be born over and over again in his image, day after day, we grow more and more in his likeness. We pray that You would stand close beside us as we try to follow in his footsteps; to **do** justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly upon this earth.

All this we pray in the name of a God who transcends all names, but whom we claim as our own... Amen