

Pastoral Prayer October 15, 2011

Gracious God, whose presence fills this space, and who reveals yourself to us in multiple ways each day, accept these gifts which we offer in the hope that they will be used to reveal your love to others.

It is so easy, Lord, with the busyness of our schedules and the hectic pace of life, to not sense your presence . We are so busy doing that we forget to take time to be. We rush from place to place, tending to matters which may not be as important as we think, performing one job after another, so that there is little time left for you - and then - then we feel as if we have been left on our own – abandoned by you. And oh, how we need to know that such is not the case – that you have not forgotten us, but that you are indeed with us, your children.. You are the faithful one who is always watching over us, supporting us, and encouraging us. You are both over all, yet very close sitting beside us, holding us up.

So, slow us down and help us catch our breath. Sift through our lists of to-dos and show us how to simplify – to cross off what can be ignored, so that we can find time to be quiet and witness your activity – your care – your love. Open to us the myriad ways in which you are present. Let us feel your gentle touch with the breezes that caress our faces. Sharpen our awareness of your presence in caring words and acts of kindness extended to others- the hand reaching out in friendship and welcome, the hand at our elbow and under our arm which supports unsteady feet, the hand on our back reassuring and comforting – the hands and arms which embrace us in love. Quiet us so that we can hear you speak to us – that we can hear your words of reassurance and guidance – that we can sense the pleasure of your smile.

Then impel us to action – to be channels of your grace and love – to identify for others where and how you are working in their lives. WE ask this in the name of the One who demonstrated this so vividly and continually – Jesus the Christ who taught us to pray saying together : Our father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever.