Pastoral Prayer for March 10, 2019

God we thank you for the prophets and visionaries you have gifted us with. Open our eyes to hear their words. Open our eyes to share their vision for abundance and justice. This morning we are especially full of gratitude for the life and ministry of Rev. Faith Fowler and the lives she has transformed and still will transform through Cass Community Services. May her courage inspire us as we seek to love our neighbor.

God we pray for those living in levels of poverty that we cannot fathom. We pray that we confront and engage the systems that maintain and imprison others in poverty; that we do the difficult work of justice to which you have called us.

We pray today for the complexities of our own lives. We pray for our children, those who grow within us, those who are learning new independence, those who are trying desperately to make adult decisions with still developing brains. Help us as parents, or grandparents, or mentors to remember that they are made in your image. Before they were ours, they were yours and yours they will remain. Surround us with villages because this is really overwhelming on our own.

We pray for those who struggle with health crises, for those facing diagnosis that doctors cannot change; for those facing the loss of abilities or the agencies of their mind, for those anticipating surgeries. Grant them the courage to be honest in their fears and their anger, grace when they can’t process the realities, and love from the family and friends whom surround them.

For all of the needs and stories, our own, our communities and our world, we pray that your compassion enfolds. In the name of our comforter, our shepherd our lord: Amen.