Pastoral Prayer

July 21, 2019

Gracious and loving God…accept our sincere thanks for the gift of life….and for all we have experienced in the richness of our unique earthly journeys. We thank you today for the stories of the Bible…whose messages of faith and hope are an inspiration and a blessing to us. Help us on our way as we seek to be both responsible and reflective, both active and balanced…as we consider once again the story of Mary and Martha and its impact on our personal lives.

Today, as we think of life, and as we think of people whom we love and care for, we pray for those whose daily paths have been trying and difficult.

We pray for those whose life journey has brought them to experiences of poverty, or pain, or loneliness. We pray for those whose struggles of soul, or mind, or memory, or body have left them weakened, or afraid, or perhaps feeling hopeless or helpless. Touch all of these with your healing, and strength, and courage, and hope, and peace.

God….we also have our own concerns and desires……Hear us now as we ask you to hear our silent prayers……

O God, as we are strengthened by your limitless love, enable us to face today with confidence and live toward tomorrow with hope. As we seek to do so…deliver us from anything that may stifle us or hold us back… and help us to be mindful that we never journey alone…indeed that you and your love and grace are always present in lives…and that you walk beside us throughout all of life.

All these things we pray in the name of Jesus…our friend, our teacher, and our guide. Amen.