

Pastoral Prayer - July 5, 2020

Oh Lord, it feels like every day we are laying our heavy burdens before you.
Today we have more.
You have invited us to come to you, burdens and all,
Here we are.
Help us to find relief from the routine responsibilities we have for our families and community,
And the troubles we have from a global health and economic crisis,
And the worries about loved ones we can't care for the way we like - in person
And, and, and...

Lord, you promised to give us rest...by taking on a yoke.
Help us to understand that our true rest is not an escape from work,
It is the refreshing and energizing work of being your disciple,
It is the meaningful labor of building your kingdom,
It is purpose we gain by learning from and following you.

The burdens we bring to you are lighter when we carry them together - with you and all our fellow disciples. We pray that we can learn from you to be gentle and humble in heart,
That we can help bear the burdens of others,
That we will allow them to help bear ours,
And that we will feel in that sharing
The lifting of our troubles
The refreshment of our souls
And the deep joy of discipleship.
AMEN