

Pastoral Prayer – God Who Names Us Beloved

Holy God, who has named us “beloved children of God,”
we gather in this place
named (*name of your church*) by those who have gone before us –
this place where we have prayed so often and so hard,
this place where you have heard us time after time.

We thank you for your presence,
so evident through the giftedness of our Sunday school teachers, deacons, and elders,
through the dependability of those who turn on lights and vacuum carpets,
through those who show up and pay attention.

We thank you for the way the Bible,
the story of your word,
names us,
calling us to new ways of thinking, acting, and understanding.

We gather before you to name those whom we know and love who are ill,
for those for whom grief is fresh,
for those who struggle with addictions.

We gather before you to name our communities and neighborhoods and cities
and ask that you bless them,
heal their brokenness,
and encourage their energy for change.

We gather before you to name our world, its countries, and citizens.

Bless them,
bring peace where there is conflict,
hope where there is despair,
and food where there is hunger.

We gather all our prayers together,
the spoken and unspoken,
and pray the prayer that you taught us

All: Our Father...

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