

PASTORAL PRAYER
AUGUST 14, 2011

By Kelly Ryan

"God of Grace and Peace, we come to You this day mindful of the burdens so many bear. We pray for all those who are struggling in this economy, especially the poor and the sick, the homeless and the jobless. Many people carry these burdens in their hearts, even in our church family, and we do not always know what others are going through. Keep us mindful of the gifts of kindness and compassion in these uncertain times." *

Loving Jesus, teacher and Christ, help us to reach out to one another in this time to be Your hope in this world, to bring Your healing love, and to share Your goodness and compassion to each other. We lift up all the burdens of this congregation and the surrounding community, that we may begin here and now building up Your kingdom.

We pray for our brothers and sisters who are observing the sacred fast of Ramadan. Keep them safe and strengthen them in this hot summer.

We pray for Britain, rocked by riots, and the Middle East. Grant us understanding and vision that we may hear the voices of those who are silenced, before violence becomes the only way to be heard.

We remember in our hearts and minds those suffering under famine and drought in the Horn of Africa. Aid is impeded by politics, and mothers walk weeks to refugee camps, arriving with fewer children than when they left home. God, we pray for peace and relief for families facing agonizing choices. And God, guide the hands of those who offer aid, food, comfort, and mercy in the border camps.

Creator, help us to see Your children as You see them so that we might share Your love and be Your hands and feet in our world, in our community, and in our homes. Help us to bear each other's burdens.

Help us to live wisely, compassionately, sustainably, and courageously.

Grant us gratitude to rejoice in our gifts and give to others.

And fulfill the Gospel message by sharing Your love in our community, and out to the world.

We pray all these things in the name of Jesus, your divine image in our very human flesh.

Amen"

* the first paragraph from rev-o-lution.com,