

## **A Pastoral Prayer**

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Grantfork United Church of Christ  
Highland, Illinois  
February 2021

God of Mystery, God of Wisdom, we are in awe of the wonders which occupy your world. We cannot "box in" the Grand Canyon or the Himalayas, the Pacific Ocean or Niagara Falls, the Amazon rainforests or the Sahara Desert or the American prairies. The variety of colorful flowers, creeping ivies, stately cacti, swaying grasses, fruitful shrubs, and shady trees is a marvel. The multiplicity of swimming creatures, crawling creatures, walking creatures, and flying creatures provides us with spectacles beyond words. The theory of evolution and the stories of creation reveal many ways we are one with this miraculous world. Thank you for the partnership between science and religion that helps us know the splendor of your light shining.

God of Mystery, God of Wisdom, we are in awe of the marvelous ways in which you have formed our human bodies. We cannot "box in" infants or toddlers, children or adolescents, young adults or those of middle-age, or seniors. We come in a range of shapes, sizes, colors, abilities, experiences, emotional expressions, and patterns of learning. We are amazed by the uniqueness of each individual we encounter. Thank you for the science that contributes to the health of our bodies, our organs, our systems – the therapies, exercises, medications, vaccines, and nutritional information that promote energy and well-being. Thank you for the stories of faith that remind us that your desire is to make healing available and that, whatever the condition of our heart, soul, strength, and mind, we are always children of your light.

God of Mystery, God of Wisdom, we are in awe of the miracle of love that connects us. We cannot "box in" to one singular pattern the relationships that exist between romantic partners, between parents and children, between extended family members, between neighbors in community, between colleagues at work or school, between people of unfamiliar cultures. The ways in which we may express mutual care, intimacy, respect, justice, vulnerability, and peace are many. Thank you for the scientific research and the spiritual formation which stimulate compassionate, harmonious relationships among us to share your light with the world.

Hear the quiet prayers we now offer for those concerns deepest in our hearts.  
[Quiet Prayers, followed by the Lord's Prayer]