

Pastoral Prayer

Let us center ourselves for a time of reflection, meditation, and prayer.

Enter with me that still place within, the center,
where we find not only our innermost selves,
but also our connection to the farthest reaches of the universe.

May we remember those who have spoken, those they have named, and those we hold in
silence in our hearts as they were too potent, too precious.

Spirit of Life, known by many names yet by no name fully known—we gather today with hopes
and dreams and also with fears and wounds.

Rest with us this day, in this place.
We lift up every joy, every gladness,
We hold up every hurt, every sadness,
Spoken in this good company
As well as every secret feeling
Held quiet in the hollows of our hearts.

May we be reminded that all things come and go;
that today's joys and today's sorrows will in time give way to those of tomorrow
and that those of us who have strength to share today ought do so while we can,
and that those who are in need ought allow ourselves to receive for tomorrow those roles might
well be reversed.

Spirit of Life and Love, help us to remember those who are not here with us today,
those who need what we have found here and those who have what we here need.

May we always be open to growth and change, to movement, to grace.

In the name of all that is holy, and in all the holy names that have ever been uttered (and those
that have not even yet been imagined), let us say
Blessed be,
Shalom, and
Amen.