

PASTORAL PRAYER

3/11/1962

God, Our Father, Maker of all things living and inorganic, as we praise Thee in hymn, prayer and meditation, we become aware of our own weaknesses, our limited outlook, our selfishness, our intolerance. As we consider Thee we also become aware of Thy love and of Thy blessings to us. so that we are moved to gratitude. When we fail to find reason for feeling grateful to Thee long human experience tells us that something is drastically wrong within us.

On this first Sunday in Lent, 1962, we would think about Thy sacrificial love for us, as shown in Jesus Christ. During this time from now until Easter help us to so practice penitence for our shortcomings that the full significance of Christ's sacrifice will be borne home to each of us. Through self-denial, special ~~prayer~~ periods of prayer, regular worship, personal wrestling in private with the inner person, and in other ways we would seek a fuller feeling of the importance of Thy love through Christ.

In this service we think of the ill and shutin friends and loved ones in our community, ~~xxxx~~ of our dear relatives who are far removed from us by distance, of our children who look to us for guidance by example as to what is right and what is important. We pray for these, for ourselves, and for others, that Thy will may be known, faced, and done.

Change Thou even just a little bit the hearts of all who worship here, who listen by radio, or who worship in Christ's name at other places. Let us be better Christian persons because in worship we have found Thee.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.