

Pastoral Prayer

2/4/62

O God of the sunlight and of the cloud, of the universe and of the microscopic world, in wonder we think of Thee. Perhaps Thy very greatness causes us to despair of understanding Thee, and therefore to neglect Thee in our normal thoughts and everyday actions. This morning we would think of Thee and of truth which Thou dost have for us.

We are not perfect, unless perhaps it is that we are perfect fools and idiots. In our very moments of great success and satisfaction we often realize how hollow and empty is all the form and ceremony. We confess this, and many other of our wrongs and shortcomings. Some of us are truly sorry for them. Grant forgiveness to such folks.

We are grateful for the assurance which Jesus gives that you do forgive even the most awful things; that you give a new chance to anyone who sincerely asks for it. We thank you for the things so obvious that we hardly ever even think about you in connection with them:

like food, clothing, hobbies, and friends. We are grateful for such occasions as birth, marriage, great joy, sorrow, and even grief and illness, in which we do think about Thee more often and more seriously than we usually do.

We are concerned for those we love and ask Thee to guide them in good ways and to give them what they need. We ask Thee for a strong and continuous sense of meaning and satisfaction in our everyday tasks and pleasures.

Now we continue in our worship, hoping within it to give ourselves more fully to Christ and His way.

In His name we pray. Amen.