

Pastoral prayer: O God, whose presence means more to us than life itself we pray with the psalmist: "do not abandon what you have made."

We fear being alone,
Alone with our violent thoughts,
Alone with our griefs,
Alone with our doubts that saps our energies.

Yet, even as we recognize our fear of being alone,
we remember others who feel abandoned:
Prisoners of Conscience,

Members of divorced families,
Those who are dying without a circle of support,
Those who are mourning by themselves.

Through us and through the silent and unseen ministries of your spirit,
inside our lonely, yearning, bleeding world.

Become incarnate again in the touch of a hand,
in acts of compassion
in words of sympathy
that all may know what the psalmist knows:
that "your love endures forever, Lord"