

# PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1900 Nicollet Avenue  
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Pastoral Prayer  
*by the Rev. Jeffrey Sartain*  
*Executive Minister*

August 9, 2009

Holy God, in this time apart we gather to hear your word and to listen for your wisdom. We break from our work to open ourselves to consider your purpose. We step away from our play to consider your delight. We move aside from our worries and into your consolation. We let go of our fears and fall, trusting, into your ambitions for us. We release our minds from our own ideas and from grasping for control of our lives, and open ourselves instead to your eternal mind and to all your ways.

Open us to your leading. Open us to your inspiration. Open us to your wisdom.

Too many times, we confess, we are reticent to release ourselves into your care. We have good reasons, many of us, to doubt that the universe is a good and loving place. We have good reason to doubt that your blessed mystery holds us. We have been disappointed, disillusioned and even abused. How can we feel assured that your goodness will hold us if finally we dare to let go?

Yet, in many ways the proof of your goodness is clear; it is right to trust that the universe intends our wholeness. It is wise to believe beyond all doubt that a loving presence pervades all things. It is the deepest wisdom to open ourselves to the possibility of your divine care for us and for all creation.

Thank you for that wisdom wherever we find it.

Thank you for that wisdom as we find it in this community. Many of us have learned to trust your goodness here in this place, many have been held in times of sorrow, many have been loved, many have learned to believe in themselves here, even when the whole wide world doubted us. Thank you for holy wisdom spoken, heard and lived in this community of faith. Thank you for love that has moved among us, that has melted away cynicism and caused hope to blossom.

Thank you for the wisdom of all sages: the grandparent who has loved us well; the dear friend, wise beyond her years, who has called us back to our better self; the spouse who broke through icy despair and gave us the courage to allow someone to love us. Help us believe that these examples of goodness are signs of you, wonders brought about by your hand.

Thank you for the wisdom of Jesus, who taught that when we stop looking we find true meaning, that when we let go we will find we are held tight, that when we lose everything we find true life.

Grant us to live trusting that you are goodness, believing that you are love, knowing that this world and the world beyond our understanding is woven through and through with love, with goodness, with the best of intentions for each of us and for us all. Amen.