

PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1900 Nicollet Avenue
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Pastoral Prayer
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Pastoral Resident

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Gracious and loving God,
Create in us the space for worship,
Create in us space for you.

When we find ourselves pinned down by grief,
Trapped in our anger,
Overcome by the Cimmerian shade of
depression,
Violated by the hate and intolerance
perpetrated in this world,
Frustrated with neighbors, politicians or traffic,
Create in us the space for worship, a space for you.

When we are pregnant with the anticipation of family
gatherings,
For the better or the worse,
Celebrating new life in little bodies,
Renewing life in hearty laughs
and smiling stories,
Alive with music, song, and dance.
Create in us the space for worship, a space for you.

When we rise, sit down, or read the paper,
When our faces are awash with salty tears,
Or our spirits elevated by a kind word or gesture.
When our pockets are empty, our hands idle,
and our needs unmet,
Or when our bellies are full and our bodies
tucked into the warmth of bed.
Create in us the space for worship, a space for you.

When someone slips his or her hand into ours,
In a hug or a kiss,
In those quiet moments where we dare not
speak,

In the atmosphere of a sunset's purples and pinks,
In the rush of a river teeming with life,
In the piping song of the thrush.
Create in us the space for worship, a space for you.

No matter where we are, O God, you are there...
Nothing in us surprises you, our loving Creator.
We are yours.

Create in us now, in all of us here, the space for worship,
A space for you, a space for each other...
In those to the left and to the right,
in those who sit behind us or to our front,
those who are beyond the walls of this building,
all those of the universal church,
all those, our brothers and sisters of flesh and
blood and bone,
all those scattered throughout the world, in
many nations and languages,
all your children.

Create in us, in all of us, the space for worship,
A space for you, a space for each other...

Make us whole and alive, filled with your spirit...
A body, a covenanted community, of your love
and your justice,
A church of your grace embracing all among us,
A people reflective of your extravagant
welcome, inviting others into the space of
worship you have created in us.

The space of our everyday lives,
made extraordinary,
inhabited by you "Emmanuel," God with us.

Amen.