

**Pastoral Prayer of the Day**  
**01-24-2021 – Malone: Centenary UMC**

"Lord, you have come to the lakeshore,  
looking neither for wealthy nor wise ones.  
You only ask me to follow humbly. ..

(UMH #344 "Tu Has Venido a la Orilla" [Lord, You Have come to the Lakeshore]).

The words from this lovely hymn paint pictures of hard-working people,  
going about their daily tasks when they are confronted by Jesus.

This same Jesus, who long ago called to those first disciples, calls to us each today.

Our "lakeshores" are different.  
They are the places where we work and where we live.  
Yet in this song, Jesus is coming for each one of us,  
just as we are and inviting us to follow him humbly.

We have lifted the names of loved ones today in prayerful petition for God's healing love.  
We have uttered in our hearts names and situations that it would break our hearts to speak. And  
God hears all our cries and responds in love.  
This is one of the faithful works of the church;  
the work of prayer, asking for God's healing mercy and blessings.

As we have offered our prayers, let us also offer our lives,  
trusting in God's love and call to us, responding with confidence.

And now, let us pray as your people the prayer that Jesus taught us --

Our Father who art in heaven hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
for thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory forever.

**Amen**

Patient Lord,  
we can find so many excuses for not following you.

We can make a case for our responsibilities and our activities, our obligations and commitments to other things  
and proclaim that these are more important  
than being your disciples.

But you know what is really happening.

We are frightened.  
    We feel unworthy.  
        We are worried.

We don't dare take the risk of discipleship.  
We are afraid that you won't really be with us  
and that we will fail and lose everything.

Forgive us, Lord.

Take our hands;  
    touch our hearts;  
        heal our frightened spirits.

Challenge us to be the kind of followers, who can help others; who will offer compassion and hope.

Guide our steps.  
Be with us in our decision to finally  
let go of our fears and excuses.

And now, let us pray as your people the prayer that Jesus taught us --

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thy kingdom come thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread  
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those  
who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation  
but deliver us from evil  
for thine is the kingdom,  
and the power and the glory forever. Amen