



The Episcopal Diocese of Utah

September 30, 2022

Greetings Diocese,

I join with you in prayer for all those who are suffering due to Hurricane Ian. The loss of property has, in so many places, turned into the loss of whole neighborhoods and communities. Our hearts grieve for such pain and fear as this storm has caused.

I ask that meaningful consideration be given to the Prayers of the People this Sunday, and beyond, as we hold all who are suffering from the storm's devastation up to God. Additionally, please give generously to [Episcopal Relief and Development](#), or consider donating this Sunday's offering, as they work to serve areas affected regardless of geographic location.

As you watch the news, as you scroll through the online images and postings, do so in prayer. Pray for what you see. Pray for those who face the unbelievable challenge of restoring order and livability out of complete chaos. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide people to safety.

We begin by praying together:

*O God, in the beginning of time you ordered the waters of chaos,
The winds blew and the seas raged, but you were in their midst.
Where the winds of Ian have blown, come into the midst of the destruction.*

*Guide neighbor to help neighbor;
Provide children with security of shelter and safe food sources;
Safeguard the needs of the elderly through the compassion of the young;
Protect animals until they can be returned to safety;
Strengthen those who serve day and night and preserve them from danger;
Unite families who are apart through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Knowing that those who are daily without now have far less,
call forth from your people's generosity and compassion,
prayers and actions,
that our words may be prayed and lived with the heart of Jesus.
Amen.*

Yours in the Spirit,
+Bp. Phyllis