



A PRAYER FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE PHILIPPINES – Dec. 23, 2017

The 2017 Typhoon season has brought 20 tropical storms to the Philippines. Last week (Dec. 16) Visayas province in central Philippines was hit by a storm with the loss of life totaling 46. Yesterday (Dec. 22) the southern island of Mindanao was hit, and the death toll presently stands at 120. The rain caused flooding and created mudslides. People and things were washed out to sea and/or buried in mud.

PRAYER

God of all comfort, you sent your Son, Jesus, that we might know Emmanuel, God is with us. Be close to the people of the Philippines at this time.

We bring before you in particular those on the island of Mindanao impacted by Tropical Storm Tembin and those in the province of Visayas impacted by Tropical Storm Kai-Tak. We pray for those who have lost loved ones, be with the families of the nearly 200 who have been killed, give them comfort and hope in their grief.

We pray for those whose loved ones are missing, bring them your peace which passes understanding as searchers do their work. We pray for energy and perseverance for front line workers, searching for the missing and seeking safe, dry places for people who have lost their homes to find shelter. We pray for wisdom and creative problem solving for government officials trying to respond to the challenges of rebuilding homes and infrastructure, and providing clean water and food to those displaced.

We pray for Filipinos around the world, whose hearts are full of concern and grief over the loss of life and destruction. We thank you for the people of the Philippines and the care they offer us in so many contexts in our country – as nannies, health care aids, nurses – we thank you for their compassion. May we at this time, find ways to offer them compassion and care.

God, who like a mother hen shelters her young under her wings, let the people of the Philippines know the shelter of your wings at this time.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Emmanuel. Amen.

—*The Rev. Peter Bush, moderator of the 2017 (143rd) General Assembly*