

For reasonable weather, and for an abundance of the fruits of the earth,
let us pray to the Lord. *Lord, have mercy.*

—*The Book of Common Prayer*, p. 384



TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

One way I find connection with God and God's people is by choosing the Prayers of the People for the coming week's Eucharist. In California, we have been experiencing years of drought. Our agriculture industry employs hundreds of thousands of people as well as produces a huge amount of food. Seasonable weather plays an important part. Each week we pray for rain and for the fruit trees in our yards and for our agriculture.

In my work as one of Episcopal Relief & Development's Partners in Response*, I also encounter people adversely affected by too much rain. I recall meeting Candace, whose home was flooded after torrential rains in Colorado. When her basement was inundated, she lost her library. After Hurricane Sandy, I met with church members and other community members whose homes and businesses had been washed away. In partnership with affected dioceses, Episcopal Relief & Development supports long-term recovery efforts to help people get back into their homes.

When you pray about weather, does a certain person or part of the world come to mind?

—**Michael Bamberger**

* Partners in Response is a group of volunteers who have experienced disasters in their own communities and who accompany newly impacted clergy, dioceses, congregations and staff as they find a new normal.