Prayers of the People June 3, 2018

Please stand or sit as is your custom for the Prayers of the People. When you hear the words, “Merciful Father,” answer with “Hear Our Prayers”

Heavenly Father,

We pray for your church, wherever people gather in your name. We pray for Bishop Logan, Our moderator Jordan Cantwell and for all the parishes here at home and beyond. Today we pray for those places where people gather in your name without any structure or sanctuary such as a named Church, knowing that church can happen wherever people gather in your name, to worship, to feel the Holy Spirit, to learn and follow Jesus, whether it is in a wooded glen, by the seashore or in someone’s living room. Bless all of us meeting this Sunday morning. Merciful Father, Hear Our Prayers

Today, we think of all those people who are experiencing fear. We pray for those in Hawaii who watch the lava flow and wonder where the next fissure will open up, we pray for those in Java who are watching another active volcano spew ash and lava. Help them to feel your presence, to have faith that they can face the challenges ahead of them, and most of all we pray that their fears might be lessened by their faith in you. And we pray not only for those whose fear is of physical danger but also for those whose fears are less obvious…the fear of not being able to make next month’s rent, or the fear of being bullied, or the fear of losing one’s job. We pray that they may find peace, find solutions to their anxieties, and that your presence, in everything we see and do, might be felt. Merciful Father, Hear Our Prayers

We thank you, dear God, for our many blessings. First, for the privilege of having you in our life, you who make life easier and more blessed. We thank you for your son Jesus, whose love and compassion for the world creates a model for each of us to follow, and we pray for patience and forbearance as we strive to be Christian in what we say and do. We thank you for this island, for it’s beauty, it’s abundance of good soil, for friends and fellowship and for our Church family. Thank you for being with us as we celebrated “Guess Who’s Coming To Dinner?” and be with us during our Strawberry Tea. Merciful Father, Hear Our Prayers

There are those among us who are experiencing loss. For some, it is the loss of good health, the strength we once had when we were young, and we pray that you will be with us all of us as we face the challenges of becoming older and less physically and mentally competent. For some of us, we have lost loved ones and we feel the loneliness that comes with bereavement, we pray for those who are ill, or facing loss, both out loud and in our hearts. Merciful Father, Hear Our Prayers.

Our world is chaotic. There are world leaders who do not seem to be acting in the best interests of its citizens. We seem to be on the edge of a trade war with our neighbours, there is friction happening between two different sides of the Kinder Morgan Pipeline debate, there are many differences of opinion about what is the right thing to do and what is not. Help us Father, to respect the differences of people’s opinions, to listen to others whether we agree with them or not, and to always act as Jesus would have us act, “love thy neighbor, as thy self”. Merciful Father, Hear Our prayers

And now we will remember the prayer you taught us: