**Prayers of the People June 24, 2018**

To the words, Loving God, we reply, Hear our prayer

We pray for the welfare of your church here on earth; guide and govern it with your Spirit, that we who call ourselves Christians may be led in the way of your truth.

Loving God

Hear Our Prayer

We pray for those areas of the world where there is suffering, danger, persecution and terrorism. We pray for the Canadian troops in Mali as they prepare for a daunting and dangerous UN peacekeeping mandate.

Encourage the oppressed, defend the vulnerable and deliver the captives. We pray for all those who see no alternative but migration.

Loving God

Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our country, its leaders and all in authority that they may strive for justice and peace.

Loving God

Hear Our Prayer

We pray for all teachers and students as they reach the end of their school year and look to the future

Loving God

Hear Our Prayer

O God bless the people who witness here before you. Show us how to heal our divisions and be thankful for the gift of love, friendship and support in this community.

Loving God

Hear Our Prayer

We pray for all those whose lives closely touch our own. May they have joy and happiness in their lives and if they worry or are sad, may they be comforted by your love. We pray for those who are facing trials and difficulties and for those who are ill and for those who care for them. Also, we pray for those who mourn. We name them silently or aloud.

Loving God

Hear Our Prayer

Creator God, help us to distinguish what we really need to live healthy and happy lives and not always what society promotes as necessary. May we find ways to live gently on this earth. We give thanks for all creation.

Help us always to seek your reassurance in the dark and stormy times in our lives.

Open wide our hearts to you. May we always have you at our centre.

Amen