

Prayers of the People- August 19, 2018

Please stand or sit as is your custom for the prayers of the people. When you hear the words, Merciful Father, please respond, "Hear our Prayers"

Dear Heavenly Father,

God, we thank you for the gift of your son Jesus, who came to earth to show us the way to live humbly, and to seek justice, truth and love. We thank you for our Church, the Christian Church that provides places for all of us to worship, to be creating connection to the divine, to be sustained by the gifts of Christ through sharing the table in remembrance of him, and being sustained by his message of hope and love for the world. We thank you for Christ Church Gabriola, and for Rev. Karen who is helping us to build a strong community of faith, fellowship, and caring on our little island. Today we want to especially remember the churches in those communities that are being challenged by weather events; the church in Fort St. James, Zeballos, Fraser Lake, Kimberley and Prince George, among others. We know that where there are difficult challenges, your presence is a solace. You create a place where hope and safety is possible and we send our prayers to help these churches and these communities experience your loving presence.

Merciful father, "Hear Our Prayers"

It is a time of uncertainty and fear. As the days without rain continue, we pray that you will watch over our little island and keep us vigilant and strong. As we watch parched leaves turn brown and shrubs wither, we think about how thirsty we are for the essence of your message, that is through Christ we will be sustained, have hope and courage. Be with us all! As we consider the numerous places in this province where wildfires rage just below or above communities and farms, we pray for better weather, for your intercession with for all these anxious people. Be with the people of India who face the worst monsoon of the century, be with all those people in California who have been devastated by wild fires, and be with the firefighters everywhere who battle these blazes. We thank you God for providing them with courage and resilience and we pray that they can do their jobs safely. We pray for the decision makers during this state of emergency. We pray that they may make the best decisions possible, knowing how difficult it is when resources are limited and they are under pressure from the public and their superiors.

Merciful Father, "Hear Our Prayers"

Our planet is suffering and many of us feel powerless to do anything to change what seems to be a disastrous season of upheaval from climate change, political rivalry, trade wars, and confusing societal trends. Help us to cope with this conflux of events by providing the recognition of your important role in our lives, and make this paramount in our daily lives.

Merciful Father, "Hear Our Prayers".

There are many people who are going through difficult times. Grief is a long process and we ask your blessing on those among us who have suffered the loss of a loved one. Please be with all who are in hospital, and help them find simple pleasures, something that helps the pain lessen, and something that brings a smile to their faces. We pray that they may improve and regain health. Today we remember people in our community that need your love and comfort and we say their names out loud or silently in our heart.

Merciful Father, "Hear Our Prayers"

We are always reminded that we are blessed. Blessed to have your love that sustains us when we hunger for a life lived more meaningfully. Blessed with family and friends and a Church community of faith. Blessed to be alive, to be as well as we can be, and blessed that we can be of service to others. Thank you for all our blessings,  
Merciful Father, "Hear Our Prayers"

Amen