

Prayers of the People for August 26, 2018

When you hear the words, **God, in your mercy**, please join with me in saying **Hear our prayer**.

Holy One, we come before you this morning with many things on our minds and in our hearts.

First of all we give you thanks for all you have done for us. We thank you for the rain yesterday. We thank you for this place where we can come to worship you, knowing however that "heaven, even highest heaven cannot contain you." (*1 Kings 8:27*). We thank you for our many blessings, naming some of them now, silently or aloud.

God, in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God, we pray for this troubled world. We pray for all those affected by the hurricane in Hawaii and all those affected by forest fires and we pray for rain where it is needed. We pray for all who have been forced to flee their homes or their homelands. We name, silently or aloud, troubled areas of the world.

God in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

God, we pray for your church in the world. We pray for Bishop Logan and for the Reverend Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church. We pray that they and all of us may stand firm and proclaim the gospel of peace. (*Ephesians 6:10-20*)

We pray for the Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia on Sept. 28-30 and for our representative, George. Using Bishop Logan's words, we pray:

"Creator, Enable this Synod ... to be the first step on a new journey of reconciliation. A journey that will shape and transform us ... on these islands and inlets. So by your grace and mercy, make our hearts and spirits to be renewed. Through your Spirit which broods and hovers over us remake us into the people you would have us become. Renewed by you." (*one of Bishop Logan's prayers for the upcoming Synod*)

God in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

We pray for our own church here on Gabriola and for our island community. Using part of the prayer Karen wrote, based on our small group meetings, "... We lift up to you, Our Creator, the many outreach ministries of our church: PHC lunch, Shawl Ministry, Christmas Alive, sending cards to people, the Strawberry Tea and more. We give thanks for the many people who step up to help when needs arise. We wonder and we pray, O God: are there more ways in which we can connect with and serve the Gabriola community? Are we ready for a big project? What is the need on the island? How can we offer our space? With whom can we partner? What does it look like to be the church in the world? What about Reconciliation? Where would you have us focus our energy and resources? ..." (*Karen's prayer, based on her small group meetings with all members of the church*).

God in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Loving and compassionate God, we pray for all whom we know who are waiting for medical tests or for surgery; we pray for all who are sick or suffering, naming them now, silently or aloud.

We thank you, God, for your great love for your people.

God, we remember those who have died and ask for your comfort for all those who mourn.

God in your mercy, Hear our prayer.

Please join with me in singing the Lord's Prayer on p. 959 in Voices United.