

Prayers of the People for Sept. 9, 2018

When you hear “God in your mercy” please join me in saying “hear our prayer.”

Loving God, as we pray to you today, please help us to remember that you desire our right actions as well as our prayers.

God, we thank you for our many blessings. Thank you for food and drink and for rain. Thank you for our friends and families. Thank you for the bible readings assigned for today and what they tell us about you. We name other blessings now, silently or aloud. **God in your mercy hear our prayer.**

God, we pray for your church. We thank you for all who serve you faithfully, thinking particularly of Bishop Logan and Moderator Richard Bott and our minister, Karen. We pray for Karen May and Texada Island United Church. We pray for Brenda Nestegaard Paul and Trinity Church, Port Alberni. We pray for our Synod Representative, George, and for the upcoming synod, using Bishop Logan’s words:

Gracious God,

We look forward to the journey before us that you by your grace and presence will make Holy and Sacred. Enable us to experience your presence step by step along the way. Let us see beyond the obvious and see you in all that we will experience and by each step draw closer to you and closer to one another. Let the mountains we discover be as healing for us as the wells. Let us experience Christ in even the most dark times and be guided on our way. And always let us be shaped by and grow deeper into your Spirit. (one of Bishop Logan’s prayers for Synod Sept. 28-30)

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Using part of Karen’s prayer for Christ Church Gabriola, we pray

God of Hope and Possibilities, at their best, your communities are intergenerational, and so we pray for children, we pray for young families, we pray for balance to be restored in our midst so that this community of faith may continue through the generations to do the work of Christ in the world. Speak to us that we may hear what welcome looks like to young families; what belonging looks like; what discipleship looks like; speak to us that we may hear what the future looks like through your eyes. Be in our hearts and minds, be our vision that we may create through our devotion to you a truly sustainable ministry. Give us grace and healing where we struggle to change, where we want to hold on, and love us in our becoming. . . . (part of Karen’s prayer for our church, based on her small group meetings with members of the congregation)

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

When we are deaf to you, Lord, help us to hear. When we need to speak of you, help us speak. We ask that all of us may be open to you and that we all may serve you in our doing.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the world. Thank you for all who strive to look after your world – for its physical survival and also for peace and justice. We pray for the many troubled areas of the world, naming some now, silently or aloud.

God of compassion, justice and mercy, may we and our leaders learn how to love our neighbours as ourselves.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, for all who strive to make **this island** a better place to live. We pray for the Friday lunch program, sponsored by our church, for all who serve there and for all who eat there.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

God, please be with all who travel and are far from home. Keep them in your care. May they return refreshed.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we remember all who have died, especially Nancy C., and we ask your comfort for **all who mourn.** **God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer in body, mind or spirit. We name those known to us, silently or aloud. PAUSE

God of love and compassion, have mercy on all who suffer. May they experience your peace and know they are surrounded by your love.

God, in your mercy, hear our prayer.

Please join me in saying the Lord's Prayer as printed in your bulletin.

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23

22A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches,
and favour is better than silver or gold.

² The rich and the poor have this in common:
the LORD is the maker of them all.

⁸ Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity,
and the rod of anger will fail.

⁹ Those who are generous are blessed,
for they share their bread with the poor.

²² Do not rob the poor because they are poor,
or crush the afflicted at the gate;

²³ for the LORD pleads their cause
and despoils of life those who despoil them.

Psalm 125

The Security of God's People

A Song of Ascents.

1 Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
which cannot be moved, but abides for ever.

2 As the mountains surround Jerusalem,
so the Lord surrounds his people,

from this time on and for evermore.

3 For the sceptre of wickedness shall not rest
on the land allotted to the righteous,
so that the righteous may not stretch out
their hands to do wrong.

4 Do good, O Lord, to those who are good,
and to those who are upright in their hearts.

5 But those who turn aside to their own crooked ways
the Lord will lead away with evildoers.
Peace be upon Israel!

James 2: 1-10, 11-13,14-17

Warning against Partiality

2 My brothers and sisters,* do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ?*- 2 For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, 3 and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please', while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there', or, 'Sit at my feet',*- 4 have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? 5 Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters.* Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? 6 But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? 7 Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

8 You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' 9 But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors.

10 For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it. 11 For the one who said, 'You shall not commit adultery', also said, 'You shall not murder.' Now if you do not commit adultery but if you murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. 12 So speak and so act as those who are to be judged by the law of liberty. 13 For judgement will be without mercy to anyone who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgement.

Faith without Works Is Dead

14 What good is it, my brothers and sisters,* if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? 15 If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, 16 and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? 17 So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

Mark 7: 24-37

The Syrophenician Woman's Faith

24 From there he set out and went away to the region of Tyre.* He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, 25 but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. 26 Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. 27 He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' 28 But she answered him, 'Sir,* even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' 29 Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go—the demon has left your daughter.' 30 So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Jesus Cures a Deaf Man

31 Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. 32 They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. 33 He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and

touched his tongue. ³⁴Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha', that is, 'Be opened.' ³⁵And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. ³⁶Then Jesus*ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. ³⁷They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'