

Prayers of the People- September 16, 2018

Please stand or sit as is your custom for the Prayers of the People. When you hear the words, "Gracious Father" answer with "Hear our Prayer"

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for your church, for Christians everywhere and for all those ministers who strive to bring the comfort and joy of relationship with God into the lives of people they worship with. We pray for Rev. Keltie Van Binsbergen, and Cathie Talbot and the congregation at Comox United Church, and we pray for the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan and the most Reverend Ezekiel Kumir Kondo. We pray for our moderator Richard Bott, and Logan, our bishop. We pray for Karen and James at our own Christ Church Gabriola, and thank you for bringing them to us. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer.

Thank you, thank you for the rain. Thank you for letting the rain extinguish our fears of forest fire, for filling our cisterns, for quenching the dry earth and helping the forest breath more easily. This rain is truly a prayer answered, and we pray that the cooler weather and rainy skies are helping other communities in BC breathe easier after our difficult hot and dry summer. We are grateful for the bounty of our gardens, the fruit of the trees that makes its way into canning, pies or freezers. Let us never take for granted the richness that Gabriola grants us, from plentiful produce to neighbours that care, to a church that prays for those in need. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer

Heavenly Father, help us to understand your scriptures that talk about taming the tongue. Help us to remember that although the tongue is a small thing in our body it can be the spark that sets the whole course of one's life on fire. Help us to be conscious of the words we use, to consider the impact of our words on others. Help us to remember the scripture: that the wisdom that comes from heaven is first of all pure; then peace-loving, considerate, submissive, full of mercy and good fruit, impartial and sincere. Help us to connect to that heavenly wisdom. Guide our hearts, our feet, and our tongues in wisely doing the work of Jesus in the world. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer

This week we pray for all of those people in the Carolinas who are dealing with the vicious storm Florence. As people deal with flooding, power outages, fear for their lives, and damage to everything they own, may the Holy Spirit help them. Be with all of those people who are praying for help and relief in the Carolinas, and those in the Philippines and China who are dealing with the deadly typhoon that is inflicting such damage and pain there. Let us pray for all those in places in the world who are dealing with catastrophic events, both large and small, and pray for your loving presence to lighten their load. We name those places out loud or to you silently.....Pause. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for all of the people in this community who are facing the sorrow of loss. We pray for Nancy Crozier's family and for other families who mourn for a loved one lost. We pray for those who are sick, and for all who need to be comforted by your holy presence as they struggle with pain and uncertainty. We say their names out loud or silently in our hearts. Pause....Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer

Our blessings are many, and often very simple. The pleasure of someone's baking brought to us, the sight of another gorgeous Gabriola sunset, the satisfaction of a small job well done and appreciated, and the joy of hearing a child's laughter. For all our blessings, great and small, we thank you. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer. Amen.