

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30/18

Scriptures: Esther 7: 1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22. Psalm 124. James 5:13-20.  
Mark 10: 17-31.

*God, we remember in our prayers those who work within the church in both our United and Anglican traditions. They guide, teach and inspire us: Last Saturday in Port Alberni, Presbytery lay delegates, ministers and the Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery Executive met. This week, we especially pray for Rev. Wade Allen and the congregation at Grace United at Coombs. The Anglican Synod is meeting this weekend, and George and Rev. Karen are representing us. Today, we also pray for Bishop Logan and all the congregations in this Diocese.*

*We also pray for the newly formed Pacific Mountain Region, our new external church structure, beginning in January 2019. On October 27<sup>th</sup>, a new cluster will begin for us, consisting of all churches north of the Malahat to Nanaimo. The work here will help us come together and to be more effective in Region One,*

*Today is Orange T-shirt Day, a day in which we remember our native people with respect and concern, as the reconciliation process continues across our land. We learn that the process may take seven generations to complete, beginning, as the minister at the Port Alberni gathering discussed, with our grand or even great-grandchildren.*

*God, in the wider world, there is so much to pray for: the rule of law, those in Puerto Rico and the Carolinas experiencing environmental disasters, overcoming the blue/red divide in the U.S., our national political issues, immigration policies around the world affecting millions, income disparity, and many others.*

*We pray for our special little island, for all those organizations helping at the Food Depot, PHC, our elementary school, and the Rollo Centre. We pray for the resolution of affordable housing and rental issues. We would like to see the traffic problem at the North/Barrett Road intersection fixed!*

*In the story of Esther, a beautiful and brave woman overcomes her terror of the King of Persia, her husband, and disobeys his orders. In the end, she saves her people, the Jews, from annihilation, as planned by Haman. Last Thursday Dr. Christine Blasey Ford, testified to the Judiciary Committee about her experiences of assault, despite her terror. We prayed for her success. Her bravery paved the way for a change in process and might we wonder, the rejection of someone unfit for the Supreme Court?*

*In our church, we worry and pray for those who are unwell or unhappy. We also think of Margaret Hesthammer at Dufferin Place, who loves visitors. We trust that the current cold epidemic sweeping our community is over soon.*

*God, help us to place kindness, gentleness and love in the centre of our lives.  
In you we trust and find peace.*

*Paddy Waymark  
CCG*