

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2018
ADVENT III – JOY

In the midst of the Advent season, following our prayers for hope and peace in the last two weeks, today we celebrate and pray in joy and for joy, as we await the coming of the Birth of the One who loves us at all times and in all the places of our lives.

Right this moment, please think or feel or sense something that brings you joy
And now, think of one thing you have done to bring joy to another.....

Let's celebrate the joy of being here, able to worship at Christ Church Gabriola, in freedom and peace. We pray for those around the world who suffer because of their faith, or who are shut down because of it.

We pray for those clergy who describe the joy (and confusion) of the season to us through special services such as Blue Christmas. We pray for the congregations of Trinity United Church, Nanaimo, led by Rev. Foster Freed and the Diocese of New Westminster, led by Bishop Melissa Skelton, all of whom express their joy by serving others in need. As does our congregation, who supports PHC through Christmas Giving in the hall and the Friday Lunch Program. The Advent Study Series given by Rev. Karen on Wednesday mornings gives us much to ponder at this time of year. Christmas Alive in the village on December 22nd will also give us so much joy and peace.

In the wider world, let's consider those in utter helplessness, for those who are suffering at a magnitude we can hardly imagine: millions in Yemen, starving; thousands in California, dispossessed by fire; refugee children at the border in Texas, at risk for their lives and families; Puerto Ricans, many still without potable water or power; and all those others helpless in the face of climate change. God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

On this island and off, we know those who are ill and in pain. Joy, for them, is a challenge, and so we support them with our loving thoughts, prayers and hope for improvement. Let us think of them now, individually, out loud or in our hearts, and wish them comfort and better days ahead.....

*May all of us be forever under God's wings of grace.
May each of us know the spirit of joy.*

Amen

Paddy Waymark