

Prayers of the People- January 27, 2019

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."

Heavenly Father,

Today we celebrate being part of the body of Christ, our Christian Church in the world. Let us be thankful for all the members of this vast and holy body, the theologians and the many others whose faith is simple and steadfast. May we listen to each other with ears wide open, may we see each other with compassion and understanding. Help us to be tolerant of our differences and celebrate our common love of Christ Jesus. Bless the leaders Bishop Logan, and Moderator Richard Bott as they minister to the diverse needs of our many communities. And especially bless Reverend Karen as she ministers to the diverse needs of our own community here at Christ Church Gabriola. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer.

Rainy days in January can be bleak times for even the most optimistic and cheerful among us. Let these wintery, rainy days be turned into days of contemplation and gratitude. We are thankful for so much; the fellowship of friends and family, the strength to face each day and help in the world whether it is through a favour done for a friend, a kindness done to a stranger, or a charitable giving of time and energy. Help us to consider all we have to offer and to remember that our community of faith is only as strong as its members. We are one in Christ. We strive to be a Church with much to offer to our community and to each other, help each one of us to feel encouraged and hopeful. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer

In our world today we constantly see the need for your presence. God is love, and love sometimes seems in short supply as we see countries playing tit for tat, taking positions where people's lives are disrupted, as leaders struggle for dominancy over political issues that seem to have little to do with the day to day lives of our citizens. We pray for Venezuela and its recent crisis of inflation. We pray for those whose paychecks have been suspended in the controversy over a border security wall, and we pray for those Canadians in China who have been detained in the recent controversy over a Huawei executive. And some of these issues are small and insignificant compared to the daily struggles of people at war in the Congo and elsewhere. We pray for those affected by the destruction of homes and the death of individuals in weather related or natural disasters. We consider all those homeless and despairing at this time. For each of these precious people, we pray for a light to shine, however dimly, to help them find a way forward. Guide someone to help, so that love and compassion will be there in even the most desperate of situations. Your love, dear God, is available to all. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer

Today we pray for Diane Parks and her family. Be with them and comfort them as they face this very difficult time. We also pray for others, either out loud or in our hearts, who are facing surgery, tests, or dealing with illness. (Pause) Bless them dear God and help them find comfort in knowing they are beloved by you. Pray for those who are grieving and those who are feeling alone. Help them to know that they are cared for, that they matter. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our Community. We are so grateful that Gabrielans work hard to find solutions to the issues that face us. So help our community find ways to improve housing, to be able to provide Hospice or Palliative Care to those who need it, to help parents find ways to improve the relationships with their children and to know that Jesus shows us the way to live in this world. May we honour his teaching. Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer.

Amen

