

Prayers of the People- February 17, 2019

Please stand or sit as is your custom for the prayers of the people
When you hear the words Gracious God, reply with "Hear Our Prayer."

Heavenly Father,

Today, we think of all those who at this hour, at this moment, are bowing their heads in Christian churches everywhere. We are all praying to you, for help when we need it, and in praise of you, who sent us Christ to teach us how to live and to keep faith with your doctrine of love, compassion and kindness. Thank you for your Church, this place of worship which fulfills so many of our needs. We come to you "downsized", with all our petty items of unimportant distraction left at the door, and with our vulnerable, stripped down selves, ready to be made whole again with your help, the advice of the scriptures and the words of our Church leaders, from Bishop Logan, Moderator Richard Bott, and our own reverend Karen. Bless them and guide their words that they might help us keep our faith and hope alive in difficult times. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer.

We thank you for the snowfall that covered our fields and trees; the view from our windows of a magical pristine whiteness that many of us felt awestruck by. And thank you for the rain that has come to take it away. We are grateful that roads are passable and that there was little difficulty coming to Church this Sunday morning. As the divine power of all that we see and experience, we are reminded through these simple ways of how nature can be both blessing and curse, and we pray that we can witness these events with eyes that look for the beauty and the power, and with minds that are resilient to the difficulties that are sometimes present with natural events. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for the troubled places in the world. May Haiti's uprising, and that of Venezuela's, be tempered by people who have a mindset of compassion. Income disparity, and the frustration of people without the resources to sustain life, are always going to produce riots on streets, and we pray for the people who have the power to change these circumstances to do what is right for the citizens, not what will benefit a slim majority of people in power. Our broken world needs your presence in so many ways, may there be random acts of kindness everywhere, so that hope can overcome despair, and that dire circumstances can improve. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our community; for families who are poor, unemployed, and feeling desperate. As a Church help us to find ways through giving and through compassion to lighten those burdens. As individuals, give us the encouragement and faith to seek out those who need help and to do the loving work that Christ requires of us. We pray for the lonely and sick and give us the courage to reach out to others. May all of us remember that a smile, a greeting, or a phone call can shine light into darkness,

We pray for all those who are grieving. The loss of a loved one, or a favorite pet, or even the loss of an ability that we once had is a cause for sorrow. May your loving presence be a comfort. We pray for Diane Parks family, and for Sandy Brydges and Heather Gray, recovering from surgery and for those who we hold in our hearts or whose names we say out loud as we pray for better health and outcomes. Pause, Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer

Finally we thank you for all you are. Our rock, our foundation. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer
Amen.

