

Prayers of the People- March 3, 2019

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

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for the Church, for Christians everywhere and of every denomination. We thank God for our Church leaders, Bishop Logan and Richard Bott and are grateful that they embrace the spirit of inclusion, the acceptance of all people as equal and worthy, despite differences. We pray earnestly for the leaders of our Christian Churches to feel compelled to embrace diversity and inclusion, and this week we hold the many disappointed people of The United Methodist Church which have been informed that the international church has strengthened its ban on LGBTQ for clergy or marriage equality. Please be with those whose hopes are dashed and may they find answers in prayer and with the support of their faith community. We thank you for our own Reverend Karen and for her concern for those who seek justice and equality for all. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer

On this transfiguration Sunday we stand, awed by the specter of Christ, appearing in glory while on the mountain to pray, and we offer praise to our heavenly father, who sent us the gift of his son Jesus Christ. Let us be mindful of how great this gift is to the world; help us to honour Christ and the Holy Spirit by our thoughts, our words, and our actions. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer

There is such a need for the lessons that Jesus taught us to help us navigate the complex society in which we live. This week in our country's highest chambers, we have seen the struggle of truth to power and the complexities of the rule of law. Let our leaders be led by the laws of the commandments, by choosing truth over expediency, and help our country and its citizens to believe that the way, the truth and the light in this difficult world means to act ethically and honestly, as you have taught us. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for all the troubled areas in the world. For Venezuela, for the Republic of the Congo, for Kashmir. War, the threat of nuclear weapons, the loss of life, and the ever present fear of reprisals and attack, leave us all feeling vulnerable and helpless, even when these things happen far from here. Be with us, Gracious God, as we pray for all those who are now feeling fearful, confused and angry because of events over which they have no control. We know that your presence, and the spirit of harmony that you give to the world is needed. Be with us all. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our planet. Help us to learn how to do the small things that keep our planet free from toxins and pollutions. And help us to recognize that we are all connected by your divine energy and that we can make a difference by taking action. Thank you for the beauty that this wonderful earth gives us, and help us to learn how to seek peace and harmony in our own lives as we walk along the shore, or listen to the birdsong, and see the changes that spring brings with its promise of renewal. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer.

There are those among us who mourn and may you comfort them with your constancy, your firm and committed relationship to all those who seek to know you. And there are those among us who are awaiting test results and are feeling unwell, and we seek your help as we pray for good news and positive results. We hold these friends, neighbours, and family in our heart, or we say their names out loud for you to hear and bless them. Gracious God, Hear Our Prayer  
Heavenly Father, thank you for your presence this Sunday and for all the days to come. Amen.