

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 19, 2019

Today is a day of joy and hope in the resurrection of Christ. Our Easter celebration comes in the springtime when we awake to the sight of Gabriola's daffodils, tulips and crocuses, the beauty of blossoming cherry trees and the greenery of new leaves. Our spirits revive...and...

So does our optimism, as the days grow longer and brighter. With this light, we continue with our individual and group prayers before God to bring comfort and hope. In our faith, we find our refuge and our certainty that good will prevail. God in your mercy...Hear Our Prayers.

Globally we learn of situations that seem hopeless, whether of poverty, war, the trampling of individual rights; or of those who seek power and control, or greed at the expense of others. To paraphrase John 12, "we always have the poor with us", for too many of these reasons.

God, we pray that our lives continue to be full of the values that Jesus taught us so that when challenged your light shows our way.

God in your mercy...Hear Our Prayers.

In our country, as in others, when values clash, when we consider those who lead us and what they are espousing in their personal lives and publically, we pray that on the issues they will come down on the side of our children, our grandchildren and our planet. We pray for the strength to vote ethically, as well as strategically. We pray to elect leaders we can trust and respect.

God, we pray that our lives continue to represent those values that Your Son taught us so that our country can prosper and grow.

God in your mercy...Hear Our Prayers.

Thousands around the world and closer to home put their energy, passions and faith at your service. From the General Council and Bishops, to the new national United church regions, including our own Pacific Mountain Region, to the Dioceses of BC, and new BC clusters building to facilitate communication with our budding Region One, to the leaders of our Anglican and United churches and congregations, all work to co-operate to build our communities of faith and energize us to lead lives of service and love.

God, we pray that these are the examples that Jesus modelled for us in his brief time with us.

God in your mercy...Hear Our Prayers.

Today, Easter Sunday, the news was relayed that bombings occurred in Sri Lanka, with 400 wounded and 207 dead. The targets were Christian churches and luxury hotels. God, we face the challenge of hate. Help us to find the way around the world towards co-operation and love.

God in your mercy...Hear Our Prayers.

On Thursday night last, we had the opportunity to be together here in the hall to mark Maundy Thursday, with a potluck meal, wine and the opportunity to be together as a church community. Rev. Karen invited us to offer affirmations to those around us in memory of Jesus' final meal with his friends. The night before Good Friday is the dark, but the light of offering friends the evidence of their goodness was a kind of prayer for us, in which we discovered our mutual growth in building this Christ Church community.

God, we pray that each of us can bring our gifts forward for as long as we live, becoming the buds, and then the flowers on your vines of life.

God in your mercy...Hear Our Prayers.

Creator, many in our community have difficulties, issues and injury in their lives. We pray for them and offer them comfort, compassion, succour and optimism, as well as help, information, visits, flowers and gratitude for their service to others. In their time of need, whether it be home care, visits to the hospital or their home, cards, prayers from the prayer group in our church, we acknowledge that broken bones, surgery, illness, heart attacks, cancer, dementia and all manner of issues are a significant part of life on our island.

God, we express our concern for the well being of Bev, Heather, Keith, Alex and Christine P.

Out loud or in the silence of our hearts, we now offer our prayers for whoever in your life is in need.....

We wish them comfort and better days ahead. May all of us be forever under your Wings of Grace.

In gratitude O God,

Thank you for this life.

In your mercy...Hear Our Prayers.

Amen.

Paddy Waymark