

Prayers of the People – May 19, 2019

Please stand or sit as is your custom for the Prayers of the People. When you hear the words, Heavenly Father, answer with “Hear Our Prayers”

Dear God,

First, we thank you for your presence in our life. Knowing that each one of us is a beloved child of God, is a comfort and a source of hope in our lives. Knowing that we can turn to you when we are frightened, confused, grateful, angry and you will always accept us, just as we are, and that your gift to us is unconditional love at all times in all places, is something precious to each of us, and we thank you! Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer.

We thank you for your Church. Today I would especially like to thank you for all of those Churches in troubled areas of the world who provide blankets when people are cold, food when they are hungry, comfort when they are sad, and love when life seems hopeless; Churches that truly are the hands and feet of Jesus in this world. When Lori Amdam came to talk to us about social isolation she said that Churches are the best providers of the care that isolated seniors need in order to live healthier, happier lives, and we pray that at Christ Church Gabriola we all will help in whatever small ways we can to make the lives of people in our community healthier and happier. We pray for our leaders, Richard Bott, the moderator and Logan, our Bishop and for all the people in offices, at computers at home, and who sit in meetings, making the decisions and keeping the communication flowing that makes us an effective church. Bless them and help them discern what is best for us all. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our scarred and somewhat broken planet. As the effects of climate change threaten us with forest fires here and elsewhere people cope with extreme weather and flooding, let us not lose hope that things can improve. As individuals perhaps there is not a lot we can do, but help us to be inspired to do what we can, and to pray that the heads of governments will encourage practices that put the environment before profits, and who work to ensure that we have a planet our children and grandchildren can thrive in. We pray for our oceans, that fish stocks can be managed, and that the acidity and the effect of melting ice can be dealt with. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our Community. As summer approaches we pray for patience in ferry line-ups, enough water to keep our gardens thriving, and enough sun to warm our beaches for swimming. Most of all we pray that you will keep us safe. We pray that those of us who serve this community as volunteers will stay committed and that services provided by PHC, The Gabriola Auxiliary, our Church and others, as well as a Myriad of other people committed to health and wellness, will continue. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer

There are those among us who are sick and in need of your comfort and your intervention. We pray for Sandy, Heather, Tom, John, and others who are in need. We pray for those whose names we say out loud or in our heart. Pause. We pray for all those who have suffered losses, whether it is of a family member or spouse who has died, or for friends or family from whom one has become estranged, or the loss of a beloved pet. In their grief may they find solace through you. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer.

Finally, help us to remember how lucky we are! For all of us who have a meal to look forward to, a warm bed to sleep in, enough money in the bank to pay taxes or rent, let us remember those less fortunate and know that as beloved children of God, as followers of Jesus Christ, our purpose is to do service in your name. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer. Amen.