

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
JUNE 16TH, 2019
Trinity Sunday, 1st after Pentecost

Our church is moving into a visioning process after a lengthy practical period of integrating our United and Anglican congregations. We have questions as to how best to develop a framework for figuring out what our next steps should be, to act out our faith in response to Jesus' teachings.

Rev. Karen released last Tuesday, on June 12th, an email with two attachments for all of us. One is a five page Preparation for the 2019 Visioning Process; the other is a Prayer Styles Self-Assessment, in which you can identify your particular style of prayer. It's a kind of Myers-Briggs Inventory meets Faith Development exercise and, along with the Guide, has meaningful, excellent suggestions for expanding and deepening our prayer experiences. One example is the breath prayer on the back of your bulletin.

We are asking God "What is your vision for us? We pray you would speak to us in ways we can hear, and help us to faithfully answer your call for us in this time and place."

Let us listen to Verse 1, from "The Slow Work of God" by Pierre Teilhard de Chardin:

Above all, trust in the slow work of God.
We are quite naturally impatient in everything
To reach the end without delay.
We should like to skip the intermediate stages.
We are impatient of being on the way
To something unknown, something new
And yet it is the law of all progress
That is made by passing through
Some stages of instability-
And that it may take a very long time.

Chardin ends with this (Verse 3) ...

Only God could say what this new spirit
Gradually forming within you will be.
Give our Lord the benefit of believing
That his hand is leading you,
And accept the anxiety of feeling yourself
In suspense and incomplete.
-Amen

Let us all open ourselves in faith to explore this exciting new path!

Let us this morning reflect and pray about other areas of our lives. We notice how dry it is becoming on this island and how difficult it is to not use plastic, particularly at the supermarket. We note how much gas we use while driving and how much stuff we have. We read in the papers about carbon emissions, warming of the Arctic and impending wildfires, tornadoes down south and shrinking deadlines for irreversible damage. God, we pray for the scientists and experts in Canada and elsewhere to guide us with information, ideas and new findings to combat climate change. We pray for the American political leadership to accept climate change and to move towards protective measures for their environment. We applaud all those electric bikes circling Gabriola!

God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

Lately we have been hearing a lot of rhetoric about Iran and possible aggression. We pray for hard evidence and facts to emerge so appropriate national decisions can be made. We pray that Iran does not feel forced to return to its previous nuclear position.

We also pray for the thousands of migrants entering the U.S. and that their children will not be separated from their parents, or placed in remote detention centers.

God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We do not have to pray for the Raptors anymore this season Lord, but perhaps some fans could learn to express a little more compassion for injured opponents.

Thank you for the music in our lives and in our church O God, which pleases our ears and inspire us with your love. Thank you Alannah Dow, Pat Armstrong and Don Butt for your beautiful music.

On this island and off, we know those who are ill, in pain, or recovering. Let us think of Molly, Gar, Heather, Bev and others, now , out loud, or in our hearts, and wish them comfort, love and better days ahead..... May all of them, and us, be forever under God's wings of grace.

God in your mercy, hear our prayers.

We are so grateful O God
Thank you for this life.
Amen

Paddy Waymark
VU 959 The Lord's Prayer

