

Prayers of the People  
July 21, 2019  
(Psalm 52, Colossians 1:15-28, Luke 10:38-42)

God in your mercy.... hear our prayers.

When we converse with you O Creator, either silently or out loud, we know that we are not alone. We trust that we are loved and cared about. We know that we can say or ask for anything. We know that in prayer, there is hope.

We express to You our gratitude for life, for friends, and for family, voice our thanks for all that we have, and pour out our concerns, our feelings, thoughts and worries. And in that communication with the Spirit, we learn and grow. In the company of this church community, we strive to serve, to love each other and to help those in need. We ask ourselves, what more can we do to act out Christ's teachings?

Right now, in our visioning process, we are proceeding with prayers, thoughts, and conversation as to where we and our church can and should go to best serve others.

God in your mercy...hear our prayers.

We pray for the many congregations and the clergy around the world who work hard to love, learn, grow and provide the comfort of community to their people. This week we offer love and prayers to The Rev. Richard Bott, Moderator of the United Church and to Bishop Logan of the Diocese of British Columbia. The two congregations in our weekly prayer cycles are Knox United of downtown Vancouver, led by The Rev. Dr. Richard Chung, who focus on fighting loneliness, "engaging actively across cultures and generations"; and St. Christopher in West Vancouver, led by the Rev. Karen Urquhart.

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O Creator, out in the world, beyond our beautiful island, there is so much to pray for and to be concerned about.

Every single day there is news about climate change. Our far north and many parts of the world are seriously heating up. We are even a little

baffled as to why we are having excellent weather in July. We cannot understand why a municipality wanting to get rid of plastic bags was overruled by the courts in Victoria. We may be sitting in a little puddle of contentment in this country, but the garbage IS piling up world wide, due to increasing population growth. Our accumulation of stuff would have staggered our grandparents. The Filipinos won't take ours anymore, so solutions and prayers are desperately needed. Capitalism cries out for reinvention to accommodate changing times. An example would be making illegal pesticides which destroy our bee populations and finding better solutions. Bees are responsible for a significant percentage of the world's food supplies.

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O Creator, we look south to our American friends, and are shocked at the escalation of division and rancor they are experiencing. The concept that "All men (and women) are equal" is under attack by some. The idea that we are all God's people and equal in stature and rights is being questioned. A Constitution that enshrines free speech with their Fourth Amendment is finding that amendment challenged by the leadership. Fear and racism is being promoted in a way not seen since the sixties. We pray for a vigorous return of democratic principles and acceptance of every person, regardless of race, colour or creed.

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Creator, you have under your care those who are ill, in pain, recovering or grieving. The Sounder told us about Hazel Broadley, who recently passed away in Nanaimo following many happy years on Gabriola. We think of Evelyn Steele, a faithful United congregant who left us a few days ago, and her daughter Heather and family. We know Tom Switzer, who held a remembrance at our cemetery in June for Diane Parks, his wife of many years, who was a mainstay of our church. We think of Heather who is in the hospital, and Gar, who is facing new medical challenges. Let us say, out loud, or in your hearts, the names of those you are thinking of who need 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 thank you for this life! Amen

Let us turn to # 959 in VU and sing the Lord's Prayer

Paddy Waymark, Congregant