

Prayers of the people for Sunday Sept. 1, 2019

Before we bring our prayers before God I will ask you to be mindful of the divine Spirit within you by closing your eyes, place both your feet on the floor so that you are grounded and your hands relaxed in your lap. We do this again because our minds have a way of wandering about.

Divine Spirit we are ready to bring our joys, our thankfulness, our fears, our worries, our pains and our anger before you.

We are grateful for all the surprises that came to us this past week. You came to us through the gentle breezes that touched our faces, the butterfly on the flowers along with the buzzing insects, the song of the birds and the lapping of the waters on the rocky shores of our island. We are privileged to live in peace, and thank you for water and bountiful vegetable gardens and fruit trees.

We thank you for the compassion of this church family. We thank you for the gifts of word and music that Rev. Karen and husband James bring. There is love for you in her voice when she brings your message to us.

We thank you for the work of the Gabriola Housing Society and the gift of land that may make it possible to help those less fortunate in the near future.

The summer holidays are over and in two days children, youths and teachers will begin a new school year. Some are happy and others are filled with anxiety. May they find happy faces and compassionate friends and teachers. Guide the parents, teachers and students to work together for a good learning environment for everyone.

Fill the hearts of the church leaders with tolerance, wisdom, compassion and love. May they not be afraid to speak your truth. Comfort the family of Bishop Logan who mourn the loss of a son and grandson.

We bring to you all those who are in refugee camps in different parts of the world. May they find a new country and a safe place to live. Give all of us compassion and tolerance and love for those who are different from us. Show us what we may do to help.

Surround all those who are in danger and suffer abuse and torture often because of their gender. Change the hearts of those who inflict these atrocities on others. Mend their wounded hearts and minds. May they turn to you for help. Protect those who feel called to work with them in your name.

Most of the world leaders do not think they need you any more, they no longer know you. It is like the psalmist words about the rulers of Israel, they would not listen to You and you gave them over to their stubborn hearts and follow their own devices. We are reminded of this again in Jeremiah, everyone needs to come to you for help and guidance and need to hear what you have to say. The world is spinning out of control without your guidance.

Open up the hearts of your servants who have the gifts to lead the countries out of darkness and despair. Shake us up to use our voices and wealth to support those who dare to be leaders with Christ as their guide.

Protect the people who are in the path of the hurricanes, may they find refuge in time. May they call on your name and may those more fortunate be an answer to their prayers.

We pray for those who are ill in body but also in mind. Help them to get out of the depths of depression. We bring to you those of us who are in need of healing and comfort and those who are in pain and mourning. We name them out loud and in silence of our hearts.

Help us to be still and listen to your voice, that we may hear your vision for each of us. Stay with us as we go about our work and leisure this week whatever and wherever that may be. We ask all this in Jesus' name.