

Prayers of the People
November 3, 2019

We have before us another beautiful day on Gabriola. We are enjoying the annual leaf show, we have had another Hallowe'en, with hundreds of pumpkins now displaying their carved faces in the Tunnel on North Road, the clock has been turned back, flu shots have and are being given, and we held our Blessing of the Animals (service) here yesterday. The animals didn't know what was going on, but we did, as we expressed our love and appreciation for having them and all living creatures in our lives. We prayed for help and support in a time of climate change for all of us.

Let us pray together. When I say "God of Love", please respond with "Hear Our Prayers".

In gratitude, let us give thanks for family, friends, pets, health and all that we have. When we pray for what is already here, as Richard Wagamese says in his book Embers, Creator and the universe always sends more. Always. "When you pray for what you want, Creator and the universe only hear the wanting, and that's what you create – more wanting. Be thankful, offer prayers of gratitude for the blessings already in your life, whether health, prosperity or productivity, and more blessings will come."

God of love...Hear Our Prayers

Let us give blessings and thanks to all those clergy in our country who lead by example, vision and strength. Let us give thanks to those who help to keep our church organized and strong: to George Westarp, who provides our rosters; to Lisa Griffith, who is co-ordinating our Annual Christmas Bazaar; to Carolyn Pullano, who has served us so well on Pastoral Care; to Betty Schultze, who provides the weekly Food Recovery Program on Wednesdays. And to all those who are helping by baking, soup /sandwich making, serving, running tables of items and all the other myriad tasks involved in the Bazaar. And to our Emeritus Commander of many past successful bazaars, Mollie Ford!

God of love...Hear Our Prayers

In our wider world, we have just had a federal election. Let us look for the blessings of positive legislation from our new minority government. In the international sphere, we hope and pray for the impeachment inquiry now taking place in the United States. Bless all those who are working to solve the issues concerning Brexit.

In California, hurricane force winds, crowning fires and mesquite are creating wildfires and destruction of thousands of square miles. Creator, help those firefighters, power companies and all those who live in these areas succeed in stamping out the damaging fires. And help them to recover from this horror.

God of love...Hear our prayers.

Creator, you and we know of those who are ill, in pain, in emotional distress, recovering or grieving. There are former members of our church living in Nanaimo and elsewhere who gave us years of constant support and we pray for their continued well-being.

Let us now say, out loud or in our hearts, the names of those who need comfort, love and better days ahead.....

God in your love...hear our prayers.

We are grateful for this life you have given us. Amen.

Paddy Waymark,
Congregant/Pastoral Care