

Prayers of the People- November 17, 2019

(Please stand or sit as is your custom for the Prayers of the People) When you hear the words "God of Love, answer with Hear Our Prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We thank you for Sunday mornings, whether rainy or bright. When we come together as a congregation to join with congregations everywhere to worship you, to listen to words of wisdom as our ministers share their understandings of scripture and the challenges of our time., we thank you for this time together. When we leave the burdens of the world at the door, and enter into a blessed time of contemplation, music, and communion with you, our God and our Creator, we are blessed. When we celebrate the life of Christ, and feel the love that is given freely to us as beloved children of God, we are filled with gratitude. This Church, Christ Church Gabriola, the Church life of our leaders, and Churches everywhere where people gather in your name help us remember that our life as Christians is a happy choice. Thank you. God of Love, Hear Our Prayer.

When we read the scriptures where it is said that "Nation will arise against nations, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and pestilences, and there will be terrors and great signs from heaven." This prophecy sounds like the past and also part of our present reality. Now is the time when we pray for guidance, where we need the truth of scripture that says "For I will give you a mouth and wisdom" because we need the words and the understanding you promise us so we are not terrified. We beseech you to help strengthen both our belief and our calls to action as we live our Christian faith during these times of strife in so many parts of the world. God of Love, Hear our Prayer.

We pray for the people of Australia, who are fighting wildfires that threaten homes and livelihoods. We pray for the people of California who are coping with the devastation caused by the fires there. We pray for Hong Kong and that a resolution to their concerns can be reached before there is more loss of life. We pray for Venice where people's homes are under water. We know that we have been so lucky that our little corner of the earth is currently quite safe, but we know that things can change quickly. Help us to have the compassion and concern that is needed to help all these suffering people. God of Love, hear our Prayer.

We pray for our community. As the cisterns fill with all this rain, and as we look forward to the season of Advent, help us to live our lives with gratitude and hope for the future. Help us to be good neighbors, and faithful friend to those who need one. We know that we have limited time for others, and that we need to take good care of ourselves first, but help us to balance service and self-care as we participate actively in community life. Help us to take good care of each other. God of Love, Hear Our Prayer.

Today we especially remember all those who suffer losses, the loss of a loved one, the loss of mobility, the loss of independence, the loss of a friendship. Losing something or someone important is always so difficult to deal with, help us, dear God to come to you for comfort, wisdom and love when things seem bleak. Bless all of those people whose names we say aloud or silently to ourselves who are sick and in need of comfort. God of Love, Hear Our Prayer.

Finally, we come to you with praise. Help us to remember that you are the One, the most loving, the most powerful, and that our lives are blessed because of your presence. God of Love, Hear Our Prayer

