

Prayers of the People  
Sunday, December 15, 2019  
Advent Three - Joy

Today we pray together in gratitude for our beautiful island home. This morning, when I say "God in your wisdom," together, please respond with "Hear our prayer".  
"God in your wisdom...Hear Our Prayer.

Thank you God for the readings of Isaiah and James, with their messages of healing, joy and the necessity of patience.

Last Tuesday, a Piper plane carrying pilot Alex Bahlsen and two other as yet unidentified passengers went down in the DeCourcy area due to a reported equipment failure. They were on their way to the Nanaimo airport on a flight originating from California. It was a miracle that no-one on the ground was hurt. Let us pray for these three people who have lost their lives, and also for their families and friends, who are dealing with this tragedy during the Christmas season. Let us also pray for our first responders, medical staff, fire crew and neighbours living in the area, who saw or heard the crash. Let us thank the therapists on the island who cleared their schedules to support all those experiencing trauma and needing assistance. When I ring the bell, you are welcome to offer your own prayers silently or out loud.

God in Your Wisdom...Hear Our Prayer

Last Monday 16 people died as a result of a volcanic eruption on White/Whakatane Island off the New Zealand coast. It is estimated that 1.2 million square cm of skin would be required for grafting for the 28 survivors. International tissue banks, including Canada, have mobilized to assist the NZ and Australian burn units. Let us pray for the survivors, who will be in pain for some time to come. Let us pray for the hospital staff, who may be overwhelmed by the care required for these patients.  
(bell)

God in Your Wisdom...Hear Our Prayer

You may be surprised to hear that there are approximately 100 homeless people living on Gabriola among the trees, on various couches or in tents. GIRO supports them by collecting warm clothes, which are seriously needed, and we have the Food Depot, PHC and other groups, including ours, helping out. Let us pray that plans can be developed for housing and other needs here. We are not alone. Most communities have these situations and are struggling to find appropriate long term solutions. Let us pray that God's light will show the way. (bell)

God in Your Wisdom...Hear Our Prayer

Also in the world are pivotal political events that confuse, alarm and sadden us. Budget cuts in Alberta, elections in England, Israel and India, an impeachment in the United States, and shootings are destabilizing communities and nations. They are challenges we must face. Let us pray for leaders who hear us, decisions that are best for all, and make the time to talk to each other, looking to God's light for guidance. (bell)

God in Your Wisdom...Hear Our Prayer

We have in our church communities leaders who bring God's word and who work both within and without their buildings to bring Christ's message, solace, material comfort and friendship to others. We pray for these leaders, who are the bedrock of our church structure locally, provincially and nationally. We pray for our Moderator Richard Bott, Bishop Logan, and our own Reverend Karen Hollis; and the congregation of Oasis United Church, whose message is "May this time be an oasis on your journey". We pray for The Church of the Good Shepherd on Lasqueti Island, led by Andrew Twiddy and Christine Muise. Let us continue to pray for our Visioning process as we work together to figure out which path to take for our future actions. (bell)

God in Your Wisdom...Hear Our Prayer

Creator, many of us know of those who are ill, homebound, or in mental or physical pain. Many of us are still experiencing grief over the loss of a loved one. We think of Heather, Jamie, Margaret Hesthammer, Denese Izzard and others who are no longer able to attend services.

We remember Diane Parks and Nancy Jenner with love.

Now, out loud or in the silence of our hearts, we offer the names of those in our lives who are not forgotten. (bell)

May all of us be forever under Your Wings of Grace. Thank you for the Joys of this life.

God in Your Wisdom...Hear Our Prayer

VU 959

Let us sing The Lord's Prayer together