

## Prayers of the People for Sunday Jan.5, 2020

I invite you to once more be in this moment before we come before God in prayer. Relax your body and put your feet flat on the floor and be mindful of the Divine Spirit within you and around you. We are now ready to begin talking to God. We are all talking to God and I am only your spokesperson this Sunday.

God of all creation who watches over us now and wherever we are or wherever we go. God of all creation who is in control of all that enfolds in the universe and that includes what is happening on our tiny ball called earth suspended in space. We come before you on this first Sunday of the New Year. We are in awe of your majesty and mysteries in the universe. We also come with fear in our hearts for the unknown tomorrows. We are in fear of the severe weather patterns that are happening everywhere and claim so many lives. We are grateful for your promise that you are always with us. We hang on to that promise and leave all our worries and concerns at your feet and know we are safe with you walking besides us.

God, you have blessed every one with special gifts, talents or tasks. We are often intimidated by the gifts displayed by others. We thank you for those among us and those all over the world who quietly do your work never getting any recognition, many unaware of their gifts. They keep on caring for others in many different ways. Continue to bless them.

Guide all church leaders in all parts of the world. May they feel called to use their voices for the good of their nations and seek justice for the oppressed and speak on behalf of those who can't be heard.

Bless and guide our Rev. Karen as she leads our church family in the New Year. Continue to bless her with joy.

We pray for those who do not know how to pray. Come to them in your special way at your appointed time. Knock on our hearts to be good listeners and act when you ask.

Remind us to be gentle with those who are just beginning to travel on their spiritual journey. Guide us to be good companions and keep your message simple.

We bring before you all our young children here on the island and the world over. Surround them with your love. Protect them from abuse, bullying and drugs. Guide all parents to come to you for help in all they do and share that good news with their children, young and old. God, help us to be

brave and daring to share our experiences with you in our lives with our children, grandchildren and those we meet in our daily lives.

We are enjoying your goodness on this island with freedom to worship and with living in our comfortable homes surrounded by nature's beauty. When we listen to the news from around the world we feel unworthy of all the blessings. Forgive us for not being aware of the 59 million children who only know conflict, suffer from infectious diseases and malnutrition, who are in refugee camps, cannot attend school, are orphans. We feel their pain from afar. God be merciful and bring relief and move us to use our voices and money to help with aid and above all our prayers.

Be with the people in Australia who are in great danger because of out of control forest fires. Protect the firefighters and help those who need to flee get to safety. God be merciful and bring relief.

We pray for the safety of the people in Jakarta who are facing hardships and drowning because of flashfloods and landslides with no place to go. God be merciful and bring relief.

We are reminded that we are blessed so that we may bless others.

Loving God, send wise council to the leaders of all nations. Some leaders are ready to declare war on each other as we speak. Surround the leaders with wise advisers and may they be listened to. God be merciful and may peaceful solutions be found.

We now ask for your presence among us and for your blessing and healing powers for those who are ill, physically or mentally and those who are mourning for lost loved ones or what can no longer be. Lift up our spirits that we may see your goodness for us in everything we encounter in our lives.

We ask you to walk with us in the coming week in our service and pleasure but most of all as we continue to pray, listen and act.

We ask all this in Jesus' name AMEN