

Prayers of the People- February 9, 2020

Please stand or sit as is your custom and when you hear the words Heavenly Father, answer with "Hear Our Prayer"

Dear God,

We come to you with thanks for our Church, the Christian Church around the world that gives us hope and comfort in troubled times. May each of our churches be inspired by the words of Jesus, to be a light in the darkness, to be the salt of the earth, to keep the commandments and to love justice. We pray for our Church leaders, Logan and Richard Bott, and we pray for all those who congregate on Sunday mornings and listen to people like our minister Karen who interpret scripture, who encourage and reassure us by the message of God's unfailing love. And we pray for those who do not congregate, but who feel the presence of the Holy spirit in nature, in shared fellowship and in the love they feel for family and friends. May we all celebrate being the beloved children of God. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer.

We pray for our troubled world. Today as thousands of people in China, and many others around the world deal with the coronavirus we are both afraid of where it will lead and filled with compassion for those who are struggling with its consequences. Whether on a cruise ship in quarantine, or in a hospital in China, or on a plane travelling out of Wuhan, we pray that you will be with all of those who are sick and afraid. Help them have hope and strength during this difficult time. Heavenly Father, Hear our prayer.

We pray for our country. As the world economy feels the effects of this near pandemic, and people react to the fears that this contagion will spread to their countries, many people are reacting with panic and short sighted views. Help world leaders take responsibility that is fair, kind, and protects its citizens. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our community. Sometimes as volunteers, we feel we are stretched thin and we can get tired and exasperated. Help us remember this is a community that looks out for each other, and depends on volunteers to feel both the responsibilities and joy of helping this little island of ours be a safe, happy place. Bless our volunteers and help them keep coming. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our children. Every day, even in this community, there are troubled, anxious children who face bullying, social isolation, a lack of acceptance and problems because in some way they are different. Whether those differences are in ability, appearance, or family income and structure, we all can remember that pain experienced in childhood is acute and miserable. Please be with those children, help them find something that calms their anxiety and soothes their fears. Help their struggling parents to find ways to cope. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for all those who are ill, especially Karen's mother, Ted, Robert Grave, and for their caregivers. We say their names out loud or in our heart. We pray for a good day for them, for sunlight that brightens, for pain-free hours, for the smiles and reassurances of loved ones. We pray for those who grieve, may they feel your love and experience your comfort. Heavenly Father, Hear Our Prayer.

Lastly we thank you for our many blessings. Thank you for being in our lives. Help us to remember always that we are yours and you are ours. Thanks be to God. Amen.