

Prayers of the People- October 29, 2023

When you hear the words Loving God, please respond with “Hear our Prayer”. Loving God, “Hear our Prayer.” The beginning of this prayer is from our Reformation Sunday resources.

God of Grace and God of Glory,
On this Reformation Sunday, we give you thanks for the saints who have gone before us.
For those who faced trouble and trial, and even death,
for the sake of the message of your mercy
and in the spirit of Pentecost, the right to hear and read the scriptures in their own languages.
We pray especially for those who now face trouble, trial, even death,
for those members of the body of Christ who face persecution.
For your beloved children everywhere—regardless of tradition—
who live under the threat of religious persecution.
For people, especially those of us who are Indigenous, who face the extinction of our own languages
through neglect, oppression, or cultural pressure.
We pray that all may hear the good news of the Prince of Peace in ways that resonate,
and cause us to drop our weapons and defences for the sake of the kingdom.
We pray that you may help us not only walk in the shoes of our forebears, but fill them.
May all of us gathered here today be as captivated by the life you have given us in Christ
that we are freed to reach our friends, neighbours, and enemies with your unconditional love.
Lord, we pray for the world you love
in hope, and in trust,
that we and your church might carry the light that has been passed down through the centuries,
so we might be a beacon of your love to the world. Loving God, Hear our Prayer

Today we pray for the Middle East, especially for the people in Gaza who are facing almost unbelievable destruction, and for the people in Israel who suffered the devastating attack on their homeland in early October. We pray for hearts that value human needs above all, we pray for humanitarian aid to reach the people who need it, and we pray that some kind of peace can be negotiated. For all those suffering, we pray that they experience your comfort in the midst of their fear and uncertainty. Loving God, Hear our prayer.

Sometimes, when the world seems crazy, it seems best to just focus on the smaller world that is ours and over which we have some control. Help us to strengthen the ties we have with neighbours and friends, our ties with the members of our family, our ties with our community, all of these as a way to be proactive against the forces of mistrust, anger, racism, homophobia, that we sometimes find close to home. We may not be there in the corners of the world where hopelessness, war and tragedy are part of everyday life but we can practice the habits of mind, the loving spirit and the resilience that we pray those in faraway places will have.. Loving God, Hear our prayer

We pray for our own faith community. We pray for our search committee that is looking for a spiritual leader for us. We pray for those among us who are suffering from illness, grief, or loneliness. We say their names out loud or hold them in our hearts. Enfold them in your loving embrace and help them find strength through their relationship with you. Loving God, Hear our prayer

And lastly, we pray that we can continue to be grateful for the gifts you give us each day. Thank you for the smiles, the coffee dates, the songs we sing, the times we are helped and times we are helping, for all the surprises that come with being part of a loving community. We thank you for all we have. May always be faithful to you. Amen.