

Prayers of the People---January 6, 2019

Please stand or sit as is your custom for the Prayers of the People. When you hear the words Merciful Father, answer with "Hear our Prayers"

Heavenly Father,

As we face the New Year let us be thankful for the year we have left behind. Through power outages, the threat of forest fires, times of grieving and times of joy, you have been with us. We are grateful for your constant comforting presence. In these first few days of this New Year as we make plans for a healthy, happy year ahead of us, let us remain thankful first and foremost for you and your Church. We pray for Churches in every locale; may those who attend continue to be faithful, and may there be others who find the joy of finding Christ, and the blessings that being part of a Church Community can bring. We pray for Logan, our bishop, and for Richard Bott, the Moderator of the United Church, may they continue to provide wise leadership. We thank you for your loving presence in the life of Christ Church Gabriola, and we hope that the New Year ahead will strengthen our relationship with Rev. Karen, our Church and community, and most of all that each one of us will be strengthened in our personal relationship to you. Merciful Father, Hear Our Prayers.

We pray for our world. We know that every week there are new disasters and that families are suffering from earthquakes, tsunamis, fire and drought. The human spirit is strong and I know that many people face adversity with resilience, but we also know that your presence in those troubled places helps people face adversity with faith and with the courage to rebuild, pick up the pieces of homes torn asunder, losses of loved ones, and carry on. We petition you to give those people strength, to find the courage to live life despite their losses, and to remain optimistic that things can get better. We pray that aid from other countries gets to those in need, and that people in power will be compassionate rather than indifferent to the poverty and suffering in the world. We pray that in our own Church community we will not be indifferent to the poverty and suffering of others and that we will contribute in some small way to ease the way. Merciful Father, Hear our Prayers

We pray for our community. We are thankful that individuals here helped each other during our recent power outage. We are thankful for the BC Hydro crews that so diligently did their work, and for the neighbours who cut trees, cleared roads and helped provide warm places for people to go. We also pray that we learned a little about preparing for emergencies during this last long power outage and that our experience this time will help us prepare for a better outcome next time.

We have come through a time of worship for the gift of your son to us on earth, we have come through a holiday season with friends, families, celebrations and traditions that make Christmas exciting for many of us. But, we also know that this can be a time that emphasizes loneliness and the bleakness of a season without families and friends. Help lift the spirits of lonely people, dear Father, and in this wintry time let light shine into their lives. Merciful Father, Hear Our Prayers.

We think of all of those who are sick and awaiting test results. Be with them, and help them to keep faith with you. We name them silently or out loud as we pray for your comforting presence. We pray for all those who are grieving, may you give them the blessing of your grace, and help them to face the New Year with optimism and hope. Merciful Father, Hear Our Prayers

Finally, we thank you for all that you are. Our rock and our redeemer, Amen.

