

Prayers of the People- March 31

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

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for this day, the sunshine and warmth of the weekend, and for your presence in our life. We offer you our gratitude for living in this beautiful place, in a country that values peace and harmony. Thank you for all that we have, and may we remember to cherish the gifts you have bestowed on us. Keep us from taking for granted the richness of our lives that we experience living in Gabriola.

We thank you for our church, for the leaders Logan, our Bishop, and Richard Bott, our moderator. Today we remember and pray for Reverend Sally Bullas and the Congregation of Brechin United and we pray for the Parish of Pender and Saturna Islands with Ellen Willingham, and we pray for the Diocese of New Westminster and the Archbishop Mellissa Skeleton. There are also those who worship together, not in a building, but in any place where people gather in your name. Bless all of us, and keep our faith strong. **Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer.**

We pray for the places in the world that are suffering. We pray for those who were flooded by the cyclone Isai in Mozambique, Zimbabwe and Malawi. May your loving presence help them through this disaster. We pray for the Muslim families who lost friends and loved ones in the shooting at a New Zealand mosque. Reach into the hearts of those who are confused and troubled, of any religion, and help them find the peace that comes from being a loving neighbor, of practicing tolerance and learning that differences between people and religions creates a fascinating mosaic that is worth celebrating, not a reason for fear and resentment of those different from us. **Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for our planet. We know that for some places on the earth change to better practices of environmental stewardship is slow, but please encourage leadership in third world countries to create the infrastructure that will help reduce pollution, disease, and irreparable damage to our earth. Help us to find the energy and commitment to do our bit in reducing waste and pollution, and supporting our community and others to do the same. **Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer**

This week as we hear the story of the Prodigal Son we pray for families and the broken relationships we might have in our lives. Help us to learn the lessons of deep love and hope that can mend fences between individuals, and protect people in families from hurting each other. Help us as we work at reconciliation with our First Nations people, reconciliation with individuals who share different world views than we have, and people who have hurt us in the past. Bless us with the understanding and acceptance of your love and forgiveness, working with us and in us. **Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer**

We pray for those who are awaiting test results, and those who are sick, and we say their names out loud now or in our hearts. Bless them with your gifts of comfort and love. Give them hope. Pause. **Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer.**

We pray for those that mourn, and may you be with them, to help them feel hope for a better day, to stave off loneliness. **Gracious Father, Hear Our Prayer.**

Finally we thank you for all that you are. Blessed be your name. Amen.