

COVENANTING SERVICE for REVEREND KAREN HOLLIS
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
APRIL 15, 2018 at 4:30 PM

WHEN I SAY "O Merciful God", PLEASE RESPOND "Hear our prayers."

We have gathered on the ancestral lands the Snuneymuxw people to celebrate the covenanting of our new minister, Reverend Karen Hollis. We give her our blessings and pray for her as she ministers to this, her new ministry at Christ Church Gabriola. We welcome her gifts and her leadership and we welcome James Hollis, her husband, who has brought his musical talents to our church. Together, we are richer for their presence, and send them our love, gratitude and support.

"O..."

We thank you O God, for the many blessings You have brought us: comfortable homes, clean water, a beautiful environment, security, access to information, the ability to make choices and have opinions, the right to protest and the rule of law. We pray for the many places and peoples in your world where these do not yet exist. We pray for the people of Syria, many millions of whom have been caught up in chemical, barrel bombs and other forms of warfare and have become displaced or refugees.

We pray that those in charge of making decisions about the Kinder Morgan pipeline will listen to all parties and make rational choices for our country as a whole, and crucially for future generations of Canadians.

"O..."

We give our blessings to those who lead us in our spiritual lives and strengthen us with Christ's message of love. We pray for Bishop Logan of this diocese and for Gail Miller and Andy Gilman of the Comox Nanaimo Presbytery. We bless all those who attended the recent Presbytery wide meeting at Port Hardy in March, all those who work to make good policy decisions for their congregations. We bless their work with our native people and bringing us together. We thank all the clergy here today who have come to support our new Reverend.

O God, we pray for the success of the new joint effort by our government and the United Church to provide affordable housing in BC. The example

of Brechin United in Nanaimo in carrying out one of these projects is a blessing from which many will benefit.

“O...”

On our island, we pray for all those who work hard to make others' lives better: those work at the Gabe Shop, People for a Healthy Community lunches, the Food Depot, the breakfast for kids group, Emergency Services, Social Services... it's a very long list and we are fortunate to have them all. We bless them as they add to our vibrant community and keep it whole.

At our own church, we pray for our wonderful congregation. They have come together, Anglicans and Uniteds, with unique gifts and stories. We are thankful for the energy, commitment and optimism they have shown in becoming One, rather than Two, communities. We pray for their well-being, each and every one. We pray for Angela, who recently lost Al, and all those who are recovering from the flu. And for Diane Parks, a light amongst us, who shines with her service to this community.

They demonstrate true grit and we pray for them and care deeply about them.

“O...”

O God Almighty, we now take a moment to remember our loved ones, out loud or in silence, those who we treasure in our lives. PAUSE .

We acknowledge those who have passed, those who are ill, those who are on our minds and those we cannot forget.

1...2...3...4...5...6...7...8...9...10...

O God, thank you for your light, your presence and your love. You are what anchors us, whatever the challenge. AMEN.

WE WILL NOW SING THE LORD'S PRAYER, IN VOICES UNITED, #959, AND YOUR BULLETIN.

