

August 16, 2020- Prayers of the People

Heavenly Father,

Today, as we sit in front of computers, iPads or mobile phones to take this opportunity to come together in worship, we thank you first for the technology and secondly, for the willingness of all your congregants to encompass this new, sometimes difficult way of doing Church. I think of Church as the port in the storm, the eye of the hurricane, and certainly with all the world change that swirls around us from pandemics, to social justice issues like "Black Lives Matter", to the opiate crisis as well as confusion about children going to school, the economic hurdles, an important but strange election coming to the South of us, we feel the storm surrounding us, and we thank you for the peace and calm that your presence, and the presence of all of us together in this church community bring. We pray that our Church here on Gabriola and the Christian Churches of the world will continue to be sanctuaries of peace and comfort. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

Jesus cautions us in our gospel message about the words that come out of our mouth that can sometimes defile us. And we pray that in this time of so many mixed messages, when disinformation is the norm and social media and sensational news reports can confuse us, that we listen carefully to what is being said, and we ask for your help in our interpretation and responses. Let Jesus be our guide as we respond to what may be said with love, kindness, curiosity and respect as we search for truth and understanding. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

There are so many people and causes to pray about. We pray for a vaccine and for companies and world leaders to find a way to provide access to vaccines to everyone. We pray for workers who face the threat of coronavirus every day as they provide us with essential goods and services. We pray for those who are in hospitals and care homes who cannot be with their loved ones. And we pray for every person who sees sick people around them, but because of poverty, overcrowding and the necessity to work for survival, face the hopelessness of knowing that there is little beyond hand washing that they can do to keep themselves and their families safe. This pandemic has brought income inequality into sharp focus and we pray that after the pandemic there will be some political will to make changes that will make life easier for those who are facing unprecedented hardships. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

There are many places in the world that need your help right now. Please be with all in Beirut who have lost their homes and businesses, be with all of those who face a hurricane season now just beginning, be with those in hospitals, either working or being a patient in need. God of love, God of comfort, God who provides us with hope in the face of despair, Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

Here in our community we have people who especially need your guidance and love. Be with the Brydges and the Greys as they struggle with illness, be with Rick, and all who we mention in our heart, We pray for Hiromi, and for others who mourn, may they know your loving peace. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

And despite the tumult around us, we have much to be thankful for. We thank you for friends and families, for sunny days and pleasant evenings where we can sit outside and enjoy the safe company of a friend or two. We thank you for the walks on Gabriola, the gardens with all their lovely produce, and for the care that this community takes to keep us healthy and safe. We know that gratitude is the antidote for despair, so help us learn to be grateful every day for all you give us. Loving God, Hear our prayer.