

Prayers of the People- May 17,2020

Heavenly Father,

As we meet this morning over computers, iPads, and possibly phones, we think of our lovely Church in the Woods and are grateful for what we have. We may miss our tranquil sanctuary, the Communion rituals and the fellowship of greeting friends and neighbours as we worship, sing, laugh and drink coffee together, but we thank you for the opportunity to digitally connect with each other and to have Rev. Karen lead us in worship. We pray for your Church in the world and now, as the planet slows down and people are more alone, we praise our personal relationships with you. As Christ says, "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.", This interconnectedness keeps us grounded in our trust and love for you. We pray that Christians everywhere, facing difficulties we can hardly imagine, will be blessed with faith in your eternal presence and goodness. God of wisdom, Hear our prayer.

The pandemic has given us much to pray about. We pray for front-line workers, the scientists who are putting together a vaccine or treatments that will ease this disease. We pray for those who are ill and those who have died, and for all those people who have lost a loved one. In this pandemic our vibrating planet has been able to take a breath as planes stop flying, ships lay anchored, factories stop polluting, and for that we are grateful. However we know that there are so many costs, both human and economic, attributed to this state of affairs and we pray that out of chaos, wisdom will triumph. Let us learn to deal wisely with income inequality, climate change, and the threat of disease. God of wisdom, Hear Our Prayer

We are blessed to live on this island. As we walk through peaceful woods, tend our gardens, greet our neighbours safely, and social distance at the grocery and hardware stores, we are grateful that our community is working hard to keep us safe. Help us to consider those who are not so lucky, and whether it is cookies brought to PHC, a donation to a local business, or a phone call to someone who is feeling isolated and alone, let us be the Church helping where we can. God of wisdom, Hear Our Prayer.

We know this is a time of anxiety for many people, children who can't see their friends, parents who are trying to balance work at home, childcare, and home schooling, individuals living with someone abusive. For many, all the worries that financial insecurity bring to a household are taxing mental and physical health. We thank you for a government that seems to be sensitive to the needs of its people, for a Dr. Bonnie who offers advice that has steered us successfully during these past months, and we pray for patience as we travel this difficult journey. God of wisdom, Hear Our Prayer

Be with all who in our faith community who are sick and grieving. We name them in our hearts. God of wisdom, Hear Our Prayer.

Sometimes when trying circumstances arise, we really need to see Jesus working in our world. Thank you for his words, "Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him." These encouraging words help us to keep faithful to your promise, and keeps us optimistic and hopeful about the future. We pray for your continued love and guidance. God of wisdom, Hear Our Prayer.

Amen.