

Prayers of the People
July 19th, 2020

Let us begin with a prayer to lighten the dark, by Keri Wehlander:

That we might dare rebirth:

Leaving behind

All the ransomed exchanges,

All the narrow corruptions,

All the familiar betrayals.

That we might dare rebirth:

Allowing the breadth of love to give us life,

The depth of justice to rhythm our hearts,

The height of peace to nourish our days.

A world shaped not simply for ourselves

But for all living yet to come.

God, it is with great gratitude that we thank you for this island and its people, with its peace, safety, beauty and caring for its inhabitants. In this time of Covid-19 we are surrounded by your space and given the opportunity to nourish our days. We are able to meet with friends at a social distance, other than by phone and Zoom. We look forward to giving all of them hugs! We are grateful for this country, where there is consensus on how best to deal with the coronavirus. We pray for all our medical workers, hospitals, emergency rooms, EMT's and patients in intensive care. We pray for the continued success of our supply chain with the United States, especially in the coming challenging months.

“God of Light...Hear Our Prayers....”

God, we are grateful for our Reverend Karen Hollis and the members of the Visioning Group, who are working on our behalf to develop a plan for our future.

And, those of us who are taking part in Karen's pilgrimage retreats appreciate the opportunities they provide for reflection, self-

examination and learning. We pray for all our United and Anglican clergy, who are working hard to maintain a spiritual place for us through Zoom and having to learn many new tech skills. We are grateful to Hilary, our own techie, for her superb communication work.

“God of Light...Hear Our Prayers....”

Creator, let us continue to pray for the preservation of the rule of law in the United States. Coverage of the unidentified, masked and weaponized “police” converging on protestors in Portland, Oregon and taking them off the street into unmarked vehicles was shocking, unexpected and terrifying. One person ended up with a fractured skull from a rubber bullet. Let us pray for him and legal action that will end this trumped up assault on non-violent protestors.

We note that the Center for Disease Control have had their guidelines for school re-openings publically cancelled. We learn that the daily collecting of statistics from hospitals are being sidetracked from the CDC to the White House. And, that the upcoming budget for testing and tracing is being contested. The number of cases and deaths are accelerating in parts of the country.

“God of Light...Hear Our Prayers”

Holy One, there are many people in our world who shine a bright light. We are so grateful for them. One has just passed away from pancreatic cancer, civil rights icon John Lewis, at 80. A congressman from Georgia for 7 terms, he was truly a biblical figure of our time who lived his life according to this credo “Give until you can’t give any more”.

He never gave up on the possibility of reconciliation, saying “ We all live in the same house”. John Lewis realized he had to be the change from his youngest years, knowing deep down that he had this need, all while his parents were telling him “Don’t get yourself in trouble.” He said that the “arc of history bends toward justice”, and that hate is too hard a burden to bear – it is better to lay it down with love.” God has called him and leaves us with his legacy and a path to follow. May the Edmund Pettus Bridge be renamed after him.

“God of Light...Hear Our Prayers”

Creator, let us pray for the many who have special challenges in living their daily lives. It is clearly unfair that some of us have an “easier time” of it than others. We know that God’s love is extended through our helping hands, attention to justice, search for solutions, and giving. Those of us who struggle are loved, no matter what. We support you and hope that despite life’s hard slaps, there is beauty and joy in it for you.

Let us take a moment to reflect on those we know, or perhaps ourselves, who are suffering.

“God of Light...Hear Our Prayers”

Let us conclude our prayers this beautiful morning with a special thanks for the safe arrival of Bert Terhart in Victoria yesterday. Bert, on his sailboat ‘Seaburban’ has just concluded a round the world trip, crossing the five capes, using only a sextant. He has been away for nine months.

Bert lives on Gabriola and it is now time for celebration of his feat.

Let us say the Lord’s Prayer together.

Paddy Waymark