

Prayers of the People for December 6, 2020
Second Sunday of Advent: Peace

In the Prayers of the People this morning, please add your own prayers in the times of silence. At the end of each prayer, I will say, "Everlasting God..." Please join Paddy in saying, "hear our prayer."
Everlasting God, hear our prayer.

Eternal God, on this Second Sunday of Advent, help us and all who are preparing for Christmas to know what really matters and what is just wrapping paper and tinsel. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

Patient and forgiving God, we pray for your **church** here and throughout the world. We thank you for Bonnie Henry's reminder that "church is not a building" and "It is not about Sunday mornings, it is about every day." (*Bonnie Henry Nov. 30, 2020*). **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

Life-changing God, we ask that you teach us how to be your church in these times. Teach us how to help and support each other. Help all our church leaders as they guide us. Thank you for Karen and all she does for us. We ask that you bless and support her in this very unusual Advent/Christmas season. Thank you for Hilary, our communications person. Please bless and support her as she works to keep us informed. Thank you for all who took on the challenge of our on-line bazaar in order to raise money for PHC. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, this beautiful **world** that you gave us for a home is suffering in so many ways. Teach us, please, how to work for the healing of the earth. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

God, our Shepherd, all your people are suffering from the impact of COVID. And on top of that there are all the places in the world where there are wars and injustice. We bring before you the farmers of India, the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, and those fleeing Ethiopia. We think of and name other people and places where there is suffering. PAUSE. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

Thank you, God, for our frontline workers. We ask that you uphold all our care aides, nurses, doctors and other hospital staff and all our first responders. Keep them safe and give them strength. Thank you for the work of Derek and Sarah at the **Gabriola Sounder**, keeping us informed and uplifted. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

God, our Shepherd, we ask your blessing on Ted and Sandra as they finish their packing and move to Nanaimo. Keep them in your care, O Lord. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we bring to you all those whom we love, who are far away. We pray for their health and safety. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

God, as we pray for those who are sick, we again pray for Ted and Sandra and also for Marie's daughter-in-law who had emergency surgery this morning, and for Vanessa, and for Rick. In the silence of our hearts we pray for others who are sick. PAUSE. Shepherd God, hold them in your arms. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.**

God, we pray for all who mourn – those who have lost loved ones to COVID and those who have suffered other losses. Speak tenderly to them, Lord. **Everlasting God, hear our prayer.** Please join me in saying the Lord's prayer from the New Zealand prayer book, as printed on the screen.