

**Prayers of the People**  
**November 22<sup>nd</sup>/20**  
**(Pentecost has ended; Reign of Christ)**

“Everyone: When you hear the words God of Love, please respond with Hear our Prayers.”

The waves crash down hard on McKenzie Beach in Tofino. The storm season is on with heavy rains, power outages, dark days and early nights. The surf surges high on the beach and tons of detritus are left behind, including an entire leafed tree. As we walk along, we struggle with the rising daily Covid-19 cases, especially in the United States, at an astronomical rate, and pray for continued border closures. We envy the light heart of the dog, as he chases after crows, foam, other dogs and his ball. And I wonder, how did a fully leafed tree get here, and from where? It is about as inexplicable as our pandemic days passing faster than we can comprehend; and how is it that after four years we are still waiting to see how much more damage the president can do before January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Time has stretched and shrunk, stretched and shrunk on us.

Let us be still now, slowing, as we pray for calm, patience and hope.  
( 30 second silent count for prayer)

God of Love...Hear Our Prayers

We have many who work for us in the service of Love and Compassion. We bless and pray for our leaders, Bishop Anna Greenwood-Lee and United Church Moderator the Right Reverend Dr. Richard Bott. We thank John Bullas for leading this service and sharing his light with us. We bless all United and Anglican churches in the province of BC, especially those who can stay in touch with their congregations through Zoom services.

We pray for the work of the Primate World Relief & Development Fund and Mission and Service, whose job it is to collect our donations and spread them around to the neediest of peoples around the globe. We know that it is never enough. Whether it is Haiti or Puerto Rico, Yemen or Lebanon, there is so much to do. Current hurricanes Eta and Iota, just 15 miles apart have created havoc in Nicaragua, Honduras, Guatemala and Columbia.

Let us pray for compassion and in gratitude for the help we can give.  
( 30 second silent count for prayer)

God of Love...Hear Our Prayers

The increasing coronavirus numbers have pushed aside or altered the care of other medical needs and the strain on our doctors and specialists here is evident. We all

look forward to new medical staff coming to Gabriola to deal with the shortage of support.

We share feelings of optimism and relief, as Pfizer and Moderna have developed vaccines against Covid-19. We pray that the time line for delivery of these vaccines is efficient. The news of Dolly Parton having donated to Moderna's vaccine effort was an uplifting moment!

Let us pray for the recovery of coronavirus patients, for the success of lockdowns to curb cases and full co-operation with masks, social distancing and minimal socializing in groups on Gabriola.

( 30 second count for silent prayer)

God of Love...Hear Our Prayers

The roll out of our church's Christmas Bazaar items was wonderfully done. All of us thank Lisa, Betty, Hilary and all those volunteers who participated in this online and baking event. Bravo!

We have prayed for several members of our church who have suffered from serious health issues over the last few months.

Thank you God, for good outcomes for Rob, Owen, Richard, and Mollie.

As Vanessa continues through her course of chemotherapy, we pray for her. Jenny Downer is doing well with family support. Jamie is continuing with support at his Nanaimo Care home. Rick with MSA is enjoying his coffee times with friends at Mad Rona's and accepted his \$5 loss on the U.S. election, with relief and grace. Hilary has recovered from her dental surgery from hell. We bless all of you!

We turn now to Sandy. Let us hold hands with each other as we acknowledge together the seriousness of her illness. She is fighting hard and enjoys phone calls of support. Sandy has given this church so much of her time, faith and talent. Let us now pray for her and all those in our lives in need of support.

( 30 second count for silent prayer)

God of Love...Hear Our Prayers

During these trying pandemic times, we each, in our particular home situations deal with extended periods of isolation. We miss seeing our friends, having family visit freely, travelling afar, going to church services, attending concerts and plays, sports events, even visiting patients in hospitals. Nearly all of us are fortunate enough to not have to worry about jobs, but we know people who do. For some, emotional struggles are increasing. Our dependence on others is palpable: garbage workers, grocery and drug stores, doctors, researchers, ferry staff, the fire department, RCMP, first responders, teachers, PHC services, gas stations, hydro crews and communicators over social media, radio and TV. We are aware that this network of support is essential. Let us take a few moments and pray for these and others you acknowledge as being indispensable to our daily lives.

( 30 second count for silent prayer)

God of Love...Hear Our Prayers

Do you remember that washed up leafed tree I mentioned at the beginning? The next day, I saw a woman with a shovel, replanting parts of its branches in the sand. It made me feel as light as a feather. There is the faith in life returning to all of us no matter the situation.

Thank you, God.

God of Love...Hear Our Prayers

Every day is a perfect day because it's a gift from God. I pray your week is filled with love, peace and happiness. May God bless you. Amen.

Paddy Waymark  
Pastoral Care Team (Chair)