

Prayers of the People—September 13, 2020

Dear Heavenly Father,

Today we need to feel your presence, to have reassurance that our faith in you is what will help us get through this difficult time, because all around us, we see such trouble. We pray for your Church, for people in all faith communities, praying that they remain strong in their beliefs, that they do the work that Jesus would have us do in caring, comforting, and giving help where it is needed. Help us all to feel competent to do the work to stay faithful Christians. Help our leadership to have the knowledge and ability to enable all our little churches towards a steadfast belief that they can be relevant, progressive, and a source of strength as we worship together in your name. For Christ Church Gabriola we pray that Rev. Karen and our Visioning Team will be successful in helping our congregation have meaningful input into a vision and purposeful action that will make us a strong community church that meets our many and diverse needs. Loving God, Hear our prayer.

Smoke is in the air, and it sends a visual and sensory reminder to all of us of the dangers we face here in our dry landscape, and of the tragedy to the south of us, as California, Oregon and Washington face a disastrous fire season. When we think of thousands of people displaced, and whole towns destroyed we know that there are so many people afraid, homeless, and in mourning. God, be with them in this desperate hour of need. As people lose their belongings, their homes, and places of employment, today's gospel reading is so relevant. "Is not life itself a greater gift than food, the body than clothing?" "Make it your first care to find the kingdom of God, and his approval, and all those things can be yours without the asking" A great deal of faith is needed to believe that God will provide, and we pray that you will be there for those that call on you. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

The world is facing so many difficulties, huge financial debt and an uncertain economic future as the pandemic shows little signs of stopping. The number of people sick and dying, especially in those countries where overcrowding, and poverty make it impossible for many people to take even the simple precautions to avoid getting sick, countries where disinformation and political gain over ethical behavior seems to be the norm, where systemic racism and income inequality deprive many people of opportunity. Throughout this, it is hard to stay positive. But, there is goodness everywhere as well and help us to choose this as our attitude as we see people provide help to neighbours and communities rebuild; showing the strength of love and compassion over cynicism and hate. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

Here in our congregation and among us all we have special prayers for you. We pray for those who are sick and in pain. We pray for Sandy and her family for Vanessa, for Richard and Carolyn, for the Grey's and for Rose's and Margaret Hesthammer's families who are grieving. At this time we invite everyone to think of people who need your presence and to pray for themLoving God, Hear Our Prayer

We have much to be thankful for, and let us remember that gratitude is the antidote to despair. Thank you for our beautiful island, for the walks in the forest or along the beach, the water to swim in, the friendship of friends, neighbours and family and for the opportunity to get together in a safe way to enjoy fellowship. Thank you for Dr. Henry and for the care that we take as a community to not spread Covid unnecessarily. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

We end our prayer remembering these words "Do not fret, then, over tomorrow; leave tomorrow to fret over its own needs; for today, today's troubles are enough." Let us live in the moment, love what and who we have and always love you. Loving God, Hear our prayer. Amen.

