

Prayers of the People for Dec. 20, 2020. Advent 4

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, "Holy God." Please join Don in saying, "hear our prayer."

Holy God, hear our prayer.

Good and loving God, **thank you** for Mary, as we see her in today's Gospel, in unsettling circumstances, on an unfamiliar path. May we learn something from her as we deal with the unfamiliar circumstances of life during this pandemic. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

God, we pray for the leaders of all our **churches** and ask that they might hear your voice and know how to lead us on unfamiliar paths. We ask you to give support to all who make it possible for us to attend church via Zoom each week – Karen, Hilary, James, Don, Hiromi and others. We ask that you help us to be your church in these times. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Compassionate and merciful God, we pray for safety and rest for all who are exhausted – doctors, nurses, care aids, first responders and all the essential service workers. We pray for all who are trying to help others while dealing with loss and change in their own lives. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, we recognize that we have not stewarded your creation properly and that all of creation is suffering. Teach us, Lord, to change our ways so that we care for what is yours. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we ask your help for the millions in this **world** who are suffering from the pandemic and on top of that from famine, war, poverty, oppression or fear. God of justice, in the silence we bring to you Uganda, Israel and Palestine, the United States, the United Kingdom and the many other troubled areas of the world. PAUSE. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

In our **local community of Gabriola**, we thank you, God, for the many who are working to help others: those working on affordable housing and those who are trying to make Christmas brighter for others. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we pray for the poor and the helpless, the cold and the hungry, the abused, the exploited and the oppressed; We ask that those who are isolated or lonely will know the comfort of your presence. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who are sick in body or in mind, remembering especially Rick, Sandra and Ted, and Vanessa in our own church community. In the silence, we pray for others known to us who are ill. PAUSE. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

We pray for ourselves, God. May we learn how to deal with our own disappointments and to support others. We pray for all who have had to change plans and for all of us who walk an unfamiliar path.

Holy God, hear our prayer.

In a year where there has been so much death, we pray for all who mourn, naming those known to us. PAUSE. **Holy God, hear our prayer.**

Please join me in saying the Lord's prayer.