

Prayers of the People for March 21, 2021
5th Sunday in Lent

MJ and I worked together this week to prepare the Prayers of the People. At the end of each prayer, I will say, “**Merciful and compassionate God,**” Please join with Pat in saying, “**Hear our prayer.**”
Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.

God, we **thank you** for all those who use their time and energy so that Christ Church Gabriola continues to exist and thrive. Today we particularly thank you for the members of Council, for those who are stepping aside after many years of service and for those who are continuing to serve. Thank you for all that has been accomplished and for the sense of moving forward.
Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.

God, as we have our Annual General Meeting today, please give wisdom to all who lead, make decisions and vote. **Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.**

God, we thank you for the World Day of Prayer, which we celebrated this last Wednesday. Thank you for the women of Vanuatu who took time from their lives to create a church service for all of us. We thank you for all the people of all the churches on Gabriola who worship you and love you and who are our brothers and sisters. **Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, please help us care for your creation. **Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.**

God of justice, we bring to you all the areas of the world where there is injustice, war, or fear. We name Brazil, China and Turkey. We pause to name other places silently or aloud. **PAUSE.** We ask that your people may know your justice. **Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.**

Local community

God, we hold up to you the recent deaths that have rocked our island:

We pray for the family and friends of Amanda, and for all who suffer domestic violence.

We pray for the family and friends of two persons who died of heart attack.

We pray for the family and friends of David, musician, actor, organizer, lost to cancer.

And we pray for the family and friends of Chris and Marc, creative workers, artists, friends to many, killed this week in a terrible accident.

We mourn their loss. Our creative community particularly feels all these losses. Help us all.

God, we give thanks for their gifts shared with Gabriola. Help us all to celebrate with love and creativity.

Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.

Loving God, we hold up to you **all who are in need of healing** – those who have lost loved ones, those who are isolated and have been isolated for such a long time, those who are ill, those with broken bones. We name silently or aloud those known to us. **PAUSE.** We ask for your gifts of comfort, rest, hope, healing, peace and the courage to take the next step. **Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we bring to you all who are waiting – waiting for test results or waiting for vaccinations. May we work as we are able to help the vaccination process go smoothly.

Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.

God, you know our needs before we ask and our ignorance in asking. Please give us what is best for us.
Merciful and compassionate God, hear our prayer.

Please join me in the Lord's Prayer as shown on the screen.