

Prayers of the People- January 17, 2021

When I say Loving God, the response is Hear Our Prayer,

Dear Loving Father,

Church has become such a different place in this past year. No longer is the awesome sanctuary whether a cavernous cathedral or the simple white washed walls of a country church, the place where we gather to worship. Instead, for many of us we are ever more drawn to the God in everything we see, the God in the sparkling waves of the ocean, the God of the mist, the rain, and all those places we find ourselves looking out at with wonder. We thank you God for your transformative presence in all that is. We bless all who are joined together in our strong faith of your permanence, your love and commitment to each of us. We pray that we all can find meaning, hope and comfort in your presence. Loving God, Hear our prayer.

As each day brings stories of ever more people infected, dying and suffering with this pandemic, the presence of you in our world is our greatest hope. So many people are tired, feeling despair, and feeling the anguish of loneliness as we necessarily stay away from family and friends. We pray for the day when we can gather together, and break bread with glad and generous hearts, with those we worship with, and with friends and family. Be with all of those who are distributing vaccines, and may the decision makers ensure that vaccine protection will be available for all people, poor and rich alike. Loving God, Hear Our Prayer

We pray for our country and for our neighbor the United States. We pray that the next few days will pass peacefully as a new President is inaugurated. We pray that the world situation that has been a focus during this pandemic will find its way into better practices as we deal with systemic racism, income inequality, political polarization, and new economic challenges. Dear God, we pray that people will turn to love of neighbor, love of the earth, and understanding of our obligations and responsibilities to one another, and to the health of our planet, as we come out of our necessary isolation and join our communities as active participants. Loving God, Hear our prayer

We pray for our church community. Be with those who are sick or have difficult diagnoses. In their moments of sadness and despair help them remember and be comforted by the knowledge that your loving presence will always be there for them and they will not be alone. Comfort those who have lost a loved one, and be with all of us who worry about family and friends that are having hard times. Help us all to remember that sometimes we have to "Let go and let God." We take a moment now to pray silently for all those who are in our heart this morning. Pause. Loving God, Hear our prayer

We have so much to be thankful for. All of us, I'm sure, are so glad to be living here on Gabriola, under the care of Dr. Bonnie Henry, surrounded by beauty, and kind, loving people. We do not take these gifts for granted and we are filled with gratitude for all that you have blessed us with. Help us to continue on with strength, faith and purpose into a world filled with hope, justice, and love. Loving God, Hear our prayer.

Amen

