

Prayers of the People- June 30, 2019- Please stand or sit as is your custom for the Prayers of the People.

Dear God,

This morning dear God, we come to you with gratitude. Gratitude for the rain that came this week, that allows forests to be more protected, our cisterns filled, our thirsty plants quenched. Thank you. And we thank you for yesterday where so many of us gathered, working together to make our Strawberry Tea such a success. This Church was filled with many people who witnessed the camaraderie of our faith community, our financial offering to Gabriola Elementary PAC committee, the sharing of nature's bounty- such delicious ripe strawberries, with all our neighbours, and most of all- our Christ Church Gabriola as an integral and happy organization. We know that you were with us in spirit yesterday and we thank you.

We thank you for Churches everywhere, and for all that they do as they look forward, not back, exhibiting the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, self-control that are the fruits of the spirit. May we be the Church, may we all be filled with your Holy Spirit, and walk with you in love for one another. Bless our leaders Richard Bott, our moderator and Logan, our Bishop. Bless all who gather in your name.

Today we pray for those lives have been lost or worsened by the heat wave in Italy and Spain. Our thoughts are with all who are affected by the severe climate conditions that seem to be part of our everyday life. We especially think about those who do not have air conditioning, or who have breathing conditions that make smog and heat dangerous. Help those afflicted to find relief, and help those around them to be charitable. As summer begins here in BC, we pray that our forest fire season will not be severe, that homes will be protected and fire fighters will be available and effective.

We pray for our troubled world, especially for situations where war threatens, where trade disputes over political differences mean that farmers can't sell their produce, or innocent people's lives are threatened as powerful countries play tit-for-tat. We pray for strong World Leaders who demonstrate ethical standards, a regard for justice and peace, and plans for its citizens to have better living conditions. We pray for the migrants everywhere who are seeking a better life, be with them, and keep them strong.

There are those among us who are not well and in need of your intervention to help them improve their health. Be with Dwight, Heather, Sandy, Mollie and all those whose names we say out loud or in our hearts. Be with those who are grieving; grieving the loss of a family member, a pet, a profession, or some ability that we once had but has gone because of aging. Help us to accept what we cannot change with grace and determination. Give us the strength to be the best we can be, however difficult that struggle might be.

A prayer can be a breath, a moment of meditation. As we experience the beauty of a Gabriola summer, may our prayers be the slow breaths we take as we view a sunset, a new flower blooming, the grandchildren laughing, the dinners on the deck with friends and families. Help us to not take these moments for granted, but to be awe-struck each time, with the beauty and love that happens when we witness the Holy Spirit in our lives. We are grateful for your blessings. In Christ's name, Amen