

Prayers of the People for April 4, 2021

God of Mystery, on this Easter morning, we give thanks for the gracious gift of your love as embodied in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. May we possess the courage to stand as witnesses to your amazing truth and to claim your presence as ever amongst us.

God of life and love; Hear our prayers.

As an Easter people of faith, knowing all things are possible with you, we pray for an end to the terrible strife and conflict in many regions of the world – Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Somalia, Yemen. Please hold in your care such courageous activists as Habiba Sarabi, a fierce defender of the rights of girls and women and the only woman delegate at the Afghan peace talks; and Meaza Gidaya, a leading voice for peace and calling for an end to the brutal war in her native Ethiopia. Enfold them, and all men and women who strive for peace and justice in your loving embrace, that they may be empowered to speak with courage and remain steadfast in their efforts.

God of life and love; Hear our prayers.

On this Easter morning, we pray that the Church, as your beloved community, continues to freely believe and to know that an empty tomb is a spiritual sign of your mystery and power at work in the world, undeterred by death and destruction.

We pray for our nation and for those we have entrusted with authority, that they may govern with the wisdom and the understanding to advance the building of a universally just Canadian society, and accept the constant challenge of this work. We especially continue to hold in our prayers our nation's health care community as they endeavour to overcome the virus, and our beautiful island home which has been as a sanctuary during the pandemic.

God of life and love; Hear our prayers.

In this season of new beginnings, may we who have shared in the mystery of holy things grow to our fullest maturity through your love and grace. As we share this holy day together, we take this moment to name before you those in our circle who are in especial need of your presence and love.

May we live each day with the faith and courage of the Easter promise in our minds and in our hearts.

God of life and love; Hear our prayers.

Amen.