

Prayers of the People for August 22, 2021

Good morning, when you hear the phrase Lord of Grace and Mystery, please David in the response hear our prayer.

O God, may your grace and Mystery infuse our prayers, that they may help in ways both visible and invisible with the joint task we have with you of repairing the world and the filling of all things with a fullness and hope beyond our comprehension.

God of Grace and Mystery. Hear our prayer.

We pray for those people of Afghanistan who wish only to live in peace and justice and that Canada, alongside other Western nations, support this desire through urgent, rightful actions. As a country in chaos, we ask that you protect and sustain such courageous Afghani activists as Zarmina Kahar and Sonita Alizadeh, who are fighting for women's rights, especially the right of girls to be educated, and to end the terrible abuse of child marriage. It is through their courageous words and actions that we are all uplifted.

God of Grace and Mystery. Hear our prayer.

We pray for our global health care community as they valiantly strive to control the COVID virus and all its variants. May the international community respond generously to the health needs of the developing world as they cope with the virus alongside other life-threatening diseases.

God of Grace and Mystery. Hear our prayer.

We pray for our nation and our leaders in whom we have placed our trust and the expectation of mutual respect. May the upcoming federal election be an opportunity for accurate, forward looking discussions of national issues and concerns.

God of Grace and Mystery. Hear our prayer.

This summer of heat, drought and devastating wildfire here and in other parts of the world have demonstrated the terrible consequences when the human stance toward the earth is domination. Grant us the courage and will to implement the dire changes we must make to halt the environmental crisis.

We pray for the community of Gabriola and our beautiful island home: may we through your grace behave as good neighbours toward one another and practice good stewardship of our lands.

God of Grace and Mystery. Hear our prayer.

God, we thank you for our many blessings, for the people we love and for those who love us. We pray for all those we have lost during the pandemic and ask that you be close to those we name aloud or in the silence of our heart. **PAUSE**

As we go through the week, help us not to give way to our natural temptation for cynicism, denial, fear, and despair, but to know and live in your unconditional love for us, and to trust in your guiding presence which is always and eternally with us.