

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Pentecost – October 24, 2021**

**Intercessor: *Pam Ayres***

Creator God, gathered as a faith family we bring our prayers, concerns, and praise to you. As we praise you for the beauty of your creation, that sustains all life, we give pause to pray for all who are suffering from the ravages of climate change, natural disasters, oppression, conflict, doubt, and injustice. We pray for peace in the midst of turmoil, asking:

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.**

We acknowledge that we are on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe, Attawandron and Haudenosaunee people, the Dish With One Spoon Covenant and Huron Tract Treaty. We give thanks for their deep faith that led them to value and care for this land for thousands of years. We pray for the broken and torn fabric of the earth. Make us always mindful that the earth does not belong to us, we belong to the earth and all that is in it. Teach us to be wise stewards of this land, respectfully acknowledging the right of all to live in safety, with adequate housing, clean water, access to health care and education.

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.**

For the Church, Bishop Todd, and all who live by the Gospel, we pray that we may have the faith that allows the blind to see, the deaf to hear, and the lame to walk.

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.**

We pray that all in positions of power, authority, and influence, in our world work for the peace of all nations, east and west, for peace for our neighbours, for peace for all men, women and children everywhere, respecting the dignity and value of all they serve.

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.**

We pray for our community of Stratford and all communities on this your Turtle Island. We pray for those who learn and those who teach, for those who work in health care, and for all who put their lives at risk so that our lives may go on.

We pray for the wisdom to mend the fractures arising from COVID policies and protocols that divide us. We pray that you bring us all together, as one family united, for the health, safety, and welfare of all.

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.**

Creator God, we pray that you hold in your healing presence, all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, those struggling with addictions, and those who care for them. We pray for those who have no one to pray for them. Knowing that you know their needs we pray for those who have asked us to pray for them: ***Marilyn, Angela, Peter, Nikki, Rob, Ilene, Judy, Marion, Abby, Jack, Maggie D., Ulrika, Marilyn, Lisa, Alexia, Judy, Ed, Heidi & Jared, Peter, Jenelle, Richard, Paul, Mary, Robert, Bob, Heather, Basil, Peter, Dave.***

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.**

We pray for those in our St. James family who are celebrating birthdays this week: ***Reece Douglas, Tanya Phibbs, Daniel Hawkins,*** and for those celebrating anniversaries: ***Brian & Dianne Hern, Lorne Mitchell & Karen Hunt Mitchell, Neal & Joan Ebel, Norm Bird & Helen Mussell.*** Creator God in our celebrations we pray that we will always be mindful of those with little or nothing to celebrate or anyone to celebrate with.

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.**

Creator God, we hold in your presence those facing bereavement. Today, the flowers on the Altar have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of ***Arthur Wilson.*** We pray for all who are nearing the end of their earthly journeys and for those who have joined you and all the saints in your heavenly kingdom. We pray for the souls of the children who never returned. May they rest in peace and rise in glory, may light perpetual shine upon them.

**Creator, Hear and Have Mercy**

Since there is no distinction of race and origin in you, we are all one. Empower us to break down the barriers that still divide us, so that we may work in faith and harmony with each other and with you.\*

**Amen.**