

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
Epiphany of the Lord – January 2, 2022

Intercessor: *Lori Colbeck*

Creating God, the Wisemen have arrived and are humbly bowed at the foot of the manger. We too are bowed as we offer our prayers for comfort for all engaged in health care, for all peoples whose lives and/or livelihoods are adversely affected by natural disasters, and the ravages of climate change, unjust structures of society, and conflict and divisions. We pray for those who are victimized because of their race, gender or sexuality and for all who learn and all who teach them as they navigate new and different ways to engage in learning. We pray that this year we may see the pandemic defeated allowing us to return to a more peaceful way of living.

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. Teach us to care for our earthly home as those who came before us did.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray for the Church, Bishop Todd, and all who daily have to make difficult decisions for the health and welfare of our congregations.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray that all who have been elected or appointed govern with honesty and integrity, ensuring an equitable distribution of resources for the health and welfare of all they serve. We pray that you give them the wisdom to guide us through this pandemic.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we pray for our community of Stratford and all communities everywhere. We pray that all may live safely in peace with clean water, adequate housing and access to health care, education and employment.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, hear our prayers for those who cannot pray because of pain, loss or worry. With the advent of a New Year, we pray for the COVID-fatigued and all who are suffering of body, mind or spirit. Relieve their anxieties and bring them peace. Knowing that you know their needs we turn over to your love those who have asked us to pray for them ***Marilyn, Angela, Peter, Nikki, Rob, Ilene, Judy, Abby, Jack, Ulrika, Marilyn, Lisa, Alexia, Judy, Ed, Heidi & Jared, Jenelle, Richard, Mary, Robert, Bob, Heather, Greg, David, Stephen, Doug.***

Creator Hear and Have Mercy.

We pray for those in our St. James family who are celebrating birthdays this week: ***Nanci Fair, Sandra Huntley, David Packham, Abby Rankl, Benjamin Fortin*** and for those celebrating anniversaries: ***Allan & Renee Falconer, Robert Lott & Ann Robinson, Kenneth & Janet Hook, Michael & Ernestine McKenna, Robert & Nancy Parkinson.*** Creating God, in our celebrations we stop to pray for those who feel that they have nothing to celebrate or anyone to celebrate with.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Creating God, we commend to your peace those who mourn the loss of a loved one. Today, the flowers on the Altar have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of ***Yvonne & Ron Dymond.*** We pray for those who have died and for the children who never returned. May they rest in peace and rise in glory knowing the deep peace of Christ.

Creator, Hear and Have Mercy.

Let nothing disturb you, let nothing dismay you, all things pass; God never changes. Patience achieves all that it strives for. Those who have God find they lack nothing. God alone is enough. (Teresa of Avila)

Amen.