

Christ Church Gabriola
Prayers of the People
July 31st, 2022
(Paddy Waymark)

Good Morning to all of you! Our call and response this morning will be as follows: I will say "God of Truth" and your response is "Hear Our Prayers." (Practice once.)

The truth. Our truth lies in the message of Jesus Christ and His Father, telling us to be loving, compassionate, kind, merciful, fair and just in our dealings with others. Let us hear and employ this message, central to our whole beings.

O God, even if it is difficult, help us to live in ways that shine a light on each of us. We know the story of The Good Samaritan, in which we are taught that a stranger in need, in trouble, looking not like us, is one of us in your Spirit. Help us to do not what is easy, and may be hard, but is necessary to be aligned with your Truth.

God of Truth...Hear Our Prayers

God of Truth, help us to be steady in the face of all that is not loving, considerate, just or kind. We hear and see so many things in the news that does not align with your Son's words of love. Russia's aggression in Ukraine towards civilians; the rise of anti-Semitism; the promotion of oil and gas at the expense of our climate; the passing of laws to control women's reproductive lives; attacks on those of a different colour; the silent threat of ending same-sex marriage rights; using the Christian religion as a foundation to prevent diversity, equality and democracy.

Help us to be strong and resolute in the face of cruelty and greed.

God of Truth...Hear Our Prayers

God of Truth, we thank those who have heard Your message, and have fought for the rights of our indigenous peoples to survive and thrive in the face of family destruction, relocation, prejudice, and neglect. The Truth and Reconciliation Report has laid out the groundwork of principles to act on. The Pope has (finally) come and apologized for his Church's part in this black

mark on our country's history. The United Church Moderator too, apologized in 2018 for their part in this destructive behaviour by the then dominant Canadian society. May this journey of reconciliation continue, with Your support and love.

God of Truth...Hear Our Prayers

God of Truth, our journey of prayer to become One with you is a daily one. Every day, we make decisions on how best to allot the time You have given us. We pray that we can, with a full, open and generous heart, give some of that time to others, to resist the lure of social media messages that promote hatred of our differences, and to work to steward Your land as You would wish us to do. Bless our Church and its masked, vaccinated and distanced congregants, who wish to protect others, to stay healthy, and worship you here. And hoping for coffee together soon!

God of Truth...Hear Our Prayers

God of Truth, we pray to you to bring spirit and sustenance to all who are sick, lonely, depressed, weak, experiencing challenges of all kinds or are not feeling well or able to fully express their hopes in life. We pray for those who find your Truths untenable and instead turn their backs on You in favour of power, possessions and control of others. Their way is not our way. May your light and mercy prevail in time and over time.

God of Truth...Hear Our Prayers

The Lord's Prayer