

Prayers of the People
September 11, 2022
(Paddy Waymark)

Good Morning. Today in our prayers we continue asking God to keep us centered in his Love as we deal with the many issues, problems and pleasures that living today entails. When I say, "Foundation of Our Being", please respond with Pat "Hear Our Prayers".

Foundation of Our Being...Hear Our Prayers

It is difficult to believe that Queen Elizabeth II at 96, on September 8th, has passed from our lives. We pray for her family in their sorrow and her public in their sadness. We wish success for King Charles III as he ascends the throne, and the grace he will need in this new role. Queen Elizabeth was on the throne for 70 years, the longest period for any English monarch. There is an old line from westerns, where a person is said to have "died in their boots". When the Queen received her new Prime Minister two days before her death, there was that fighting spirit, which lasted to the end. She is with You now, as she was her entire life. She made a promise before You and her people and she kept it. She was a woman of style, but not of fashion. She had humility, wit and an abiding faith. The Queen was perhaps someone you wouldn't look at twice in a supermarket, but she owned those fabulous tiaras and ball gowns she wore on formal and state occasions. She made racehorses, Corgis and Land Rovers an iconic part of her life and ours. Boris Johnson, Britain's former PM stood up in Parliament on Friday, and said "think what we asked of her" at the age of 25, "think what we asked of her". King Charles III has made the same promise and we ask that he too, receive our prayers for his reign.

Foundation of Our Being...Hear Our Prayers

Many of the Queen's attributes of duty, steadfastness, commitment, hard work and being present might seem old-fashioned to many, but these "virtues" as they are sometimes quaintly called, are the safe bedrock of our days. Our whole lives are based on the Christian message of love, kindness, acceptance, fairness, going the extra mile, generosity, compassion and honesty. That is Your short list for us God, as You listen and in the quiet, encourage in us every day.

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Universal spirit, stay with us as we negotiate tough times. Life is changing at what feels like an accelerated speed around the globe and the things we have held onto are threatening to crack like glaciers. Climate change, population pressures, mass migrations, the rule of law, the pace of our lives, inflation, social media, the pandemic, and health care are critical. Help us O God, to deal with not only these crises, but the breakdown we can see in many people's attitudes towards legal institutions, vaccines, scientific facts, the law and multi-racial groups. The work for our indigenous peoples stretches far into the future. As so many people struggle, hate and resentment builds. It is not a peaceful time, and we pray to you for strength, insights and steadiness. We think of what is being asked of us in your Presence.

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We are grateful to our church, for the spirit and community it fosters. We have been together for five years now, through some very challenging times. Covid, distancing, masks, moving to Zoom services together with in-person services, building a sense of purpose for future years, all have kept us together. We look forward to the Celebration Party next Thursday!

At the same time, we have congregants dealing with health issues, sadness for loved ones lost, and having to make adjustments to meet new needs.

We think of those who lost family and friends on 9/11. Please take a few moments now to think and pray for individuals who come to mind in your own lives.....

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Let us now repeat the Lord's Prayer as printed on your screen.