

Prayers of the People for Jan 8 2023; First Sunday after the Epiphany

At the end of each prayer, I will say, "Holy One". Please join me in saying, "Hear our prayer."

Holy One, hear our prayer.

We thank you, God, for the gift of water - for both the water of baptism and for the rain, which is filling our cisterns and replenishing our aquifers. We thank you for the gift of a new year where you, God, will do new things. We thank you for your great love for us and for the gift of your beloved son, Jesus.

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Loving God, today we thank you for our own baptisms, which unite us as members of your family. Thank you for the wisdom and leadership of our Bishop Anna and Moderator the Right Rev. Dr. Carmen Lansdowne. We ask that they continue to discern your will and lead us in these times of change and uncertainty. Thank you for the United Church Edge program and for all who are working to bring about your kingdom on earth. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

In our own Christ Church Gabriola, we ask your blessing on Sally, who has generously agreed to lead us while we are without a permanent minister. We pray that the search committee members will hear your voice, O God, as they discern who will be our next minister. We also pray that all of us will become aware of how you want us to implement our Covenant. In this new year may we find new ways to "connect our faith and our practice" with the secular world we live in. (*Bishop Anna Greenwood Lee **The most secular diocese in North America** in Faith Tides, Jan. 2023*) **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Creator God, your beautiful planet Earth is suffering. May we fulfill our baptismal covenant to safeguard the integrity of your creation and to respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth. Lord over the flood, we pray for the safety of all who suffer from too much rain and flooding, thinking of Yvonne, our summer congregant, now in California, and many others there. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we bring before you this troubled world. Help us to support the people of Ukraine who face a winter with limited electricity and the people of Poland who are struggling to look after the refugees who are flooding in. We pray for all refugees. May they find safety and new homes. We pray that there may be true justice in Iran, and that all who are unjustly imprisoned may be released. In the silence, we pray for other places in the world where there is suffering. SILENCE. May we "strive for justice and peace among all people." (*Bishop Anna Greenwood, *ibid**) **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Lord God, we continue to pray that on Gabriola there will be adequate housing for all and that none will go cold this winter. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Healing God, in this time of silence we name before you all who are ill and all who are waiting for or recovering from surgery or treatments. SILENCE. In your great compassion and mercy, we ask that they may be restored to fullness of life. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we bring to you this morning Heather Gray and her family. We pray for all those who have died and for all those who mourn. SILENCE. Thank you, God, that nothing can separate us from your love. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we offer you all these prayers, knowing that you will hear and answer them in your perfect love and wisdom. **Amen.**