## Prayers of the People Christ Church Gabriola March 12, 2023

Good Morning Everyone! It's a good morning, God, because we are here, alive, kicking and open to your word. Today, I will say," Loving Saviour". please respond with "Hear Our Prayers".

Creative Spirit, we know the phrase from countless different places - "Have you been saved? for some of us, that is not a happy phrase, since it can imply that the speaker has been saved, and we have not." This question has been used to exclude, diminish and empower certain individuals and groups. I myself have experienced this. And perhaps you have also. Saviour, for all of us, this question instead means, "have you come down on the side of love, compassion, acceptance and tolerance, or have you taken the other road, of grifting, hating, intolerance and bullying? Taken thus,

The question loosens its grip and becomes a simple, but powerful choice in our lives.

We pray that we may always stay on the right, light filled side of that question.

Loving Saviour...Hear our prayers (pause)

Creative spirit, we believe that the arc of Life bends towards justice. In our lifetimes, we are tested, because the process is slow, painfully so. We will leave your earth on our final days, with, it appears, little measurable progress. In fact, often it appears that we are going backwards, not forwards. For those of us who follow politics and the news, your message seems blunted and ignored. This morning, let us reaffirm that in our hearts your love is the most important thing, and that your message is not lost, that is exists everywhere, and we can take hope from that.

Brutality, self interest, greed, and blindness may win the moment but we will believe in that arc over the time you give us and move forward.

Loving Saviour...hear our prayers (pause)

Let us pray for Ukrainian soldiers, for their leader Volodomir Zelensky, and for all the civilians who have lost everything, including their families, to emigration to poland and other countries. For the soldiers and those who are left behind to fight as best they can. for President Biden and all the countries

who are supplying defense weapons to repel the invaders who do not belong there. For Ukrainian children, who have lost their innocence, their schooling and family members. Let us pray for and thank the international community, sending scientists, health workers, aid, volunteer soldiers and medical supplies. Let us welcome refugees who have no where left to go. Let us remember that it could be, in future, we who are in trouble. And let us remember that we must build and maintain our own guardrails into the future.

Loving Saviour...Hear Our Prayers (Pause)

Creative Spirit, our church teaches us the ways in which to observe your teachings. We bless and thank those who keep us alive to your precepts. Lately it seems, the word "woke" is everywhere and to some, is not a good thing. But when Woke means accepting minority people fully as part of the whole fabric of society, that health care for women is essential, that gay marriage is just as holy as straight marriage, that trans people are a part of our social fabric, and that black history cannot be parcelled or blacked out according to whim, then we are woke!

Loving Saviour...Hear Our Prayers (Pause)

Loving Saviour, let us with love, warmth and compassion pray for all those who are hurting, healing from wounds, suffering from life's trials, feeling older, feeling beat down, lonely or uncertain. They are all valued and loved by you and by us. Let us take a moment to think of someone in need or who we need and bless them.

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Let us sing the Lord's Prayer