

Prayers of the People  
Christ Church Gabriola  
May 14, 2023

Good Morning everyone! Let us come together in prayer this beautiful day on Gabriola. The call and response in the bulletin has been revised. When I say "God of Clarity" Please respond with "Illumine Me". (Practice)

One of my favourite hymns is the simple, but powerful song on Page 371, "Open my Eyes, that I may see". Here are the words to the second verse, words that resonate in these complicated times: feel free to hum along! (cue DD) (Count to three...)

Open my ears, that I may hear  
voices of truth that sendest clear;  
and while the wave notes fall on my ear,  
everything false will disappear.  
Silently now I wait for thee,  
ready, my God thy will to see.  
Open my ears, illumine me, Spirit divine!

God, today we ask you for your patience, your ear, and your light, as we navigate our lives day by day. Even though we live on a quiet little island, we are aware of local issues and problems which reflect larger issues that we hear about in the papers, on TV, online, or from our neighbours, friends and families. Whether it is about water levels, A lack of rainfall, fire board elections, shortage of staff for our restaurants and businesses, lack of Housing rentals, ferry issues, tent caterpillars or health challenges, there is much to occupy us. Support us in fact-finding, using our minds and our hearts to make good decisions in order to keep us moving forward as Jesus taught.

God of Clarity...Illumine me

Spirit, in the larger, outside world, we are inundated with issues, whether it be around social media, climate change, divisive politics, searing headlines about guns, crimes, mental health, health care and inflation. Our children and grandchildren are facing a very different world than ours has been. We too, are facing questions of the kind that encourage us to think differently, to accept new ideas and new realities.

Support us in exerting patience, love, kindness and openness when finding solutions.

God of Clarity...Illumine me

In the news this past week, on the New York subway, a black, homeless, and mentally challenged man was murdered by a military veteran. No-one in that car came to his aid. The question, God, is this:

What would each of us have done? And, what would Christ say? There is no easy answer, but we can come to you and ask. Our hearts have the answer.

God of Clarity...Illumine me

Today, we honour mothers. every mother has created someone special in god's eyes. Let us pray now for mothers who are mothering despite all the odds: forest fires, privation, war, conflict, more than we can understand. God, protect them and their families with your love and hope.

Spirit, we experience each day as precious, one that we can fill with gratitude for friends who have been ill and are now well. Help us to live each day for the gift that it is. We pray for the physical and mental health of all those who are faced with surgeries, illness or setbacks of any kind. We pray for the leaders of all churches, all

those who further and deepen our faith. Have a moment now and pray for whom you wish.....

Open our hearts, illumine us, Spirit divine!