

Prayers of the People
Sunday, April 2nd, 2017

This beautiful morning, O God, hear our prayers.

We bless you for this island and this community of shared ministry.

In this world, continue to help us to listen carefully for what is best for all of us and this church community we share. We pray for your guidance as we move forward with plans and ideas. We are hopeful that we will choose a new name which expresses in love what you want for us to achieve in your service.

We thank and bless those who work in church communities around the world, in our country and in our province to further your Word. This Sunday, in BC, we appreciate the service of Rev. Sally Bullas, the Presbytery Chair, and the congregation of Brechin United in Nanaimo; the Rev. Craig Hiebert and the congregation of St. Mary the Virgin in Oak Bay, and the Diocese of New Westminster.

We long for peace and safety in our world. We pray that our democratic ideals, human rights, and our concerns regarding climate change can be maintained and expanded in a world of populist movements, Brexit, our neighbour's political worries, Isis, and foreign interference. We pray for those Palestinians who are persecuted and removed from lands heretofore theirs. Where divisions occur, we pray for mutual understanding and dialogue.

In our own country, we continue to pray that our political leaders will make wise decisions regarding our energy, climate, technology and native peoples.

In our Gabriola community, we bless and pray for those who serve. Our Prayer Shawl Ministry, the provisioners of PHC lunches, contributors to Mission & Service and the World Relief Fund, and all those others who strive to make our world a better one.

We pray for all those who suffer from afflictions, both physical and mental. We express our love and support to those whose daily lives are challenged and in silence or out loud, now say the names of those we care about. (Meditation for eight seconds.)

On this new day, O God, hear our prayers. And in your love, answer.

Paddy Waymark, Congregant