

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**  
Sunday, December 4, 2016

God, we pray for the Universal church this advent asking that the Christ light penetrate into the inner corridors of our hearts, help us to prepare by focusing on repentance, humbling, and in our housekeeping, that your people may remove the boulders – the things that we have done, that we should not have done, and the pot holes – the things that we failed to do, which we obviously should have done, so that we may glorify you and receive your peace that passes all understanding.

We pray for Jordan Cantwell moderator of the United Church of Canada, the Reverend Erin Sterling, and the congregation of Cedar United Church, Bishop Logan, and S Andrew, Sidney – Eric Partridge, Diocese of Caledonia, and Bishop William Anderson, and all the church congregations on Gabriola.

We pray for our world, we give thanks for its beauty and bounty, but we also pray for all the suffering in it – war, natural disasters, man-made disasters, lord help us to respect and love the earth and all your peoples.

We pray for our local community, may this season of advent give hope, peace, joy, and love to all here on Gabriola. May the upcoming "Christmas Alive" touch many lives.

We pray for the poor, and the homeless. And those that we find difficult to love, help us to show love, compassion, friendship and practical help to these people in our midst.

We pray for all who are ill, in mind, body, or soul, especially those we pray out loud or in the silence of our hearts: We pray and give thanks for those who have died, remembering the pilot who died in Cold Lake, and the plane load of people that died in Brazil.

Creator God, we praise you for your love in coming to us, unworthy though we are. Give us grace to accept the Christ who comes in your name and the courage to be Christ for others.

Oh God, it is your will to hold both Heaven and Earth in a single piece, let the design of your great love shine on the waist of our wraths and sorrows and give peace to your church, peace among nations, peace in our homes, and peace in our hearts, through your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sandy Brydges

(Shared Ministry, St. Martin of Tours & Gabriola United)