

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Our father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.

We pray to You O God for faith, hope and mercy. We pray for your love to sustain us in our daily lives. This world you have made us stewards of is both beautiful and challenging. Climate change, pollution, over-population and dwindling water supplies in many parts of the globe, are creating crises somewhere every single day. Many, like icebergs, remain unseen by us until they come to our doors.

Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.

We pray O God, for the wisdom and strength to meet these challenges and to remain joyful in living your gift of life. We bless those who work hard to support our congregation and other congregations. This morning we pray for the Reverend Karen Hollis, as she ministers to us. We bless our musicians, Marilyn and James, and all our sound system volunteers, who make your words heard clearly. We also look outside Christ Church Gabriola this Epiphany 5, blessing Canada's military in Comox and world- wide; and the Rev. Michael Wimmer of St. Michael's & All Angels Church in Chemainus.

Give us today our daily bread

We thank you for the good food you give us to sustain our health and ability to serve others. We pray for all those who do not

receive daily bread everywhere around the world, including some on Gabriola. We thank and bless those on the island who are providing breakfast for hungry children in a new program being set up. Nudge us to keep donating to the Food Bank as often as possible and to keep filling the basket at the back of our church.

Forgive us our sins

As we forgive those who sin against us.

Open our eyes O God, to our blindness in taking our comforts of good housing for granted, forgetting about those who cannot find affordable housing on this island. Open us to understand those that hurt us and to let those hurts go, knowing that anger makes us miss your mark.

Save us from the time of trial

And deliver us from evil

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and for ever.

O God, support us in our times of trouble, so that we can bear the pain of illness, challenges and setbacks, not only for ourselves, but for our family members, friends, fellow congregants and those in our community. We lost a firefighter when he was out jogging recently at Berry Point in a senseless car accident. Help us to both to grieve for him and his family and, at the same time, to be a clear eyed witness to a driver who will bear a burden for his or her time of trial for a lifetime. In the outside world, we pray that Bob Mueller's investigation is completed.

We pray for the strength that is yours to give if only we ask: to make good choices, to avoid temptations and to spread your love inside ourselves and outside in the world you gave us.

Amen

Paddy Waymark, Worship Chair, February 4/18, Epiphany5