

Prayers of the People for December 23, 2018

Advent 4: Love

At the end of each prayer, please join me in saying, Holy One, hear our prayer.

Thank you, God, for your gifts of hope, peace, joy and love. Especially on this fourth Sunday of Advent, we thank you for your great love. Thank you for Mary and all who believe that you do what you say you will do. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

The Worldwide church

Thank you for your church throughout the world and its witness to your love. Thank you for Bishop Logan and Moderator Richard Bott and please bless them as they continue to lead us. Thank you for all the active and retired Ministers throughout the Comox-Nanaimo Presbytery. Bless their work, even as the presbytery ends and the new structure begins.

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Christ Church Gabriola Thank you God, for Karen, for the Advent sessions she led and for all she is teaching us. Thank you for the people in this church who work so hard. Thank you for the work of the pastoral care team and for all who visit the sick and try to bring cheer to others. At this time of year we thank you particularly for the work of the Worship Committee and the Altar Guild. Thank you for Diane, who is showing us what is important and what is not. We ask you, God, that all those who work so hard to teach and to help others may themselves find quiet times in the frantic pace of life.

Holy One, hear our prayer.

Our Community God, we thank you for all who work to help the poor and the hungry, both in our church and in the wider community. Thank you for the new hospice program on Gabriola and all who have worked to bring that about. Thank you, God, for food and shelter, which we often take for granted. During this long power outage, we pray for the many who are cold, hungry or lonely. Help us to find them and help them. **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

The needs of the world

We pray for the needs of this troubled world, remembering how much you love your creation. We pray for *the poor, the helpless, the cold, the hungry and the oppressed**. We pause to bring before you, silently or aloud, some of the troubled areas of the world.

God, you are merciful and just.

Holy One, hear our prayer.

All in need

We pray for all for whom Christmas is not going to be like a Hallmark card. We pray for all who are confused, all who are frightened or lost. We pray for *the lonely and the unloved; the aged and the little children; and all who do not know your loving kindness.**

We pray that we may share your love with others and that all may experience you, God, with us, Emmanuel.

Holy One, hear our prayer.

All who are sick

We pray for all who are *sick in body or in mind* *, all who are in hospital and all who are awaiting or recovering from surgery. We pause now and mention their names silently or aloud.

Holy God, with confidence we thank you that these people are held in your love.

Holy One, hear our prayer.

All who have died

*We pray for all who have died and all who mourn. We remember before you, God, all those who rejoice with us, but upon another shore and in a greater light, that multitude which no one can number, whose hope was in the Word made flesh, and with whom we for evermore are one.** **Holy One, hear our prayer.**

We humbly offer these prayers and praises in the words which Christ himself taught us: Our Father...

*adapted from **Provost and Fellows of King's College; [Nine Lessons and Carols](#), King's College, Cambridge** (https://www.hymnsandcarolsofchristmas.com/Text/Carol_Service/readings_for_a_festival_of_nine.htm)