

Prayers of the People – July 5th, 2020

We gather in the light of a new day.
We gather as those born into light and yet ever seeking it.
We come into places like this and times like this
in order that we might find light within ourselves, light in one another,
and be renewed in our commitment to see light in everyone.
We come to this time and place
to seek light in ancient stories, in contemporary wisdom,
in words we speak and words we sing.
We come in search of the light we need to live truly and faithfully.
We take this time to bring ourselves to this moment,
to this time, and to this place – quieting our spirits,
focusing our minds and opening our hearts.

This past week we celebrated Canada Day. We have much to be grateful for. May we not ever become complacent and take for granted the richness we have, but live as those who walk a common road, striving for a realm of justice, peace and equity for all.

Wind upon the waters, Wake us from our sleep

We have heard many tragic stories the past couple weeks of racist acts. We need to acknowledge that there is racism within us and within our communities. We have deep-seated, systemic racism within our country, individually and collectively. May we commit to doing the hard work and change our ways of thinking and our actions that demean and hurt. We need to listen, learn, hear the stories, stand alongside of, speak up, speak out, and stand up against injustice. Martin Luther King said, “I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character”. May this also be our dream for all people in Canada.

Wind upon the waters, Breathe life into all flesh

Together with the World Council of Churches, we join voices all over the world this week in praying for the countries of Sudan, South Sudan and Uganda. We give thanks for those who work to bring justice, healing and reconciliation in these war-ravaged countries and the many who carry out humanitarian work. We pray that governments will respect the will and best interests of their people and the human rights of all, also that natural resources will be preserved and the land saved from further desertification.

We join others in the global prayer campaign happening now from March 1 to August 15th, “We Pray, Peace Now, End the War!” for peace on the Korean Peninsula, that there may be a sustainable, lasting peace that can bring the gifts of renewed kinship and friendship, a peace in the mind and peace in the land. Our hearts and minds also turn to the war-torn country of Yemen with the unprecedented scale of human abuses and the struggles in Hong Kong as hundreds are arrested. We pray for international co-operation to bring a global ceasefire and put armed conflict on lockdown.

May we show compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and fear.

*Wind upon the waters, **Breathe love into all hearts***

Here at St. Hilda’s, our prayers are with the Search committee as they speak with Archbishop Melissa this week. We pray that a new Rector will be found who will be open to the diverse needs and spiritualities of our community.

We pray for those known and unknown in our community who struggle with illness, grief, worry or fear. We hold them in our hearts and pray that they and their loved ones may feel the support of love that surrounds them and know that they are not alone in this journey of life. May they find healing of the soul, comfort and peace. Let us remember them at this time.

Carolynn Cordsen, Laura Good, Phil Hopkins, Janet McConnell, Lorelei Reier, Sher & Morrie Sacks, Donna Walsh Wheeldon, Jill Diespecker, Rick Diespecker, Geoffrey Dunbrack, Max Haugen, Jeannette Shouls, Chris Sooley, Elizabeth Brown, Annie & John Webb.

We’ll have a moment of silence also remembering others we name in hearts.

*Love that fills the world around, **Grow your love within the garden of my soul***

As we are shaped by Love’s own hand, may we be renewed, liberated and empowered. May we be filled with the Spirit of Life and Love, justice and healing, peace and delight. May we move into that deep space within our spirit where, all the best of what we are, can breathe again so that divisions, antagonisms, insecurities and fears may turn into trust, acceptance and love.

*Wind upon the waters, **Send your winds upon the waters of my soul.***

Amen.