

Aug.13.17 Prayers of the People by Stephanie Moul

Call: Into the Love of the Beloved

Response: We entrust these cares.

In the spaciousness of Holy Love, may this time of prayer be a piece of focusing our intentions for this new day, this new week, as we continue our pilgrimage of life. Let us commit to moving with a slowness and spaciousness, attending to the ways in which we are open to experiencing the presence of the Holy One in all our speaking, our acting, and our loving. Our air is currently hazy but let us not be hazy in how we see the world in its beauty and mystery, its celebrating, and its suffering - let our vision be steadfast on carrying the Good News and the love that heals us and gives us life.

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In this space of quiet is the invitation to be calm in the midst of the noise of the world, our busy lives, and the reality of the cares each of us carry. In this moment of quiet we bring these cares to find some centre point, a still point of perspective and peace, of deeper clarity. We give thanks for each of our lives, and for each person in our lives. May we always be tending to the gift of these bonds and connections and to be open to sharing life with those we don't know, those who cross our paths even if only for a short space of time. Thank you for the giants of faith who have shown us how to follow Jesus, and thank you for those whose quiet presence may only be known by the footprints they have left upon our soul. We are grateful for the leadership here at St Hilda's. When any of us are sinking or overwhelmed by the storms that come, we are grateful for those who walk in the storm with us, keeping our candle of faith lit.

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We lament at the continuing stories we hear of war, civil strife, starvation and violence. We long for peace. We seek to work for peace. May all global leaders accept and acknowledge the need for peace, not violence, in order to heal our world, the human family, and the earth. May there be a spirit of reconciliation that pervades all nations, all communities and all human hearts. May there be a growth of the human spirit that affirms the goodness of life. In all councils of the nations, in bureaucracies and offices, in universities and schools, in the wealthiest, in the poorest, in the lost and wandering, may there be a liberation of the human spirit where the image of the Holy is visible to all. May the fires burning in our Province have rain and absence of wind so they can be brought under control. Be with those who have lost their homes, or are waiting to return home. Be with each one who is part of fighting these fires surrounding them with protection.

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Desmond Tutu said "We are always in the presence of God. Prayer is acknowledging that we are in that presence." So here in Holy Presence, we bring, in prayer, those we

know who need the comforting love of God.
(names on prayer list) see last page of Sunday leaflet

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In the words of L. R. Knost

“Do not be dismayed by the brokenness of the world. All things break. And all things can be mended. Not with time, as they say, but with intention. So go. Love intentionally, extravagantly, unconditionally. The broken world waits in the darkness for the light that is you.”

Amen.