

May 27th Prayers of the People

Isaiah 6: 1-8 Whom shall I send? Here Am I
John 3: 1-17 entering the kingdom, where the wind blows, where the spirit is.

We have waited for spring, and it came. We have waited for planting season with warm days and sunshine, and it has come. We have waited for the beauty of opening flowers and gardens that come to life, and they are bringing us joy. We have often waited for the gentle voice, that wind of the Spirit, to nudge the space deep within us, waiting for what would call us to say “yes” to offering our true selves that gives to others. As Frederick Buechner said “the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world’s deep hunger meet” - let us say yes to this holy meeting place in each of our lives. Like the story of Isaiah so long ago, there is a place in each of us the longs to have purpose, to be part of something bigger than ourselves, but perhaps we haven’t yet been able to say ‘here I am send me”. In this new week ahead, give each of us the courage to say yes to joy in those holy moments where it takes us by surprise. Holy One, may our hearts be open to new possibilities, to saying yes to the intersections of life that opens new ways to us. Spirit of Change thank you that you are always present within all as they stand at their crossroads in life.

Call: Open our ears to hear the Holy One
Response: Open our heart to know Holy Love

There are crossroads in life for many who must choose a way that is simply about survival - those in war torn communities, places of starvation and poverty, situation of abuse and pain, fleeing or staying. May there be those waiting at these crossroads with compassion and courage who can lead them to places of safety and life. Holy One may there be a wind of change within the political offices so that integrity has a strong voice, so that there will be honest dialogue that brings about partnering that is for the good of humanity, not for the money it offers corporations. May we allow Jesus to show us the way to stay in community with all the differences and outlooks we bring into the circle of love. May we look for the holy in each other and let it lead us in how we work together. Holy One, just as we watch the restoration of our space here at St Hilda’s, show us how to be patient with the work of restoration and healing that goes on within each person. Spirit of compassion may the tears of grief of those who live with loss, and the lament of the grief of the world, not hold shame, rather let it draw people to sit together and honour this journey of grief that has its own season for it too is its own crossroads in life.

Call Open our ears to hear the Holy One
Response: Open our heart to know Holy Love

Thank you Holy One for all those in leadership who have said ‘yes’ to this difficult role. Thank you for all those who have said ‘yes’ to working for reconciliation, healing and peace in our world, and in our community. Holy Mystery, thank you for all the unseen

work of those whose hands and feet are willing to be the presence of Jesus anywhere they are called to be. Thank you for the Upper Deck shelter and how it is a sanctuary to many of our homeless community. Thank you for those who work so hard to bring refugees to our community to give them safety and hope. Thank you for those who sit and have coffee with a stranger and allow hope and courage to be shared. Thank you for all those who work to take care of our environment and the earth, in this living sphere humanity calls home. Thank you for our police force. Thank you for all those who advocate for those who have no voice. Thank you for each new child that will arrive in our world this week and remind us once again of this miracle of life. Thank you for the leadership of the Rotary Club and their willingness to continue this journey with Ndandini.

Call: Open our ears to hear the Holy One
Response: Open our heart to know Holy Love

May the gentle Spirit of compassion be on all those who are suffering, and we specifically name together those on our prayer list, and those who we are holding in our hearts: from our bulletin

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in this new week we begin again.
May the gentleness and wildness of the Spirit
open us up to joy and beauty.
May we meet Jesus within ourselves this week,
Let this love turn us outward to meeting Jesus in others.
May we have wisdom to know what to say 'yes' to,
and the grace to let go of what we say 'no' to
And the hope to wait with the 'not yet'.

Amen.