

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE
The First Sunday in Lent – February 21, 2021
Intercessor: *Stephanie Donaldson*

As we come together on this first Sunday in Lent, a season of reflection, spiritual preparation, penitence, and prayer, let us raise our prayers, thanksgivings and praise to God saying: *“God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**”*

We acknowledge that we are on the ancestral land of the Anishinaabe, Attawandron and Haudenosaunee people, and the Dish with One Spoon and Huron Tract Treaties. Creator God, you have made all races and nations to be one family on your Turtle Island. We pray that we live as that one family, in love and harmony with one another, and your creation.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Always remembering the needs of friends and loved ones, we pray for the people and clergy of our parish family at St. James. We ask your blessing for those celebrating birthdays this week: ***Karin Mussen***; and for those celebrating a wedding anniversary: ***Garry & Lynn Ransom***.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Queen and all leaders. We pray for our Diocese of Huron and Todd our Bishop; for Anne, Archbishop of Ontario; for Mark, National Indigenous Archbishop; for Linda, Primate of Canada; for Marinez, Bishop of Amazonia, and for our sisters and brothers in our Companion Diocese.

In our Diocesan Chain of Prayer, we pray for the Church of St. Edmund, Tobermory; St. Andrew’s Memorial, Howdenvale; St. Peter-by-the-Lake, Sauble Beach; and their clergy, The Venerable Perry Chuipka and The Venerable Robert Snelling.

In the Anglican Communion Cycle of Prayer, we pray for The Church of the Province of Central Africa.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Compassionate God, we continue to pray for all who have contracted COVID worldwide, and that the vaccines will soon be offered equitably, to everyone everywhere. With restrictions being eased, we pray that the guidelines will be followed, so that the variants can be contained, new cases decline, and that we can continue forward on a journey to a more normal and healthy life.

We continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Amazonia where the situation is dire. We pray for the release of the two Michaels, Alexi Navalny, the democratically elected leaders of Myanmar, and all who are imprisoned unjustly.

With students back in their classrooms, we pray for the safety of all who learn and all who teach. Now that the Impeachment Trial in the United States is over, we pray that peace returns to the land, and that the elected leaders can put party differences aside and govern wisely and justly for the welfare of all.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Loving God, we pray for the forgotten and marginalized members of society, always keeping in mind the homeless and refugees, and all without adequate shelter or clean water, now that we are in the depths of winter. We pray for the people and God's creatures of Texas who are struggling with lack of power and freezing temperatures in the wake of the massive winter storm that swept across North America this week.

As mental health in Canada and around the world continues to decline, we pray for all who are suffering from mental illness, or addiction of any kind, and for those whose yoke is heavy with burdens known to you alone. We give thanks for all those who work tirelessly, night and day this week, to keep our roads and highways plowed and safe for travel.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Caring God, please heal the broken, give health to the sick, restore happiness to those who are in despair, bring love to the lonely, companionship to those feeling isolated, food to the hungry, and peace to the world. We ask for healing and comfort for: **Marlin, Marilyn, Jack, Angela, Rob, Peter, Nikki, Ilene, Judy, Marion, Abby, Maggie D., Jack, Scott, Harold, Ulrika, Ben, Debbie, Marilyn, Melissa, Lisa, Mary, Alexia, Judy & Erin, Tim, Paul, Judy, and Mary.** Knowing that you know their needs we pray for those resting heavily on our hearts, and for any that we may have forgotten.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, we commend into your hands all those saints who have completed their earthly journey. Rest eternal grant to them and let light perpetual shine upon them. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

God in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

May God's blessings attend you on your Lenten journey.

Amen.