Prayers of the People, July 8, 2018

Please stand or sit as is your custom for the Prayers of the People. This prayer includes a paragraph written by Rev. Karen in a prayer she wrote and shared with Council. When you hear the words, God in your mercy, reply with Hear our prayer.

Dear Heavenly Father,

We pray for your Church dear Father, for the leaders Jordan Cantwell of the United Church, and Bishop Logan of the Anglican Diocese; to feel your grace and wisdom as they help us all define what Church is in this time and place. We pray for all those who gather together in fellowship and love, determined to follow the path that Jesus showed us so many, many years ago. As Christ sent out his disciples to spread the good news, let us also remember we are the Church, and give us the wisdom and the courage to be witnesses to Christ in the way we lead our lives publicly and in our homes. God in your mercy…Hear our Prayer

We pray for our Church here on the island. God, we are experiencing a healthy tension in worship between embracing our ecumenical reality and naming our particular preferences in worship. While we cannot deny the ways in which we are formed and the elements of worship that feed our souls, the form of our worship seeks to make room for all. We love to hear you in silence and in the beating of our hearts. We wonder about creative things we might try in worship, as we recognize one of the gifts of our Anglican/United identity as that creative tension of tradition and innovation in our practice. Hold us in the tensions we find in our worship; help us to challenge ourselves to be in discomfort and find gifts in it; and help us to rest in the parts of worship we experience as home. God in your mercy…Hear our Prayer.

We pray for your presence in the many parts of the world where suffering and disaster is rampant. As we celebrate our short periods of rain, breathe a sigh of relief as our forests are nourished and somewhat protected from fire, let us remember the many areas of the world that have not been as fortunate. We pray for all of those who are battling forest fires to the South of us, for all of those who are experiencing drought and whose fields are drying up, and we pray for all those people in the East who are experiencing an unhealthy hot, humid summer that threatens vulnerable people. Help us to be grateful for our blessings, but not indifferent to the suffering of the world. God in your mercy… Hear our prayer.

Dear God, bless our planet, and help us all to work towards a lifestyle that does not pollute or damage our environment. In all of the controversy over pipelines and tankers, trade wars and protectionism, economic survival and moral decision making, help us to remember Christ’s teaching. We pray that your grace and compassion might help us all find our way forward. Keep us from fear, dear God, and help us remember you are always with us.

God, help those children in the cave in Thailand, give all who are involved courage and belief that there is a way to help them all to safety. In the dark, uncertain space those children are in, help them feel your love and know they are not alone. And for all of those among us, who sometimes feel trapped in a dark place, let your love be a light helping them move forward into safety and wellness. God in your mercy… Hear our prayer.

Today, we pray for all of those among us who are unwell and we ask for your blessings on them that they may find respite from pain. We pray for all those who are grieving, and we keep Helen Hagen and her family in our hearts as they deal with Ralph’s death. Please pray for all those whose names we say out loud or in our hearts…..Pause. God in your mercy…Hear our prayer.

Finally dear God we thank you for all our many blessings. As the summer unfolds with visitors and grandkids, barbeques and all the bounty of gardens from flowers to zucchini, help us to be truly grateful for what we have, and never take it for granted. God in your mercy….Hear our prayer.

And now let us sing…….