

## **Prayers of the People Easter April 16, 2017**

God of life, we come to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The stone has been rolled away! Your Creation surrounds us with reminders of abundant life: flowers, buds, leaves, birds and frogs. Resurrection gives us hope, every day and year. We are thankful. Our hearts are full of gratitude.

Before resurrection is pain and death. Help us to remember resurrection when we are in pain, when we feel dead. Help us remember those who are struggling to feel the hope of resurrection. Help those who are unable to feel the blessings of Easter.

We pray for those who do not have the safety of home: for refugees and migrants, for families in crisis, for First Nations, Inuit and Metis damaged by the Residential Schools. We pray that our hearts and eyes will see what you call us to do. Help us listen.

We pray for our leaders. Help their hearts to be open. We remember this week leaders in the Middle East, Korea, China, Europe and the Americas, contemplating military escalations. Help all of us to seek peace, setting ego aside. We especially remember all who are persecuted for their faith and culture.

We pray for people who are ill. Joyce Ashley has let us know that she is here in spirit with everyone. O God, we know that you hold her and her family in your prayers. We continue to pray for Noel Armstrong. We pray for others, holding them in our hearts.

We pray for those who suffer loss, remembering loved ones. Help them know your comfort.

We pray for our visitors and our travellers. Bless their journeys and bring them home safely.

We pray for all congregations who celebrate Easter. We give thanks for this congregation, for its gifts. We give thanks for Peggy and all here, everyone contributing their own gifts. Today we are especially grateful for the decorating crew and the Grays' ministry of the flower covered cross.

The stone has been rolled away. The risen Christ is with us. Help us to recognize him in our daily lives. Bless each of us as we continue our journey, knowing Christ is with us.

We offer these prayers in Christ's name, whose prayer we sing ... .

MJ Patterson, Congregant