

## Prayers of the People for Sept. 17, 2017

Please stand or sit according to your custom for the prayers of the people.

Please join me in offering prayers to God. In the times of silence, please add your own prayers, silently or aloud.

### Thanksgiving

Gracious God, you have so richly blessed us. We thank you for our island home and for rain today. We thank you for the privilege of meeting together to worship you. We thank you for giving us Linda, our minister today, and for the other ministers who are guiding us in this transition time. We thank you for your great love for us and for the opportunities to forgive and be forgiven. In silence we thank you for our many blessings.

*SILENCE*

### The Church

Holy God, we ask you to bless and strengthen your church throughout the world, including, in our cycles of prayer, the Rev. Keltie van Binsbergen and Cathie Talbot and the congregation at Comox United Church and the Church of the Advent in Colwood, and Sandra Hounsell-Drover, the priest there.

Here at Christ Church Gabriola, we pray that we will learn not to quarrel over opinions and not to judge. May we remember that we are all accountable to you.

We ask that you give your wisdom to the members of the committee choosing a new minister for us. Please may all our council members and committee members hear your voice and guide us to do your will.

### Local community

Source of all wisdom, we ask that you guide those who must make decisions around the location of Gabriola's emergency reception centre. May it be according to your will.

### Those who are ill

Compassionate God, we know you care for all who are ill. We hold up to you Nancy Jenner and Noel Armstrong. Silently or aloud, we name others known to us.

*SILENCE*

Thank you, Gracious God, for your compassion and mercy and for your healing touch in our lives.

### Those who mourn

Loving God, we ask comfort for Adela, for Linda and for Irene. We name aloud others who are mourning the death of loved ones.

*SILENCE*

God, we ask that you comfort all who mourn.

### Canada

In Canada, we pray for Indigenous Peoples; we ask that Canada will adopt a legislative framework and national action plan to implement the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples](#).

### The world

Creator God, you are ruler of all your creation. We ask you to help us look after what you have made.

God of earth, wind, water and fire, we pray that you quiet the hurricanes, put out the fires and dry up the floods. Please help all affected by earthquakes and extreme weather events.

In the world right now, there are many many troubled areas. We hold before you, God, the terrorist incident in London, the tense situation involving North Korea and the Rohingya Muslims fleeing violence in Myanmar. God, we ask that you save all who are crying out.

I would like to read a blessing written by Jan Richardson “... *For every place broken by violence and hatred. For every person in pain and grief...*”

### **Blessing in a Time of Violence**

Which is to say  
this blessing  
is always.

Which is to say  
there is no place  
this blessing  
does not long  
to cry out  
in lament,  
to weep its words  
in sorrow,  
to scream its lines  
in sacred rage.

Which is to say  
there is no day  
this blessing ceases  
to whisper  
into the ear  
of the dying,  
the despairing,  
the terrified.

Which is to say  
there is no moment  
this blessing refuses  
to sing itself  
into the heart  
of the hated  
and the hateful,  
the victim  
and the victimizer,  
with every last  
ounce of hope  
it has.

Which is to say  
there is none  
that can stop it,  
none that can  
halt its course,  
none that will  
still its cadence,  
none that will  
delay its rising,  
none that can keep it  
from springing forth

from the mouths of us  
who hope,  
from the hands of us  
who act,  
from the hearts of us  
who love,  
from the feet of us  
who will not cease  
our stubborn, aching  
marching, marching

until this blessing  
has spoken  
its final word,  
until this blessing  
has breathed  
its benediction  
in every place,  
in every tongue:

Peace.  
Peace.  
Peace.

— Jan Richardson “© Jan Richardson. janrichardson.com.” used with permission