

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & PASTORAL CONCERN

Father / Mother God, Creator God, God beyond gender and God who creates gender, God who not only loves your creation, but God who has created a creation which can express love beautifully through body, mind and spirit... thank you... For those of us with mothers who have been foundational to our learning how to love and being filled by love, we thank you this day.

But even as we thank you, creator and mothering God, we also recognize the suffering in our world you also know intimately through the cross of your beloved Jesus... For those without mothers, those with complicated relationships with their mothers, those who have known abuse and neglect... O God... often the pain we suffer the most is connected to those relationships from which we expect the most... Thank you that you embrace us as we are and thank you for the gifts we are given in our primary relationships...

We also thank you, this day for the gift of your creation, O God, for the gift of camping, for those leaders and educators dedicated to teaching us and our children how precious it is to enjoy your creation and learn about your love through it... We thank you for Camp Cairn and all the camps of our wider church... May you sustain and support them in this time of social isolation and physical distancing and especially as we head into the summertime...

We thank you for our farmers and all those who help grow and produce our food... and we pray for them as they struggle in this time of Covid-19, to sustain their farms as their distribution is so limited... May hope find them each and every one as the future is uncertain...

We pray for the families of the 6 Canadian military service members killed in a helicopter plane crash, O God... and we continue to pray for the communities and families affected directly by the mass shooting in Nova Scotia... May your comfort find them in this time of grief and ongoing grief, oh God...

We continue to pray for the residents of Fort MacMurray and all those affected by spring flooding, O God... As we listen to the scientists and submit to collective government restrictions and requirements when it comes to a pandemic... may this become a stepping stone to further collaboration with scientists and governments to fight climate change as it will continue to affect more and more of us all, O God...

We continue to pray for all those affected in different ways in this time of Covid-19... for those on the front lines in hospitals and long-term care facilities... those providing home care... those worried about family members and cut off from communication and visiting... for those feeling unsafe at home... those on the streets... those with limited resources and floundering businesses... those charitable organizations, foundations and churches uncertain about the future... The worry and fear is massive, O God and uncertainty about the future is overwhelming... May you continue to find more and more of us wherever we are... calm our fears by stirring up faith, hope and love in and around us, as we find ways to reach out and connect with each other and be there to walk this journey together...

We also pray for all those grieving their loved ones and worried for those far away, O God... in particular, we pray for the Epule/Mbelem family as they remember father and grandfather Wilfred Awungjia Mbelem, on this anniversary of his death, and also uncle and younger brother Jeffrey Epule, as he struggles with a severe heart condition in Cameroon, with limited medical resources compounded by restrictions and isolation... We also pray for Leory & Hettie, grieving the death of their son, and Michael Lennard who was in a tragic car accident and is now hospitalized in a trauma unit fighting for his life... the needs are overwhelming, O God, we cast our cares upon you, opening our hearts to possibilities beyond our own resources alone...

Finally, we also name before you, O God, all those we are carrying personally in our hearts at this time...

May the energy of your healing and life-giving presence be channeled into the world through our heart-prayers, O God, and may your energy of peace, gratitude and surrender fill all the space within us... In Jesus' name... Amen.