

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING & CONCERN FOR THE WORLD

Transcendent God, source of all life, language and culture... We thank you. We thank you for all the diversity of spirit and humanity. We thank you for bio-diversity and diversity in our universe. We thank you wherever there is freedom to be different. We thank you wherever there is new appreciation to get to know other life in all its distinctiveness. We thank you whenever we learn to love others in their uniqueness and distinctiveness.

It is your love that alone can bind us to each other, O God. Inspire us so that we encounter your love not only in those who are similar to us in church and world, but to those who are different as well.

We also pray for our world, O God, a world where people don't always experience your love in any form...

Where there is violence at home or because of war, O God... where there is illness because of Covid-19 or because of delays in treatment or care, O God... where there is stress because of exposure on the front lines of the battle or stress in a person's inner fear for loved ones or paranoia for oneself... where there is frustration over not being able to go and do and be, or inner boredom, lack of purpose and an inability to focus... where there is fear for the future in terms of business or work, or where there is stress of overwork and having to figure things out in a whole new way... we need your mercy and grace, O God, your sustenance and your peace...

We especially mention all those who are grieving the death of loved ones, those helpless and angry over the state of our long-term care facilities and loved ones for whom little can be done right now when they need it... May your inclusive love open doors to something that can be done, O God, even in the interim...

We pray for our wider world also, O God... Where there are leaders who are autocratic, narcissistic and bullying, there people suffer the most in terms of the pandemic and in terms of human rights, O God... we mention Hong Kong and China, Brazil, Russia, and the United States as examples... We also continue to pray for places in the world near and far, where our climate crisis exacerbates weather events like floods, fires, droughts, earthquakes and other storms, demolishing the lives of those most vulnerable the worst... May your inclusive love find a way to reach even those in the darkest pits of despair and need, O God...

The needs can overwhelm us, O God... but you keep calling us to love, to love others in all the particularity of their humanity, to see the beauty even when there is a lot of ugliness all around... Give us your eyes, O God, and your ears... Give us enlarged capacity to feel and care... and give us fullness in being so transformed...

Finally... we offer special prayer requests, O God,

We pray for Gord and Ricki Anglin, and the Anglin family as they grieve the death of Gord's mother Margaret...

We also pray for Mary Lynn Dodson, as she recovers from a broken leg in hospital and rehab over the next few weeks...

We also pray for Molly, O God. Molly is sister to Sally Persaud, a newer member of the congregation... Molly is in Guyana and has suffered abuse and poor health and is in need of large

doses of prayerful healing love energy during this time, and our prayers are also for Sally who is feeling so helpless to help...

We are seeking your love not just as words, O God, but as healing and renewing energy... Give us some peace for the grief... some hope for what can be... some faith in your larger bounty of goodness even as we must sometimes live in difficulty, want and need right now... With you all things are possible... but we need ever more faith to believe such possibility... Thank you for hearing us, O God... in Jesus' name... Amen.