

...does God not answer those who offer up prayers
of thanksgiving, praise, and intercession?

Loving God,
we come today first to thank you and praise you for your glorious generosity.
We cannot express our amazement for all you have given us- without even asking.
We thank you for your steadfast love that endures forever.

We want you to know how often we feel like Abraham- tried and tested.
Sometimes we feel like the Psalmist, wondering how long our lament will last.
God, we call on you for your mercy.
We call on you to reach out to those who need your loving promise.
We call on your continuing love for all who are struggling with their faith.
We call on your care for those who fail to see the generous one who provides for
their needs.

We pray today for the family and loved ones of the Afzaal family who were killed
in London, Ont. on Sunday. What unbelievable shock they must be enduring.
Yumna, Madiha, Talat and Salman (15 yr old Yumna, her parents and
grandmother) were lost, and 9 year old brother, Fayeze, is in serious condition in the
hospital. Banish evil from the world.

We pray for the unemployed, that they may find meaningful work in this time.
We offer to you the homeless of the world, especially the children, that there
may be, not only shelters, but homes and improvement of quality of life.
We continue to pray for the families of the First Nations children whose remains
were found in Kamloops. We can't imagine their pain, so we pray for the entire
First Nations community across Canada, from the deepest places of our hearts.

Today we pray for:
those whose names are on our church prayer list. We haven't forgotten you.
We pray for those we love who need your healing and strength, your comfort
and peace. We pray for those who mourn. We name our friends and loved ones
who need you now;

.....

We pray for all medical personnel as they are still working hard, but are relieved
the number of positive cases of Covid-19 is still going down, as the number of
vaccinations increases.

But you also bring us joy.

We celebrate with Rev. Maggie Watts-Hammond (Gilmore Park United Church), as she begins her retirement journey. We pray you will be by her side as she discovers what direction you will call her next. We celebrate with all who are having birthdays, anniversaries and graduations. Congratulations to each of you! And we remember those whose birthdays and anniversaries it might have been. God's peace be with you.

We call on you for the healing of the nations and the communities where we live. God of hospitality, remind us that you welcomed us so that we, too, would welcome others into our churches, our homes, our lives that we might share more than a cup of cold water.

We know there are so many other prayers we could offer, many that we don't know even know we have, but that you do....so hear these, we pray, may you answer all of them- in the fullness of time.

And so we say your prayer;

paraphrase- Jim Cotter VU p 916

Eternal Spirit,
Earth-maker, Pain-bearer, Life-giver,
Source of all that is and shall be.
Father and Mother of us all,
loving God, in whom is heaven:
The hallowing of your name echo
through the universe!
The way of your justice be followed
by peoples of the world!
Your heavenly will be done
by all created beings!
Your commonwealth of peace and freedom
sustain our hope and come to earth.
With the bread we need for today, feed us.
In the hurts we absorb from one another, forgive us.
In times of temptation and test, strengthen us.
From trials too great to endure, spare us.
From the grip of all that is evil, free us.
For your reign in the glory of the power that is love,
now and for ever. Amen.