

Prayers of the People Sunday May 5, 2024- The Sixth Sunday of Easter

I would encourage you to kneel in prayer as you are able.

REAL GOD.

God of grace and glory, you call us to be your people, faithful, strong and courageous. You remind us that you have given us your Holy Spirit and that your Spirit within us is not one of fear or timidity but of Power, of Love and Discernment and Truth. We ask that your Spirit of discernment and truth fill our hearts so that we may know and reject what is false, that we will live with intention in accordance with the authoritative word of our Holy Scriptures. Let us be faithful to the love Christ has shown us by the way we love those around us. Let our love point to you Lord and the saving power of your death on the Cross.

In particular let us reflect upon Merv's message this morning, and we ask you to inspire us with the fire of Your Spirit so that we can join with the disciples Peter and John when they said... We cannot help but speak about things that we have seen and heard.

REAL CHURCH. We pray for those who are in leadership in our Anglican church here in Canada including in particular our Primate Linda Nichols and our Bishop Geoff Woodcroft. And in the worldwide Anglican community we pray specifically for the Church of Bangladesh and all Parishes of our companion Diocese of Central Buganda in Uganda. Within our own Diocese we lift up all congregations, missions, and ministries.

St. Aidan's. Here at St Aidan's we give thanks for all in positions of leadership including our Interim Rector Pastor Merv. We pray in particular that you strengthen, sustain and protect him as he leads our Parish in this difficult time of transition. We also pray for the new Rector that has not yet been revealed to us. We pray that your divine wisdom and discernment will inform all those involved from our Parish and Diocese in the selection process. We ask that you bring to our congregation a person that is someone who is a person after your own heart, someone who is strong and courageous in the teaching and proclamation of the gospel. [*save for another time*....I am reminded of King David's exhortation to his son Solomon

and we claim this exhortation for our new rector. "Be strong and courageous, and do the work of the Lord. Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD God, our God, will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you until all the work for the service of the temple of the LORD is finished.]

Free us from our own Agendas in our path forward at St Aidan's and let us remember the words of Psalm 127:1... *Unless the Lord builds the house those who build it labour in vain... Unless the Lord builds the house those who build it labour in vain.* Let us truly seek to build what you Lord would have us build at St. Aidan's. To that end we affirm the words from our Lord's Prayer **Not my will, but your will be done..**

REAL LIVES. We lift up the people of Israel and Gaza who are engaged in such a deadly struggle, and the people of Ukraine as they continue to battle against oppression and injustice. We pray for those who are refugees, who are homeless, who need food and shelter. For those who are hostages, that they would be set free. We ask that you in your power bring an end to these wars and that you would bring enduring peace and healing to these troubled lands.

And Lord we pray for our City, for the many social problems we face that seem unsolvable. We ask that you restore all neighborhoods within our City, to places of peace and safety free from crime, violence and any form of addiction. In the words of Jeremiah, we seek and earnestly pray for the welfare of the City in which we live. We again pray that deep and lasting solutions can be found so that we may all live in peace and safety.

Missions: We pray for all the teachers, administrators, and board members of the St Aidan's Christian School. May the Lord continue to equip, encourage, and protect them all. We ask that the Lord will reveal himself to all the students, and minister in and through them daily. Pray that our three grade 12 students will attend school, and get their work done so they can graduate!!

We pray for those who can no longer worship in person with us because they are in hospital, personal care homes, or because they are homebound: We remember Barbara, Bill, Carol, Cath, Deb,

Elizabeth, Harold, Joy, Kathy and David, Margaret, Pam, Pearl, Ruth and Sue.

[*Possibly pause here to offer other names.*]

We remember and give thanks for those recently departed in Christ, and for those whose anniversaries of death occur at this time.

We offer these prayers confidently and expectantly knowing that you hear our prayers and answer our prayers.

In the name of Your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN