Prayers of the People. West Point Grey United Church
Jan. 25 1998

God of all, your people Israel sang in their time of how the heavens declared your glory and the firmament showed your handiwork.

Now would they characterize the UNIVERSE that we, in our time keep hearing about?

GOD OF ALL: it is you we gather to meet. To become aware again that it is with you that all life has to do. We are dealing with your words all the time, but we need to know YOU and know ourselves known by you.

Now as we gather up our thoughts for a word with you, we find that we are a confusion of words & words, some vital some banal, and we're not sure which are which.

But we remember that you promised us hearts of flesh for our hearts of stone. If you could manage to get us to receive that gift — there isn't much more we'd need to ask for. If you could keep our hearts of flesh from turning to stone, if you could keep us loving, no matter how we try to get out of it, then everything else would follow.

God - in your love

Gracious God, we come to you with a confusion of burdens. We take flight from the burdens you call us to, and cling to the ones we should be casting on you.

Gracious God, you have given us to each other,
in this congregation
in our neighborhood
and in the planet Earth.
Empower us to receive these gifts.
" " to bear each other's burdens
to receive each other in ministries.
If you can get us to be like that ...
everything else will follow.

God in your mercy —

God of mercy — We take time to remember before you the forgotten ones, as well as the ones who weigh heavy on our hearts

Poor
Imprisoned
Homeless
Lonely, esp lonely old
Employment cut off
Health & well being cut off

} these aren't abstractions o God We can name some of them.

Jan 25

God of Justice

We remember those who have charge over us
Position of leadership & influence.

Keep us praying for them.
" " carry for them — that they might
never feel abandoned in their difficult
decision making.

Do pray especially for the Peace Makers
they are having a tough encounter.

—

We remember the Principalities & Powers
that seem to be running off with the World
account table to us all.

Rise up servants of God with the wisdom
and perseverance to manifest your Victory
over the Powers of destruction. Give us
eyes to see this redemptive drama near
and live ready to receive it.

God in your love

West Point Grey United Church
Prayers of the People Sunday Mar 10

(1)

Gracious God

Renew a right spirit within us. Fit us for living well the life that is before us. Provide in us the kind of courage that is adequate for the times our idealized high-minded vision crashes into reality in all its brokenness — whether it has to do with our relationship with our loved ones: where the opinionated are many who know just what we should have done while we don't — Whether it has to do with our Vocation where the exalteration of economic & social change confounds the fulfilling of it. -- Whether it has to do with our neighbourliness where the neighborhood we knew is vanishing.

Our Courage to be Fails us. We take refuge in withdrawal and complaint.

How well we know the blessed words — "Perfect Love casts out fear"

The courage we seek is your knowledge-surpassing love of the world. With that in our hearts we can do anything. we can bear anything. With that love in our hearts people would be glad to have us around

God in your mercy —

Almighty God - Father & Mother of All
Hear our prayer for the Church. We remember the Church in Belgium, Luxembourg & the Netherlands, We name these because of a WCC programme to help us remember the church throughout the world. And we remember the World because you said you created your people not to serve themselves but to bless the world. — Our prayer for the church is a prayer for the world

HOLY GOD pour out your Holy Spirit on the Church
so that it will recognize your Glory in the Crucified one
so that it will not use its piety to escape your glory

...2

so that it never ceases to attack the gates of hell.
Pour out your Holy Spirit on the Church
so that it becomes a high and lifted up witness
to your love of sinners.
and lest it so neglect its power of the keys that
some are excluded from the kingdom,

God, we ask this of us not them - as though
the Church was someone else.

God in your Mercy -

Gracious God -
We remember one another. May each one here
know his and her cries lifted up. May each one here
know himself/himself known so that there be not one
isolated sufferer in our midst. May each one of
know himself/himself received. Let not our hearts be
closed to those with whom we are in contention.
Hear our prayers for the members of our
company whom we cannot seem to help, because
they so ill or so troubled. For the bearing of
one another grant us all hearts of flesh. and
save us from ever choosing again to have hearts
of stone.

God in your Mercy.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ.

And now as our saviour has taught us

we pray

West Point Grey United Church : Prayers of the People

May 15 1998

Living God

We don't know why we spend so much of life for that which doesn't satisfy! We cannot number the things in this world that don't satisfy.

That is why we keep coming back each sunday. To get our values straightened out.

Life is a cry for what is of true worth.

We bring that cry for true worth to you - Living God.

We need to be found, again & again by a knowledge of you Living and active

you rule the Universe. If your name is LOVE that is why we cannot satisfy ourselves by trying to satisfy ourselves.

If your name is LOVE, To know you is to reach out in loving care to others & the world, To be living creatures with the delicate balance of life.

Living God. The hearts of flesh we grow for ~~ourselves~~ quickly Turns to stone,

You give us a loving heart

That will make all things NEW

God - in your love

Mar 15 1998

Gracious God

Only in the knowledge of you can we maintain a caring heart for each other and for the world. Only in a state of prayer can we keep our hearts open to the suffering and waywardness of the world.

So we bring each other's cries to you. Those rising now in our midst // those to be heard in our city // and those to be heard round the world.

Only as we bear each others burdens do our burdens become light.

So instead of finding fault and complaining we bring before you all who hunger + thirst for righteousness, uphold the peacemakers + strengthen the servants of justice who labour faithfully in hidden or prominent places.

~~Loving God~~ →

God, in your love →

Prayer of Penal

Nov. 15 98 page 3

Loving God

We ask your blessing before we leave
our lives need blessing,

By the time your good gifts get touched
by our hands they are tainted,

By the time our good deeds get done
there is something wrong with them,

Our generosity is contaminated by extravagance
our conservation is corrupted by meanness
our helping hands hide aggression
our letting go masks neglect.

God, bless the gifts you have bestowed - bless
our use of them,

God, bless the work of our hands - make it a
blessing to others,

God, bless our love. make it a blessing
to those we love

Through J.C.

Prayers of the People WPG United Church April 19 98

Almighty God,
Ruler of the Universe
Giver of life.
Now is the time we all come with our cops. You know what each one of us wishes to utter out of our troubled hearts. But WE don't know it of each other. Deepen our awareness of each other. Deepen our knowledge of each other. . . . so that we all know ourselves known, so that we make a common supplication unto you.

We're hurting, we're grieving, we're tired, we're frightened easily, left behind, we're trying to be good, we'd like to be responsible, we'd like our love to be without dissimulation. We'd like to repair all the harm we have done.

God, in your love →

hold, we believe, help our unbelief. The life we see in Christ, the crucified one, is enormously winsome. But we're not up to it unless he is your idea. Unless you put him Unless he is your reason unless you reveal him up.

It is the smoking flax of our faith that we most need to be fanned into a flame. That is why we're here. That is why we pray for the church. The one in this place and everywhere else. That we will be to each other the means to believe.

in order that we might have life in Christ's name.

God, in your love →

Gracious God, in concert with the congregation & the World Council of Churches, we pray for the church in Brazil. Quench not its smoking flax but fan its ministry to a flame — as that country faces the call to stewardship of its rain forests and responsible for land reform in the face of murderous opposition.

God in your love →

Renew and strengthen the commitment to peace in the hearts of the peoples who lives are engulfed in violence & strife. We have been blessed with a number of hopeful signs lately Hear the cries of those engulfed that this frail promise will not fail. Sustain the United Nations Security Council in its watchfulness lest the unrest in Rwanda flair up again. Speed on the first steps in the dialogue between North and south Korea. Increase the signs of promise for an accord in Cambodia, affirm the accord wrought by the contesting parties in North Ireland. Breathe life into the peace process in that land so much of the world thinks of as the HOLY LAND.

God in your love →

Now as our savior taught us we pray

Prayers of the People WPC United Church April 19 98

Almighty God,
Ruler of the Universe
Giver of Life.
Now is the time we all come with our cups, you know what each one of us wishes to utter out of our troubled hearts. But WE don't know it of each other. Deepen our awareness of each other. Deepen our knowledge of each other... so that we all know ourselves known, so that we make a common supplication unto you.
We're hurting, we're grieving, we're tired, we're frightened lonely, left behind, we're trying to be good, we'd like to be responsible, we'd like our love to be without dissimulation. We'd like to repair all the harm we have done.
God, in your love →

Lord, we believe, help our unbelief. The life we see in Christ (the crucified one) is enormously winsome. But we're not up to it unless he is your idea. Unless you sent him. Unless he is your person unless you raised him up.
It is the smoking flax of our faith that we most need to be fanned into a flame. That is why we're here. That is why we pray for the church, the one in this place and everywhere else. That we will be to each other the means to believe.

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God in your love →

Now as our Savior taught us we pray

Prayers of the People @ PGUE Sunday June 7 &

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Gracious God:

You've got people gathered here with
matters on their hearts. Hear our prayers
and let our cries come up to you.

We've got loved ones we care about
We worry about them, we don't always
do well by them. Some one troubled
in ways which are beyond our help.

We've got other lives that impinge
on ours that we wish would go away
whose burdens we search for ways not
to ~~[illegible]~~ bear

We're tired
We're lonely
We're afraid
We're dissatisfied with the way things
are
We long for a better life.

Most of all, we long for a knowledge
of you, and to know ourselves known
by you.

God, if we really knew ourselves forgiven
We could embrace life
and genuinely love our neighbor -

God - in your mercy

God of all

a lot of us are worried that the ruling spirit of the Western World is not good! And the rest of the world seems to be bent on being like us.

Peoples and Powers are imagining vain things all over the place. And this is dehumanizing humans. Acting as lords of Creation, instead of part of creation, we humans are defying creations laws,

Emboldened by our technological skill in conquering nature, we turn the earth's resources into things and ourselves into consumers of things. Driven by an economic engine of world wide power we rob all life of its intrinsic worth. Including human life, especially.

we rob human life of its intrinsic worth.

God of all: This Spirit is overwhelmingly powerful everywhere. It's more than we can handle.

Hear our cry O God even as we sound like Elija of old crying that we are the only faithful ones left.

Equip us O God to think your thoughts after you. no matter how grim the same and show us our part in the remote corner where we live & love and work God in your mercy —

Gracious God

Give us eyes to see some of the many labourers in your vineyard. Keep their hearts. May they know their faithfulness known.

Give us hearts to embrace the life we've got and the tasks within our reach.

for then we find ourselves embracing many deep blessings
then we find ourselves embracing a wondrously rich life.

God in your mercy ⟶

Now as our Saviour has taught us

We pray.

Prayers of the People -
West Point Grey United Church
West Point Grey Presbyterian Church
Aug 9 1998

Almighty God.

Since we are to have words with you,
Let's not waste them. Do bring a confusing
list of petitions. Our wants & needs are
many. But we need to sort out the ones
that really matter. Do quickly tire of
our whining & complaining. We'd feel
better if our praying words actually
expressed the genuine longing of our hearts
that would be praying.

Lord teach us to pray.

We have loved ones we care about and worry
about
Some are in trouble with their health
" " " " relationships
Some are having a serious problem
over their work or earning power
Some are having deep trouble with their
marriages
Keep them loved ones on our hearts and
keep our cries on their behalf.

Dear God - We're worried about our own
meanings. Some of you live one gravely

threatened with meaninglessness.

Perhaps our deepest longing is that we come down where we ought to be.
That would be good – that would be very good
Then we'd be in position to hear your living word, Then we'd be where we could be built up by your Holy Spirit.

God in your Mercy →

God of All:
We can't be having REAL words with the REAL you without bringing up the word you love.

God hear the cries of the vast numbers of people who suffer from famine
flooding — ethnic + religious + tribe
earthquake — war fare
fire.
restlessness

And we pray for the selfless individuals & groups who serve in these ones of need.
May they not be confounded
and don't let us forget them.

Lord Hear our prayer —

God of All – we pray for the life system of our Planet. Give eloquence & wisdom to all those who are trying to awaken the rest of us

to our responsibility for stewardship
of the earth and its creatures.

We pray for the economy. You taught us
to pray for our daily bread. Principalities
and powers are imaging vain things ~~over the place~~ that frustrate countless numbers
from receiving daily bread.
Give us all, especially the world's leaders
the will and the insight to bring the
economy to the service of the world's people.

God in Your mercy ⟶

Gracious God — We pray for the Church.
What a time for it to be running where it
hasn't been sent, what a time for it to
miss its calling because it is busy with
traditions.
God, you can present the church
to yourself without spot or wrinkle or
any such thing - work some of that now
in our midst - and in all the churches.

God in your Mercy ⟶

Now as our Savior taught us

We pray

West Point Grey United Church
Prayers of the People Oct 18 1998

God of the Universe:
We've set aside this time to have a word with you. When the real nature of what we propose here dawns on us, we slow down. We're not sure our cries are appropriate.

But Jesus' word to us is to keep at it. Maybe if we keep going we'll hit upon something we really mean, and really approve of.

Gracious God we raise our cries unto you for the very reason they need sorting out.

God, there are things about ourselves that we are not pleased with. Some of our cries are rather more like a whimper. Some of our love relationships have worn pretty thin, especially when pain is involved. Some of our rages are not about the right things and we are too often in flight from the right things.

So we're back, asking to be made new! and asking for eyes to see where grace abounds to empower us to become new.

God - in your mercy — [redacted]

Prayers of People Oct 18 '98 (2)

Almighty God, Father + Mother of all

Things are happening to each of us that are overwhelming, so we pray for one another we lift each other's ~~cares~~ unto you

Hear the cries of the lonely and give us ears to hear them. Give us hearts of flesh that will become one another, that we leave no one out.

Hear the cries of those for whom growing older is bringing changes that decrease restrict and limit. Support them in these twilight years with a fresh awareness that nothing can separate us from your love.

Watch over the young, with their fears and anxieties, their joys + triumphs. Teach us how to receive each other so that we know membership in your kingdom together.

God in your mercy ——

God of the universe, we pray for the Church our West Point Grey United Church. The Church throughout Canada + The World This Sunday of the year we remember BURUNDI, RWANDA, + ZAIRE. Dear God Africa must be very much on your heart. You must have a role ~~for~~ for the Church there as

Well as here. Give us all ears to hear what you want your people at. Save us from running when we haven't been sent. So place on our hearts where you want us at that we pursue the call with the persistence of the widow in Jesus Parable.

God, in your mercy

God of all: We remember the World
The life of our planet earth and the living beings in it. Here is another matter where we need the widow's persistence
In the midst of all the confused conflict about the environment. It is easy for us to give up on our responsibility for the stewardship
And our hearts should harden against the enormity of human need
Keep us praying for the needy of the world the homeless, the hungry, the Impoverished, the Tyrannized.
Keep us praying for the peace of the World
God, watch over the little baby steps, to peace in Palestine, let not that effort stop or fail
And also in Yugoslavia, we join our prayers to the cries of the people there. May peace come before the current horror stories of slavery reinforce the centuries old hatred like between these peoples. Don't give up on these people as you don't let us give up. GOD, IN YOUR MERCY