

PRAYERS FOR JANUARY 19, 2025

With faith we pray to God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, saying: *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

Let us pray for our local Christian communities, our churches and ecumenical groups; for those here present, and those who are absent from our assembly today. Lord, forgive us when we are indifferent to each other, and bring your healing to the wounds and divisions that keep us apart. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

Let us pray for a deeper appreciation of our common baptism into the one body of Christ. Lord, sustain each of us and our communities as we continue on the path towards the unity you desire for all your disciples. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

We pray for the leaders and those in power. Guide them and us to be joint participants, to work as you intend - for righteousness, justice, compassion, truth and peace including all, just as your Son, Jesus showed us. We thank you that these promises and commitments are common to all faith traditions. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

We pray for the church: for our Bishops Susan and Kathy, Bishop Anna, Anglican Primate Anne Germond, all pastors, deacons, and lay leaders, musicians and volunteers. We pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, our sister congregation in Peru and Pastor Ana Maria Jara; Faith Lutheran in Kelowna - Rev. Brian Krushel, Gloria Dei Lutheran in North Vancouver – Rev. Veda Jaugelis. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

With so many emotions and uncertainties laced with hope at the news of the agreed cease-fire between Hamas and Israel, we pray for the cessation of violence moving towards peace, and successful exchange/return of hostages, prisoners and dead. As ever, civilians on all sides have seen the highest casualties, while young men and women have died paying for old men's power strategies. We pray urgently for the dissipation of fear, hatred and distrust in all communities. Only your love, God, can lead us to this new way. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

We admit our silent acquiescence makes us reluctant participants in these conflicts: Forgive us Lord, and lead us in Your ways of justice and peace;

Ukraine, Russia, North Korea and adjoining countries; the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Sudans, the death-producing drug cartels in Mexico, Colombia, China, Afghanistan and so many other countries. In this context, too often sexual violence including rape and femicide against women and children are normalised. We admit our silent acquiescence makes us reluctant participants in these atrocities: Forgive us Lord, and lead us in your ways of justice, righteousness and peace. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

We pray for people, nature and countries throughout the world suffering catastrophic climate-related events: the devastating wind-driven fires in California, and freezing temperatures in Eastern states and provinces; floods in Europe, especially in Mayotte (French Indian Ocean territory) near Mozambique which flooded for the 3rd time in weeks; continuing droughts in the Sahel, Sudan and South Sudan, and South Africa; ice melting at the polar caps while the world's temperatures continue to rise. We admit our silence and reluctance to change our behaviours makes us contributory participants to these events; Forgive us Lord, and lead us in Your ways of care for the environment You provide for us; and compassion for our brothers and sisters, near and far. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

For all who are discouraged, lonely, suffering and ill, especially Pr. Kristin Steele and Dawn's nephew Christopher, that the Spirit of God's love will strengthen them and bring them to wholeness quickly: for all whose lives are disrupted by homelessness, addictions and violence: For all who have lost homes and community and become refugees: that God will protect them, guide them to food and shelter and help them develop new relationships. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

Let us pray for the merciful folk and endow them with your sustaining grace; those who treat diseases, bind up wounds, feed the hungry, re-settle the homeless, care for the orphan, visit the prisoner, encourage the handicapped, watch with the dying and grieve with the sorrowful. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

Let us pray in thanksgiving for those who, inspired by You, Lord, have held an important place in our lives of faith, and for all who have reflected your forgiveness, compassion and love. May their gifts and generosity inspire our own desire to give and to serve with our lives. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

Let us pray for unity in all Christian churches and communities as we ask for your help Lord, so that one day we may be able to gather together around the table and share our common heritage, mutual respect, love and fellowship of holy communion. *God of light and glory....* **hear our prayer**

God in Community, Holy in One, make us one Body from many as we pray as Jesus teaches us, saying, **Our Father ...**

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