

Prayers of the People. April 25, 2021. First Presbyterian Church Portage.

Let's join our hearts and minds together in prayer:

We magnify You, O Lord, we exalt Your name, for You are great and highly to be praised. We praise You for the glorious splendour of Your majesty and the power of Your awe - inspiring acts. Your power is unlimited... Absolute... beyond imagining. You are able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or dream of. "There is nothing too hard for You" Who is like You, "majestic in holiness, awesome in praises, working wonders"?

O Lord Most High, You rule over the heavens and the earth, for You made all things by Your great power, and You keep them existing and working by Your mighty Word. You are exalted high above every star and galaxy in the entire Cosmo... Yet You are also "the God of all human kind," the great, personality present, personally involved God who loves, rescues, and takes care of all who trust You.

You exercise Your gracious authority over all nations – – and over each individual in all the world. There is none like You, the true God, the living God, the everlasting King.

We praise You for Your sovereignty over the broad events of our lives and over the details. With You, nothing is accidental, nothing is incidental, and no experience is wasted. You hold in Your own power our breath of life and all our destinies. And every trial that You allow to happen is a platform on which You reveal Yourself, showing Your love and power, both to us and to others looking on. Thank You that we can move into the future non-defensively, with hands outstretched to whatever lies ahead, for You hold the future and You will always be with us, even to our old age... And through all eternity.

Heavenly Father, Your Word cautions us to be self controlled and alert because our enemy the devil is prowling around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour, and that we need to resist him as we stand firm in the faith. We ask You to help us remain alert to the hurdles in our lives that the enemy wants to use to destroy our prayer potential. Help us to resist him as we stand firm in our faith. Let Your Holy Spirit show us where we are being deceived in our attitude toward prayer and the Word so that we can understand and practice true and effective prayer.

Almighty God, our Father, we approach You with the deepest reverence – – with holy boldness. We do this because Your house should be called the place of prayer for all nations and You have invited us to come to the throne of grace. We thank You. We pray not to inform You, for You know all things perfectly. We pray, not to change Your purposes, for You alone do all things well. We pray because we are entirely dependent upon You for life, health, comfort, protection in the storms of life, and strength to wisely face the pressures of life. We pray that You will preserve us, each one, from a foolish act by which others stumble, that Your name be not blasphemed, that Your people be not grieved, that the unredeemed be not further hardened, that none of us be found to be a hypocrite on judgement day.

Show us what sins hide Your face from us, eclipsing Your love. We confess our open and secret sins even now as Your blessed Holy Spirit confronts us. Thank You for Your pardoning, healing, cleansing grace. Repentant and forgiven, we endeavour with Your help to walk with care in the paths of righteousness. Lord You know that locked in the hearts of many of us today are fears, hurts, unanswered questions, unmet needs – – burdens that are heavy to bear.

You know each situation and as we now cast our cares upon You, may we experience enabling Grace.

Comfort the grieving, particularly those who mourn most deeply. May Your grace rest in great measure upon them. Sustain those who are ill and those who care for them. Bless the efforts of all who are doing good for the needy. We join the Psalmist in praising You; Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the highest heavens. You have done such wonderful things. You have allowed us to suffer much hardship, but You will restore us to life again.

Compassionate God, we would bring our special request to You in silence. (WAIT) Lord hear our prayers.

All knowing God, You made us the way we are for a reason, for a purpose. You are the author and finisher of our faith. For now and always You are there to help us. We are not afraid when our hand is in Yours. Thank You for leading us out of the darkness into the light of Your Word. Like Esther, we have been brought to this place in our life for such a time as this. We

expectantly wait to hear from You, to see You, to serve You. Thank You for this opportunity to make a difference in this world and to show others how awesome You are. Direct us on the path of Your choosing. Our feet are waiting to follow Your command.

Father, You are the Lord God all- powerful, who is like You? You are completely trustworthy and we submit ourselves to You. We live under Your protection, God most high, and stay in Your shadow, God all- powerful. You want everything to be done peacefully and in order. All authority comes from You and those in positions of authority have been placed there by You. We pray for the rulers and all who have authority so we can live a quiet and peaceful life full of godliness and dignity.

Healing God, we thank you for the development of the vaccine for COVID-19. We do have concerns about the variants And the new challenges that they present. We thank You for protecting us. We so need to continue having Your help and assurance. We leave it in Your hands.

Loving God, we thank You for the leadership in First Church and Knox Church Neepawa, for those that lead in ministry, music, finances and maintenance, fundraising and the session. Continue to bless John as he serves You here at First Church. We ask that You would help each one of us to do our part in meeting the needs of these congregations and Churches.

Go with us as we leave this time of worship. Help us to be a "conduit" for Your love. May our lives be such that others will want to share the hope that we have. Bless us as we go our separate ways throughout this week and make us a blessing to others. We will be careful to give You all the honour and glory for we ask these things in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.