

**Prayers of the People. Pentecost Sunday. May 23, 2021. First
Presbyterian Church Portage la Prairie.**

Let's engage our hearts and minds in prayer:

Heavenly Father, how majestic Your name is! Your Word says that at the name of Jesus every Knee will bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord over everything. Jesus said if we ask for anything in His name You will do it. We know that we cannot ask in Jesus' name unless we ask according to Your will. However, we also know that when we ask in Your Son's name, He will present our request to You properly. He will pray for us when we don't know how, Lord, we ask that Your will be done. There is no name by which we make our request but the name of Jesus. We call on the power of His name to meet all our needs.

Thank You, Father, that You so loved the world that You gave Your One and only Son, our Lord Jesus Christ... That when the time had fully come, He wrapped Himself in human form, being born as a helpless baby in a poor family. Thank You that He walked here on earth radiating the brightness of Your glory and flawlessly expressing Your nature... And so, through Him, people saw You in action, involved with them, available to meet their needs. Thank You that He focussed Your almighty power into the lives of common people with deep needs, just like us...that He preached the gospel to the poor, proclaimed freedom to prisoners of sin and recovery of sight to the blind, and set free the oppressed victims of sin and Satan – – the downtrodden, the lost, the hurting, the broken. Thank You for the way He rebuked the arrogant and looked with favour on the humble minded, opening wide the doors of His kingdom to those who were destitute and helpless in spirit. We delight in Your tender mercies, O our God, by which the sunrise from on high has come to us!

Thank You that through the Gospels we can watch this beloved one walk among the ordinary people. We can hear the gracious words that came from His lips. We can see His compassion and tenderness towards needy people, His anger at hypocrisy, His faithfulness, His intense love for His followers.

Fairest Lord Jesus! You alone are our heart's desire... Our chief delight... Our soul's glory, joy and crown. Every advantage life can offer is like rubbish compared with the overwhelming gain of knowing You. You are worthy, Lord -- worthy to be thanked and praised and worshiped and adored.

God who promises the Holy Comforter, we praise Your holy name for Your marvellous loving-kindness and Your many gifts. Especially this Pentecost Sunday, we give You thanks for the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said "I will not leave you as orphans; the Father will give you the Holy Spirit, who will never leave you and will lead you into all truth."

And so we praise You, Father God, for all the gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit bestowed on believers and manifested in the lives of those who walk by faith. We thank You for love, joy, peace, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance, and patience - may such fruits be found in great quantity in these congregations. We praise You for all who through the Holy Spirit have been convinced of sin and led to repentance. We praise You for all who by the Holy Spirit's indwelling are enabled to live a holier more Christ-like lives. Continue Your gracious work in our lives. Indwell us as power -- expelling every desire to sin, enabling us to live victoriously. Indwell us as sanctifier -- reigning supreme in every aspect of our lives. Indwell us as teachers -- leading us to a better understanding of our salvation. Indwell us as our Advocate, that we may never grieve You nor resist You. Grant that through the Holy Spirit we may be enabled to live and walk in this world as those who are no longer in bondage to sin -- but set at liberty in Christ, with our eyes set on our eternal home, praising the ever-living God who meets the needs of His people.

Holy Spirit, empower us to testify about Jesus. We covenant with our eyes to look for God's goodness in people. We covenant with our hands to do good and with our tongue to do no harm. We covenant with our arms to reach lovingly towards those who have been cast aside and with our feet to walk in places where Jesus would have walked. Holy Spirit, Holy God, today we make a covenant with You to look for opportunities to share our faith with others.

God of mercy, God of Grace, in this time of pandemic, as we think of the congregations of First Church and Knox Church Neepawa, we pray that You will

comfort all those who are in need, in Sorrow or sickness. Bind up the injured, heal the sick and inspire those whose faith is shattered, those feeling alone, those feeling isolated, those whose hearts are broken. We especially pray for those who suffer from mental illnesses, Lord. Now Lord in our silence we pray for those people and concerns that are foremost on our minds: _____.
Lord hear our prayers!

God of compassion, we bring before You the number of conflicts that are going on in our world. We think especially of the Israeli /Palestinian conflict. We know that You are in control and we ask You to somehow intervene so that so many innocent people are not being killed. It is very difficult for us to understand all that is involved in these conflicts. We ask that You in Your tender mercies and infinite wisdom will bring resolution to them. We pray that Your will be done.

Heavenly Father, we pray for the institution of family, that parents will take the responsibility that is afforded them in being in a position of authority and that they will bring up their children in the way of the Lord. We also pray that children will honour their father and mother as You have commanded. May all of us as part of the village, take a role in helping to raise the children.

Father God, the Provider, we pray for our farmers and the planting season. You have Provided us with some good weather, and for that we are thankful. You know how much we need rain to get our crops growing to feed the world. We leave the request in Your capable hands.

Father, we look forward to the blessings You have planned for us in the coming week. Help us to recognize them and grow in our spiritual lives because of them. As we leave this time of worship we ask You to bless us and make us a blessing to others. We ask that Your will be done. For we ask these things in the precious name of Your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.