

## **Prayers of the People. June 27, 2021. First Presbyterian Church, Portage**

Father God, author and finisher of our faith, Source of every blessing we enjoy, how great are our privileges in Christ Jesus. We praise You. Bountiful is Your provision for all our needs – – our sin is that we do not appropriate what is available. You are able to keep us from stumbling. But as we review even this past week, we stumbled so many times: stumbled in relationships, stumbled with wrong attitudes, stumbled in temptation. Forgive us for stumbling when we need not have. Keep us from stumbling: be our arm of support, our strength, our stability. You have promised to present us blameless. When we consider our faults – – and think of being presented in glory faultless, we are overcome with gratitude to You, our Saviour, our comforter, our advocate – – thank you, thank you. You have said You would present us with great joy. O Lord, help us to finish the race set before each one of us – – to persevere, to walk in faith, to love You supremely, and like Abraham, to have an eye on that city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God, that we might be presented with great joy.

All this is promised because You alone are our Saviour – – we absolutely do not rely on anything or anyone but You. So fulfill this promise to us today: Unto Him that is able to keep you from stumbling, and to present you faultless before the presence of His glory, with exceeding joy, to the one and only God, our Saviour be glory and majesty, dominion and power both now and forever.

Thank you that Christ is our life, that we are a member of His body and a dwelling place of His Spirit. How privileged we are to be indwelt by Your glorious presence (by the whole Trinity Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) so that You can display Your excellence to those around us.

Thank You for the day when we let go of the whole burden of our sins and rested on the atoning work of Christ – – on the total payment He made for us on the cross ... And thank You that today, in that same simple way, we can let go of the whole burden of our lives and service ... Of all our relationships (past, present, and future) of our inadequacies and self-dependence, and rest on Your presence working in us through the Holy Spirit. How good it is to transfer these burdens from our shoulders to Yours, and to rest on You to work in us and for us and through us! We praise You for the gracious way You infuse us with inner strength through Christ ... And so we're ready for anything You want us to do, and we're equal to anything You allow to happen in our lives.

Thank You that we can give ourselves up to be led by You ... That we can go forth

praising and at rest letting you manage us and our days ... That we can joyfully depend on You throughout the day, expecting You to guide, to enlighten, to reprove, to teach, to use, and to do in us and with us what You desire ... That we can count upon You're working in us and through us as a fact, totally apart from sight or feeling ... That we can go forth praising and at rest, believing You and obeying You and ceasing from the burden of trying to manage ourselves without Your wisdom and power.

Thank you that we can throw the whole weight of our anxieties on You, for we are Your personal concern.

Merciful God, we live in a rebellious generation. Many feeling it is their right to sit in judgement of those in authority over them. Christians are no exception. We criticize the church, the Session, the minister, the song selection, the sermon. We would be far better off if we entered into the worship experience and let the Word of God sit in judgement of us. Being submissive to God ordained authority demonstrates faith. As we submit to God's line of authority, we are choosing to believe that God will protect us and bless us and it all will go well with us. We are also tempted to rebel against human authority. Lord, forgive us for the areas of our lives where we tend to rebel against authority, help us to demonstrate our faith in You through submission.

Father, we bring these two congregations First Church Portage and Knox Church Neepawa to You in prayer. We ask You to raise up those who have feelings of despair. Bless each of those who are members and adherents, and help each of us to be a blessing to each other. We pray for those who are suffering from physical ailments, those who are experiencing emotional or mental illnesses, those who are in mourning, help them in the process and give them peace. Each of us come with our many and varied needs, we are thankful that You will bear our burdens, if we but seek Your help. We thank You that You are all-knowing and an understanding God and we thank You for the opportunity to bring to You our special requests, and that we can do it in the silence of this time. ( WAIT ) Lord, hear our prayers, and draw us closer to You.

We thank You for the Summer and all that Summer brings, a time to renew our energy, to bask in the warmth of the sun's energy, to marvel at the lush growth that the earth provides. We also know it can be a time of spiritual stagnation. Help us to practise our spiritual disciplines, and to continue making spiritual connections with other churches, other believers and each other during this time. We pray that the combined services will be a blessing to all. We would ask for protection for

all, especially our children who can be real risk takers when they have so much time on their hands.

God of wonder, God of understanding, and all powerful God. We once again bring the COVID-19 virus to You. We thank You for the vaccine, for the frontline workers and family that have been so supportive to us during this time. We pray for those families who have lost loved ones or have people in the hospital in ICU, we pray that You will be ever near to them and grant them peace. We thank You for the protection You have given us and the level of peace and for reducing our anxiety. We want to give You the glory for all the good things that have happened because of the healing that is taking place. We ask that Your Will be done in bringing the virus under control.

God of Compassion, this troubled world so needs your intervention. There is so much hatred and violence, so much anti-Semitism and growing resentment toward Asian peoples, so much killing and so much crime. We are so in need and so we say, "Come, Lord Jesus Come"!

Father God, we look forward to the blessings You have planned for us in the coming weeks. 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 Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.