

Rural Life Sunday May 5, 2024 - Prayers

Let us pray,

Creating God, provide us with all that we need to grow into who you have created us to be: As the earth nourishes seeds, may we be nourished by this gathered community and the assurance of your holy presence.

Let us pray for farmers who sow crops and tend animals with care to produce food for all. We remember especially farmers who struggle with the effects of climate change. Let us thank God for the family farm where children grow up in touch with the earth and its generous nourishing capacity, mirroring the very bountifulness of God. Let us strive to ensure that all children have contact with the earth and its growing potential. We pray for the future of family farming here, and in the whole world.

Through the work of farmers, may we appreciate anew the value of fresh produce, both for the taste of the good earth which it holds and for the health benefits it offers. Let us pray for those all over the world who support and feed their families through their own manual work on small family farms. May the earth yield its fruit in abundance to them.

We pray that governments throughout the world will encourage the continuation and development of farms. We pray today for those who have lost their land, especially for the first peoples of this place, treaty four and treaty six. May we learn to walk together in friendship, sharing the land our creator has given us all.

We pray for refugees, We pray for all those who miss their homelands. We pray for all who live in hunger and poverty.

Most provident God, you graciously give us all good gifts. Teach us to care for the earth; to till the soil responsibly, to keep our air pure, to free our waters from pollution, to harvest the warmth of the sun and to respect the rights of all species. May we willingly share the gifts of your goodness with all.

As the sun provides energy, leading seeds to transformation, may we find the courage to embrace new life through the example of Jesus. As water refreshes and replenishes growing seedlings, may we be restored by the movement of the spirit.

And now, let us pray as Jesus taught us,
(Lord's Prayer is sung)

Rev. Emily Carr