

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, January 6, 2019

At the beginning of this new year, we look back in gratitude and forward in hope and faith. We give thanks for the birth of the baby who became the extraordinary man Jesus. We give thanks for Clarence, Bruce and Hergy, and all who assume leadership in this parish. We welcome the Reverend Emily Smith and Patti Powell this morning.

God in each one of us: Hear our prayer

We pray for all who, like the Holy Family, cannot find room in the inn; for those millions without a home or food, safety, health, or freedom to worship as they wish, and for the poor who work, sometimes at several jobs, without earning sufficient for the needs of their families.

God in each one of us: Hear our prayer.

We pray for those we know who are sick or in need of prayers. Their names are found on the back page of the bulletin: We pray for Carolyn, Mary Gordon, George and JoAnne, Phyllis Hensch, Larry Jones, and Lukas. You may now name anyone dear to you, either silently or aloud. PAUSE We also remember our friends who have ongoing need of our prayers and thoughts: Connie, Rev. Gordon Dominey, Wayne Greggain, Bob and Jane Hammersma, Claire Nelson, Robert, Jeannette Schouls, and Chris Sooley.

God in each one of us: Hear our prayer

We give thanks for the work of so many who help to keep our parish functioning, especially today the volunteers who offer hospitality to all – the greeters who can make such a good first impression of welcome, and those who organise our coffee and tea so we can get to know one another better. We remember that we are all greeters and welcomers.

God in each one of us: Hear our prayer

We pray that this new year will be a time of reconciliation and healing of the many divisions in our world, for building bridges to bring nations and people together, for sharing the wealth, for creating ways to help heal our planet

God in each one of us: Hear our prayer

Give us, Great Spirit, a vision for our world as your love would make it – where the weak are protected and none are hungry or poor; where the goods of this life are shared and everyone can enjoy them; where different nations, races and cultures live in harmony and with mutual respect; where peace is built with justice, and justice is guided by love; and give us the courage and inspiration to build it. AMEN