

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE, January 7, 2018 by Maggie Scott

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 and Bruce, and all who have assumed leadership around the decisions to be made about the future of our church building.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer.**

We pray that this new year will be one of reconciliation and healing of the many divisions in our world, for building bridges to bring nations and people together rather than building walls to keep them apart, and may we be sure to do all we can to be part of this.

**God in each one of us: Hear our prayer.**

We remember our sisters and brothers in many parts of Canada and the U.S. suffering real hardship and even danger in the extreme cold. We acknowledge how fortunate we are here, enjoying a moderate climate, and with spring on the way.

**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 without a home, or work, food, safety, health or freedom to worship as they wish. We pray that somehow they may find a safe haven. At the same time, we give thanks for the new shelter here in Sechelt, such a great improvement, even if temporary, for the homeless people here on the Coast.

**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.