

January Prayer letter

We begin a New Year. A journey into new possibilities and hopes for the future. But also possibly with some fears and questions as we go into the unknown.

We remember that Jesus and his family were in danger and had to leave Bethlehem and flee for their lives. We read about this in Matthew chapter 2. They became refugees in a foreign land, like so many people are fleeing from danger in our world today. We particularly think of those trying to escape from the war in Ukraine.

Today we pray for those running because of war, because of abuse, because of poverty, and because of climate change.

We pray:

Christ, who is compassion,

God, who knows,

Spirit, who listens,

Triune God of love,

Forgive us for we too often do not know what others do,

And too often do not know how others suffer.

We pray for the desperate and powerless,

Those who are victims of the evil of violence of others,

Those caught in the evil of conflict,

Who know no safety but to flee home and country.

Many of us know little of their suffering, so we pray

That you open our minds and hearts,

That we might expand our awareness of suffering in your world.

May we seek to be agents for change and advocates for peace,

Giving what we can for aid and relief,

And advocating that refugees are treated in a fair and just way.

Awaken and disturb us with the stories of displaced and refugee people,

Those seeking safety or asylum,

That we might follow in your will and way,

To bring your love to bear through us,

In situations of strife and turmoil,

So that help might come to those in need of hope and care.

So, we pray.

Amen.

(Adapted from a prayer by Jon Humphries)

Rev Christa Megaw, Deacon in the Uniting Church in Australia.