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**Week of Prayer for Christian Unity - January 20-27, 2019**

**Dear Clergy, Religious, & Lay Faithful of the Diocese of Saskatoon:**

This week, January 20-27, we join with Christians around the world to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, asking the Holy Spirit to bring us together in ever-greater unity to give witness to the Gospel. On the night before He died, Jesus prayed that His followers “may all be one” as He and the Father are one, in order that the world might believe (John 17). Our witness to the world is especially powerful when Christians from many traditions join together in prayer and in action.


The theme of the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, from Deuteronomy 16: 18-20, is “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue” – a reminder of the importance of Christians working together to defend the most vulnerable in our world, and to serve the poor and the marginalized. As Christians continue to answer the call for justice together on many fronts in our community, we become ever more closely united in Christ, deepening our relationships as sisters and brothers, giving honour and glory to God.

Let us pray in the words of one of the resources prepared for this week: “Merciful Creator, We thank you for your persistent love and your patience with our brokenness. Help us to work for justice, as you have shown us through your prophets. Help us to be reconcilers, as You have reconciled us in Jesus Christ. Help us to work with you in the healing of the world. We pray through Christ, who comes reconciling and making new. Amen.”

Let our prayer and reflection this week renew our commitment and efforts in the coming New Year to be Christians who constantly strive in all things to have the same mind and heart of Jesus Christ, our one Lord and Saviour.

Blessings to you, sincerely,

✠ Most Reverend Mark A. Hagemoen  
Bishop of Saskatoon

 In all things we are *rooted in Christ*,  
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.