

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Last week, I invited you to join me in prayers for the United States' elected leaders, police, National Guard members, and others called to serve and protect. I also asked for prayers for our church leaders and others. Thankfully, the inauguration and accompanying activities at the Capitol in Washington, D. C., and the areas surrounding the state capitols, were overall calm and peaceful. Thank you for your prayers, for we know that prayers help! Now I pass along to you another opportunity to continue in prayer this week (See below).

The Wisconsin Council of Churches (WCC) has designated January 18-25, as the "Week of Prayer for Christian Unity." It occurs each year, "between the feasts of St. Peter and St. Paul. Its observance is over 100 years old." (All words in quotes are from the WCC website.) "This year's theme is 'Abide in my love...you shall bear much fruit' from John 15:1-17."

In light of this opportunity, I would like to invite you to participate in a ecumenical prayer service with our brothers and sisters in Christ. The service will be available Sunday morning (January 24, 2021), on the WCC Facebook page and YouTube channel. Once it is posted, you can watch it whenever you wish. The bulletin for the prayer service will be emailed to you Sunday morning, along with my sermon and our Sunday church bulletin. It will also be sent midweek via regular mail, along with my sermon and this letter, to those without internet access.

Per the WCC webpage, "A team of faith leaders in Wisconsin has compiled a prayer service based upon an adapted version of the international text. We offer this opportunity for ecumenical prayer to faith communities as a way [of] increasing the unity of the church, helping us grow in appreciation for its diversity..."

We thank God for the peace that surrounded national activities this week, and we gather through prayer as we look to the future as a time of hope, peace, reconciliation, trust, and unity.

Peace,

Pastor Cathy