

Our prayers this week & next are for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (18-25 January) as well as for some of the roles and ministries across the Diocese As 'People of Hope' we remain mindful of the implications of Covid-19, locally & globally. Let us also continue to pray for those in Ukraine suffering grievously, for all who take decisions around the world and for the people & leaders of Russia.

Sunday 15th January:

Pray for those who visited our churches during Christmastide, perhaps for the first time, that God will stir them to want to enquire more, and that they will feel welcomed by those already in the churches. Pray for new opportunities to reach out into our communities and to bring God's love to those in need.

Monday 16th: (Tuesday 17 January, 1-2pm. Join using this Zoom link (Meeting ID: 864 2187 8528. Passcode: 506337))

Pray for an online drop-in facilitated by Sally Bubbers, Bishop's Advisor for Pastoral Care, to be held tomorrow, for anyone affected by long Covid.

Merciful God, we entrust to your tender care those who are ill or in pain, knowing that whenever danger threatens, your everlasting arms are there to hold them safe. Comfort and heal them, and restore them to health and strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Tuesday 17th: (Charles Gore, Bishop, Founder of the Community of the Resurrection, 1932)

O God, our heavenly Father, who raised up your faithful servant Charles Gore to be a bishop and pastor in your Church and to feed your flock:

Give abundantly to all pastors the gifts of your Holy Spirit, that they may minister in your household as true servants of Christ and stewards of your divine mysteries; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Wednesday 18th: (18-25 January 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity begins today: <https://cte.org.uk/wpcu-2023/>)

Made in the image of God: We give them names: refugees, asylum seekers, migrants, economic migrants, some more welcome than others. But you know their human names because they are your kin, stamped with your image, divinely human. You made us, God, in your own image, and then became one of us, proud of those you have made.

Make us proud of being part of that worldwide family, and eager to discover and celebrate your image in every person, every culture, every nation that we are privileged to encounter. Amen

Thursday 19th: (Wulfstan, Bishop of Worcester, 1095) (18-25 January 2023 [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#))

That they may be one: Trample my courts no more, says the Lord, cease your offerings to me. I cannot endure your worship, it is too heavy to bear.

Put down your burden, release the load of others.

Rescue, defend, and plead as one, in my name, seek justice together.

God of Unity, forgive us when we are self-serving and help us to grow in unity and understanding as we extend your love and justice to all. Amen

Friday 20th: (Richard Rolle of Hampole, Spiritual Writer, 1349) (18-25 January 2023 [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#))

Difference: What is this noise? These meaningless festivals of falsehood, litanies of lip service and diatribes of doxologies, that seek to drown out the reality of poisonous polity, that hope to mask the clanging cymbals of fear and frailty. We do not seem to understand that disharmony is our downfall.

But in the midst of our din, God calls forth from each corner of this earth, songs of justice that roll down like waters – interwoven melody and haunting harmony deep enough to hold our dissonance and the unresolved tension of our journeys to this place.

Gracious and loving God, expand our vision that it may be wide enough to recognise the beautiful complexity of the tapestry you chose to weave with each and every one of us.

Gather our frayed edges, our loose ends and bind us together for your glory. Amen

Saturday 21st: (18-25 January 2023 [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#))

Lament: "Lament is a protest so deep that it must become a prayer, for only God can provide needed hope that justice will prevail and that the future will be different." (Rachel's Cry: Prayer of Lament and Rebirth of Hope, Kathleen D Billman & Daniel L Migliore, The Pilgrim Press 1999)

God of justice and of grace, remove the scales from my eyes so I can truly see the oppression around me, and give me courage not only to name it, but to fight it while providing authentic presence, witness, and compassion to the oppressed. Amen

To get these prayer points delivered to your mobile automatically via the free PrayerMate app on iOS & Android [click here](#)
For prayer resources for the worldwide church see the Anglican Cycle of prayer: anglicancommunion.org/resources/prayer.aspx