

**Prayer**  
**From the Christian Tradition**  
**Dedication Service: Governor Kim Reynolds and**  
**Lieutenant Governor Adam Gregg**

**January 17, 2019**

**Bishop Richard Pates**

At the heart of the Christian tradition is love. Jesus clearly assured us: “As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love.” (John 15; 9). This attribute is further extended: “This I command you: love one another.” (John 17)

This love has an objective dimension insofar as civil governing. The standard for such is based on truth, justice and peace. As Governor Reynolds and Lieutenant Gregg take on the executive reigns of Iowa government may they lead

. . . in truth so that government is transparent with the outcome that trust is built on every level of society;

. . . in justice embodying the unbending teaching that all people are equal. They stand before God as children and with us as brothers and sisters. May all injustice and inequality be erased within the Iowa family;

. . . in peace quashing debilitating fear so widespread today because of the presence of evil and the exercise of self-serving dominance.

Christian love is also experienced on the level of the individual person. May the Governor and Lieutenant Governor work to establish community that is anchored in the human reality that we all have need. Because of this universal condition, we benefit from compassion, mercy, kindness and understanding. So very often a second chance is called for in order to take hold of the strength and discipline that lies hidden within each person.

Tonight Governor Reynolds and Lieutenant Governor Gregg, we wish you only the best as you undertake the governing of the State of Iowa. May love and its roots in Christianity be a vision which guides you.

And so we pray:

**“O God, your message through Jesus is one of love intended to be carried out by his disciples in their particular vocation. Tonight we come to seek your blessing on Governor Reynolds and Lieutenant Governor Gregg as they respond to your calling expressed through electoral voices.**

**May their service be characterized by Christian love, exercised on behalf of your children, O God, all of whom are our brothers and sisters in the human family.**

**Amen**