

Leader With the words that Jesus taught us, let us now pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil .
For thine is the kingdom, the power,
and the glory for ever and ever. Amen**

Leader Be one, so that the world may believe! Abide in God's love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.

Congregation May the God of hope fill us with all joy and all peace in faith, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Final Hymn Father Lord of all creation

A service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

**Sunday 24th January
2021**

Welcome & Introduction

Hymn Breathe on me breath of God

The minister says

Leader May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always!

Congregation **And also with you.**

Reader 1 Brothers and sisters in Christ, this year the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, chosen by the sisters of the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, is: "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit".

Reader 2 It is the great desire of God, expressed by Jesus, that we might come to him and abide in him. He waits for us tirelessly, hoping that, united to him in love, we will bear fruit that will bring life to all, Faced with our differences, we risk withdrawing into ourselves and seeing only that which separates us. But let us listen to how Christ calls us to abide in his love, and so bear much fruit.

Reader 1 In the three moments of prayer that follow, we remember the call of Christ, we turn to his love, to him who is the centre of our life. For the path of unity begins in our intimate relationship with God. Abiding in God's love strengthens the desire to seek unity and reconciliation with others.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader O Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life for people who suffer in so many different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, life and goods with all those in need.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader Holy Spirit, you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate change. Guide us toward new behaviours. May we learn to live in harmony as part of your creation.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Moving to the centre... and out to the world

inspired by a text of Dorotheus of Gaza

Leader Jesus calls us to abide in him, as branches of the true vine. He calls us to bear the fruit of God's healing and reconciling love. He calls us to draw closer to God and to one another as we offer this love to the world.

Imagine a circle drawn on the ground. Imagine that this circle is the world.

At the centre of the world is God, in whom all our desires and longings find their meeting place.

As we move closer to God, so we draw closer to one another. And the closer we come to one another ...the closer we come to God

Reader Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions, contempt and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May the walls that separate us fall.

Congregation Lord have mercy

Reader Holy Spirit, Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation and bring us back from our wanderings.

Congregation Lord have mercy

Reader Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that we may welcome the unexpectedness of your grace.

Congregation Lord have mercy

Reader Holy Spirit, you never abandon the men, women and children who are persecuted for their fidelity to the gospel. Give them strength and courage, and support those who help them.

Congregation Lord have mercy

Sharing a Sign of Peace

The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it.

Let us exchange a sign of his peace with our neighbours.

Hymn Take this moment

Third Vigil - The unity of all peoples with all creation

Reading: Revelation 7: 9-12.

Homily

Intercessions

Reader God of life, you have created every human being in your image and likeness. We sing your praise for the gift of our many cultures, expressions of faith, traditions and ethnicities. Grant us the courage always to stand against injustice and hatred based on race, class, gender, religion, sexuality and fear of those not like ourselves.

God opens us up to those who are different from us. This is an important fruit, a gift of healing for the divisions within us, between us, and in the world.

Leader In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, you are the vinedresser who cares for us with love.

You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united to the vine, the beauty of each person.

And yet, too often the differences in others make us afraid.

We withdraw into ourselves.

Our trust in you is forsaken.

Enmity develops between us.

Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.

Grant us to live from your forgiveness

so that we may be together and praise your name.

Litany of praise

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all peoples,

Reader 2 We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise among suffering and tears,

Reader 2 We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;

Reader 2 We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,

Reader 2 We sing your praise in the midst of life and death, the birth of a new heaven and a new earth.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

First Vigil - Abiding in Christ: The unity of the whole person

Reading: John 15:1-17.

Chant Ubi Caritas

Intercessions

God of love, through Christ you said to us: "You did not choose me but I chose you." You seek us, you invite us to receive your friendship and abide in it. Teach us to respond more deeply to this invitation, and grow in a life that is ever more complete.

Congregation The joy of our heart is in God.

Reader God of life, you call us to be praise in the midst of the world and to welcome one another as a gift of your grace. May your loving gaze, which rests upon each person, open us to receive each other just as we are.

Congregation The joy of our heart is in God.

Reader God you who gather, you knit us together as one vine in your Son Jesus. May your loving Spirit abide in us at local church and community meetings and ecumenical gatherings. Grant that together we celebrate you with joy.

Congregation The joy of our heart is in God.

Reader God of the one vineyard, you call us to abide in your love in all we do and say. Touched by your goodness, grant us to be a reflection of that love in our homes and workplaces. May we bridge rivalries and overcome tensions.

Congregation The joy of our heart is in God.

Hymn Brother, sister let me serve you

Second Vigil - The visible unity of Christians
Psalm 85

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13a.

Chant There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism

Intercessions

Reader Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe".

Congregation Lord have mercy