

A Simple service of Daily Prayer for the week of Prayer for Christian Unity!

Day 1 Called by God

“You did not choose me but I chose you” (Jn 15:16a)

Gathering to worship God

Welcome and introduction

Greeting

Let us worship God: Creator, Word and Holy Spirit

All **Amen**

God is with you

All **And also with you.**

This is the day that God has made

All **We will rejoice and be glad in it.**

Opening Prayer

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 grace

so that we may be together and praise your name.

All **Amen**

Blessed is the Creator
All for God has heard the voice of our prayer;

Psalm for the day

Psalm 103

- 1 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and all that is within me bless his holy name.
- 2 Bless the Lord, O my soul, *
and forget not all his benefits;
- 3 Who forgives all your sins *
and heals all your infirmities;
- 4 Who redeems your life from the Pit *
and crowns you with faithful love and compassion;
- 5 Who satisfies you with good things, *
so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- 6 The Lord executes righteousness *
and judgement for all who are oppressed.
- 7 He made his ways known to Moses *
and his works to the children of Israel.
- 8 The Lord is full of compassion and mercy, *
slow to anger and of great kindness.
- 9 He will not always accuse us, *
neither will he keep his anger for ever.
- 10 He has not dealt with us according to our sins, *
nor rewarded us according to our wickedness.
- 11 For as the heavens are high above the earth, *
so great is his mercy upon those who fear him.
- 12 As far as the east is from the west, *
so far has he set our sins from us.
- 13 As a father has compassion on his children, *
so is the Lord merciful towards those who fear him.
- 14 For he knows of what we are made; *
he remembers that we are but dust.
- 15 Our days are but as grass; *
we flourish as a flower of the field;
- 16 For as soon as the wind goes over it, it is gone, *
and its place shall know it no more.
- 17 But the merciful goodness of the Lord is from of old
and endures for ever on those who fear him, *
and his righteousness on children's children;
- 18 On those who keep his covenant *

and remember his commandments to do them.
19 The Lord has established his throne in heaven, *
and his kingdom has dominion over all.
20 Bless the Lord, you angels of his, *
you mighty ones who do his bidding
and hearken to the voice of his word.
21 Bless the Lord, all you his hosts, *
you ministers of his who do his will.
22 Bless the Lord, all you works of his,
in all places of his dominion; *
bless the Lord, O my soul.

All Glory to God, Creator, Word, Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now,
And shall be forever. Amen

Readings

Gen 12:1-4

¹Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

⁴ So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

Jn 1:35-51

³⁵ The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, ³⁶and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' ³⁷The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. ³⁸When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' ³⁹He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. ⁴⁰One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. ⁴¹He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). ⁴²He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, 'Follow me.' ⁴⁴Now Philip was from Bethsaida, the city of Andrew and Peter. ⁴⁵Philip found Nathanael and said to him, 'We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote, Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth.' ⁴⁶Nathanael said to him, 'Can anything good come out of Nazareth?' Philip said to him, 'Come and see.' ⁴⁷When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' ⁴⁸Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' ⁴⁹Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God!

You are the King of Israel!’ ⁵⁰Jesus answered, ‘Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.’ ⁵¹And he said to him, ‘Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.’

Meditation

The start of the journey is an encounter between a human being and God, between the created and the Creator, between time and eternity. Abraham heard the call: “Go to the land I will show you.” Like Abraham we are called to leave that which is familiar and go to the place that God has prepared in the depths of our hearts. Along the way, we become more and more ourselves, the people God has wanted us to be from the beginning. And by following the call that is addressed to us, we become a blessing for our loved ones, our neighbours, and the world.

The love of God seeks us. God became human in Jesus, in whom we encounter the gaze of God. In our lives, as in the Gospel of John, God’s call is heard in different ways. Touched by his love, we set out. In this encounter, we walk a path of transformation – the bright beginning of a relationship of love that is always started anew. One day you understood that, without your being aware of it, a yes had already been inscribed in your innermost depths. And so you chose to go forward in the footsteps of Christ In silence in the presence of Christ, you heard him say, “Come, follow me; I will give you a place to rest your heart.”

The Sources of Taizé

Affirmation of faith

With the whole church

**All We affirm that we are made in God’s image,
Befriended by Christ,
Empowered by the Spirit**

With people everywhere

**All We affirm God’s goodness at the heart of humanity
Planted more deeply than all that is wrong**

With all creation

**All We celebrate the miracle and wonder of life;
The unfolding purposes of God, forever at work
In ourselves and the world**

Iona Abbey Worship Book

Prayers of Intercession

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.

All The joy of our heart is in God.

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.

All The joy of our heart is in God.

God who gathers us, you knit us together as one vine in your Son Jesus. May your loving Spirit abide in us in our churches and communities. Grant that together we celebrate you with joy.

All The joy of our heart is in God.

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.

All The joy of our heart is in God.

Gracious God,
All accept these prayers
In the name of our brother Jesus Christ.
Amen.

Collect (Prayer for the day)

Jesus Christ, you seek us,
you offer us your friendship,
and lead us to a life that is ever more complete.
Grant us the confidence to answer your call
so that we may be transformed
and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world.

All Amen.

The Disciple's Prayer

All Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name;
your kingdom come;
your will be done;
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Keep us from the time of trial
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power
and the glory, are yours
now and ever. Amen.

Going out to serve God

Let us go from our prayer to proclaim the good news in all we say and do

Let us go in peace to love and serve our loving God.

All Thanks be to God. Amen.

Day 1

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (for website, not daily prayers)

1. Abram begins his journey in Genesis 12 with a call from God: "Go to the land that I will show you." He is given a description of the future that would seem impossible if it was not God declaring it. Do you or your community speak of a future that seems almost impossible? What is that future?
2. Abram cannot enact this future alone. He relies on support from God, from friends, from family. What would your community need to enact your brighter future: courage, wisdom, patience? Make a list of what is needed, whether large or small, practical or abstract.
3. The dream that God offers both Abram and the disciples in John 1 is not a short-term goal, but a generations-long creation. When is a time that you worked on a long-term goal, and how did it feel at the beginning, middle, and end?