



## **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

January 24th, 2021 + 4pm

## **The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

Every year, Christians around the world are invited to celebrate a Week of Prayer for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship.

The international resources for 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, a group of religious sisters from different church traditions brought together by a common vocation of prayer, community life and hospitality and by their commitment to Christian unity.

The 2021 theme – Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9) – calls us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family, and with all of creation. Drawing on the Gospel image of vine and branches, it invites us to nourish unity with God and with one another through contemplative silence, prayer, and common action. Grafted into Christ the vine as many diverse branches, may we bear rich fruit and create new ways of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation.”

See more at [www.weekofprayer.ca](http://www.weekofprayer.ca) and [www.grandchamp.org/en/](http://www.grandchamp.org/en/)

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## **Welcome to the AbbeyChurch**

No matter who you are or what you are carrying today, know you are beloved and so very welcome here!

At the AbbeyChurch, we tell stories of faith, encourage hope, share meals, care for each other and for God's creation – and strive to practice the teachings of Jesus.

We're at different places in our faith journey - but we share a guiding sacred Story as found in scripture (The Bible) and summarized in ancient Christian creeds.

We share a willingness to honestly wrestle with God, and with our questions and doubts.

We invite diversity in our community and our leadership; old, young, rich, poor, conservative, liberal, radical, single, married, LGBTQ2IA+, straight, evangelical, progressives, overeducated, undereducated, overhoused, underhoused, certain, doubting, hurting, thriving (to name a few).

We believe that Christ's love binds our differences together in unity as we gather each week at Jesus' table of welcome.

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## **Tolling of the Bells / Welcome**

### **Land Acknowledgement**

As we gather to worship, we acknowledge that for thousands of years the Coast Salish, Nuuchah-nulth, and Kwakwaka'wakw peoples walk gently on the unceded territories where we now live, work, worship, and play. Recognizing and lamenting the harm of colonization, we seek ways to enter into new relationships based on gratitude, respect, truth-telling and justice.

*We invite you to take a moment to remember and name with gratitude the people who have stewarded the lands on which you live - at AbbeyChurch this is the land of the Lə kʷ ə ɲ ə n People, known today as the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations.*

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.

**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. **The joy of our heart is in God.**

God who gathers, you knit us together as one vine in your Son Jesus. May your loving Spirit abide in us at parish meetings and local ecumenical gatherings. Grant that together we might celebrate you with joy. **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 pave the way for bridging rivalries and overcoming tensions. **The joy of our heart is in God.**

**Poem** selected by our poet-in-residence Celine Chuang

### **Song: Lead Us To The End**

O God we are crying out marked by the violence of Cain  
Our hands are bloodstained, forgive us  
O God, your children are suffering You hear the groaning  
You know the sorrows, have mercy we are sowing in tears  
May they be, Lord, seeds of your peace.

Take our hearts of stone - give us hearts of flesh  
Lead us to the end of us versus them  
Spread wide your table Lord - Gather us in  
Tear down the barrier walls - between us and them

There is a light shining in our darkness  
There is a spring whose waters never fail  
There is a voice crying out in the wilderness  
There is a way of peace through the valley  
through the shadow of death

By the power of the Spirit - by the word made flesh  
In the kingdom of heaven with the wolf and the lamb  
The earth is the Lord's and all it contains  
Lead us to the end of us versus them  
Sunia Gibbs and Tom Wuest / Parish Collective / CCLI

### **The Kyrie**

Let us pray: Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus prayed on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one ... so that the world may believe". **Kyrie Eleison.**

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. **Kyrie Eleison.**

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

**Kyrie Eleison.**

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

**Kyrie Eleison.**

Wondrous Vine grower, you make all things new in water and Word, feeding your people with love, joy, and peace. Lead us today and every day to the font of new beginnings. Teach us to love what you have commanded and to prune what does not nourish. Teach us to abide in your love, that we may show that love to the world. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **The Readings**

#### **A Reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians (4:1-6)**

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

#### **Psalm 62: My Soul Finds Rest**

Oh my God hear my cry - From the depths I call out to you  
You give your mercy and light - In the dark, in the wilderness

*Refrain:* My soul finds rest in God alone  
My salvation comes from You  
My soul finds rest, God is my hope  
I will not be shaken, I will not be shaken

You are my shield and my strength. Train my feet for this battle  
Our God is mighty to save I will wait, I will wait for You. *Refrain.*

O my strength, I sing praise to you  
O my strength, I sing praise to you  
In joy or pain, I sing praise to you  
Night or day, I sing praise to you. *Refrain.*  
Sandra McCracken Drink Your Tea Music 2014 / CCLI

*Let us prepare our hearts to hear the gospel.*

### **Gospel Acclamation: Gloria # 3**

Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, gloria, alleluia, alleluia!  
J. Berthier / Ateliers et Presses de Taize - OneLicense

### **The Gospel**

+THE HOLY GOSPEL OF THE LORD JESUS CHRIST  
ACCORDING TO JOHN

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vine-grower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete. This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made

known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another...The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

*We repeat the gospel acclamation.*

J. Berthier / Ateliers et Presses de Taizé - OneLicense

## **Sermon**

James Prette

*Bell / Silence / Bell*

## **The Creed**

I believe in God the Maker almighty -

Creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died and was buried.

He descended to the dead on the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heav'n

and is seated at the right hand of the Maker.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,

+the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Ryan Flanigan, alt., © 2017, Common Hymnal, CCLI

## **Our Prayers**

The Lord's Prayer, Extended Dance Mix

by Nadia Bolz-Weber - prayed by Rev. Katherine Brittain

## **Confession**

We have been called to follow Christ by obeying his one

commandment: that we love one another as he has loved us. Let

us confess the ways we have turned from that love.

*Silent prayer*

**Loving God, we have not loved you or each other with our whole hearts. Forgive us, we pray, and lead us toward wholeness, that we may be filled with your joy and live in unity. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

## **Assurance of Grace**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the incarnate One be with you.

**And also with you!**

### **Offertory Song: The Church's One Foundation** (vs 1, 3-5)

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ our Lord;  
We are His new creation by water and the Word,  
From heaven he came and sought us that we might ever be  
His living servant people, by his own death set free.

Though with a scornful wonder the world sees us oppressed,  
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, 'How long?'  
But soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

'Mid toil and tribulation, and tumult of our war,  
we wait the consummation of peace forevermore;  
till with the vision glorious our longing eyes are blest,  
and the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

We now on earth have union with God the Three-in-One,  
and mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won,  
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,  
like them, the meek and lowly, on high may dwell with thee.

Stone 1866 Revised. Stokey 1983 / S.S. Wesley / VU331, alt

### **Prayer Over The Gifts**

For those who need, the bread waits. For those who long, the wine lingers. For those seeking transformation, the table beckons.

All are invited, not because we have faith **but because we trust;**  
not because we understand **but because we long;**  
not because we know **but because we are loved;**  
not because we are well **but because we know we need.**



The table waits and heaven's host calls.  
Our place is not there, but here. Come now to the table

Since we cannot all now receive You in person, come spiritually into our hearts. Accept all we offer you this day, This we ask in unity with Christ. **Amen.**

### **Eucharistic / Communion Prayer**

Christ be with you

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts

**We lift them up to God.**

Let us give thanks to God

**It is right to give God thanks and praise**

Great provider of Life,  
we meet you in the small things of life:  
the kind smile of a stranger,  
the gentleness of the breeze,  
yeast that rises in bread, water to cleanse us,  
the satisfaction of a meal made remarkable by spices.  
In these small things, your great love is known.

**A small seed of faith has enabled your people  
to do great things throughout history,  
empowering us to live in times of exile,  
to move mountains, and transform a hurting world  
one smile, one gesture, one moment at a time.**

Into our ordinary world you came to dwell,  
and in the small things, Jesus Christ lived righteously  
healing, teaching, preaching gathering a community to  
live together challenging injustice through acceptance and  
affirmation.

**Your Spirit has blown across our globe, transforming our  
world, that your love may be shown in word, deed, and  
intent so that no one will be in need, and all humanity may  
be united as your children.**

We gather at this table set with ordinary things:  
common bread, a common cup, candles and cloth,

symbols of our ordinary lives, to celebrate the extraordinary covenant you have given us that makes us your people:

**a people with many different skin colours,  
many different languages, many different lifestyles,  
many different life experiences,  
many different abilities and limitations,  
many different ways to respond to your love in our lives.**

While this bread and this cup may be small because they are familiar, they are also exceptional because of your love.

Guide us, we pray,  
so that the ways we live our everyday lives  
in all the small things we do and say  
may be transformed to be exceptional ways  
that your love and grace may be known  
in all the places of the world.

We join with all Creation in singing:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord - God of power and might  
Heaven and earth of your glory are full  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord  
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might  
Heaven and earth of your glory are full  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest  
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest**

Steve Bell / Signpost Music / CCLI

Come to our time, O grace.  
Come and touch with the hand of heaven.  
Come to our world, O peace.  
Come and embrace with the breath of heaven.  
Come to our place, O life.  
Come and bless with the taste of heaven.  
Come to our souls, O light.  
Come and enfold with the mystery of heaven.  
Come to our living, O Word. Come and engage  
with the voice of heaven.

We remember how Jesus gathered with his friends. He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and shared it.

This bread...remember the life given for us. Jesus Christ the power of love. From ordinary to holy. Remember.

We remember how Jesus raised the cup, gave thanks for it and shared it. This cup...remember the tears and suffering poured out for us. Jesus Christ, the transforming courage of justice. From ordinary to holy. Remember.

God, send your Spirit upon us and upon these gifts. Strengthen us, restore us, be present with us. Amen.

As beloved children of a loving parent, let us pray... *(this may be said in a language or paraphrase of your choice, or as below):*

**Abba, Amma, Beloved, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

*Silence.*

These are the gifts of God for the people of God given for the life of the world. Feed on Christ in your hearts through faith with thanksgiving! **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### **Communion Song: Let Us Break Bread Together**

Let us break bread together on our knees, (on our knees)  
Let us break bread together on our knees. (on our knees)  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us drink wine together on our knees, (on our knees)  
Let us drink wine together on our knees. (on our knees)  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

Let us praise God together on our knees, (on our knees)  
Let us praise God together on our knees. (on our knees)  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me. (on me)

African-American Spiritual / Public Domain

## **Prayer after Communion**

For the bread we have eaten, for the wine we have tasted, for the life we have received, we thank you God. Grant that what we have done and have been given here may so put its mark on us that it remains always in our hearts. **Amen.**

## **The Blessing**

### **Closing Song: In Christ There Is No East or West**

In Christ there is no east or west, in Him no south or north, but one great family of love throughout the whole wide earth.

In Him shall true hearts everywhere their high communion find;  
His service is the golden cord close binding humankind.

Join hands, then, people of the faith whate'er your creed may be  
All children of the living God are surely kin to me.

In Christ now meet both east and west  
in Him meet south and north,  
all Christlike souls are one in him  
throughout the whole wide earth.

John Oxenham / Public Domain

## **Sending**

Go into the world as bearers of God's light.

**Thanks be to God, Amen.**



**admin@emmauscommunity.ca**  
**www.abbeychurch.ca + 778 977 7562**