



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

Day 3: Forming One Body

"Love one another as I have loved you" (Jn 15:12b)

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 96

- 1 Sing to the Lord a new song; *
sing to the Lord, all the earth.
- 2 Sing to the Lord and bless his name; *
tell out his salvation from day to day.
- 3 Declare his glory among the nations *
and his wonders among all peoples.
- 4 For great is the Lord and greatly to be praised; *
he is more to be feared than all gods.
- 5 For all the gods of the nations are but idols; *
it is the Lord who made the heavens.
- 6 Honour and majesty are before him; *
power and splendour are in his sanctuary.
- 7 Ascribe to the Lord, you families of the peoples; *
ascribe to the Lord honour and strength.
- 8 Ascribe to the Lord the honour due to his name; *
bring offerings and come into his courts.
- 9 O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness; *
let the whole earth tremble before him.
- 10 Tell it out among the nations that the Lord is king. *
He has made the world so firm that it cannot be moved;
he will judge the peoples with equity.
- 11 Let the heavens rejoice and let the earth be glad; *
let the sea thunder and all that is in it;
- 12 Let the fields be joyful and all that is in them; *
let all the trees of the wood shout for joy before the Lord.
- 13 For he comes, he comes to judge the earth; *
with righteousness he will judge the world
and the peoples with his truth.

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

Readings

Col 3:12-17

¹² As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³ Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴ Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵ And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

John 13:1-15; 34-35

¹ Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. ² The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper ³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, ⁴ got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. ⁵ Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him.

⁶ He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' ⁷ Jesus answered, 'You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand.' ⁸ Peter said to him, 'You will never wash my feet.' Jesus answered, 'Unless I wash you, you have no share with me.' ⁹ Simon Peter said to him, 'Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!' ¹⁰ Jesus said to him, 'One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you.' ¹¹ For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, 'Not all of you are clean.'

¹² After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, 'Do you know what I have done to you?' ¹³ You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. ¹⁴ So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. ¹⁵ For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.

³⁴ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. ³⁵ By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Meditation

On the eve of his death, Jesus knelt to wash the feet of his disciples. He knew the difficulty of living together and the importance of forgiveness and mutual service. "Unless I wash you," he

said to Peter, “you have no share with me.”

Peter received Jesus at his feet; he was washed and was touched by the humility and gentleness of Christ. Later he would follow Jesus’s example and serve the fellowship of the faithful in the early church.

Jesus wishes that life and love circulate through us as the sap through the vine, so that Christian communities be one body. But today as in the past, it is not easy to live together. We are often faced with our own limitations. At times we fail to love those who are close to us in a community, parish or family. There are times when our relationships break down completely.

In Christ we are invited to be clothed in compassion, through countless new beginnings. The recognition that we are loved by God moves us to welcome each other with our strengths and weaknesses. It is then that Christ is in our midst.

*With almost nothing, are you a creator of reconciliation in that communion of love,
which is the Body of Christ, his Church? Sustained by a shared momentum, rejoice!
You are no longer alone, in all things you are advancing together with your brothers and sisters.
With them, you are called to live the parable of community.
The Sources of Taizé (2000), pp. 48-49*

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 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, and fear of those not

like ourselves.

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

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.

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

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.

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

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.

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

Gracious God,

All **accept these prayers**
In the name of our brother Jesus Christ. Amen.

Collect (Prayer for the day)

God our Father and Mother,
you reveal to us your love through Christ
and through our siblings.
Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other
with our differences and live in forgiveness.
Grant us to live united in one body,
so that the gift that is each person comes to light.
May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ.

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.

Questions for Discussion and Reflection (For the website)

1. Service and compassion are two crucial parts of the Christian tradition. Peter received Jesus at his feet and was touched by his humility. How can we recognize the connections of where we serve, and are served, in the community?
2. Jesus washing Peter's feet is written as a reversal of roles – the teacher becoming the servant. How can we relate this concept to our lives?
3. What does it mean to be “clothed in compassion” and forgiveness? What does that look like in our churches and communities?