

## Order of the Celebration

**Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit.** *(cf. Jn 15:5-9)*

### Invitation to prayer

Gathering Hymn

God Is Here

ELW #526

**God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer,  
May we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.  
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts  
Wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.**

**Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;  
Here are table, font and pulpit; here the cross has central place.  
Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,  
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.**

**Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd's flock and fold;  
Here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.  
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore  
What it means in daily living to believe and to adore.**

**Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt,  
Keep us faithful to the Gospel; help us work your purpose out.  
Here, in this day's dedication, all we have to give, receive;  
We, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe!**

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

Music: Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

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Music © 1942, ren. 1970 Hope Publishing Company

### Word of Welcome

Welcome to this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Celebration. We are pleased that as the Assiniboia and District Ministerial Association we are, in this time of a global pandemic, able to gather even as a few to lead this celebration in which the greater Christian community can participate, giving thanks to God for our brothers and sisters in Christ. Welcome to all of you who are joining us through the internet. We encourage you to use the bulletin provided by your congregation to follow along.

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

**C And also with you.**

R1 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”.

R2 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 the difference of ‘the other’, 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.

R1 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 his love strengthens the desire to seek  
unity and reconciliation with others. 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.

L 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

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

R1 We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all peoples,

R2 We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

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

R1 We sing your praise among suffering and tears,

R2 We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

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

R1 We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding,  
R2 We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

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

R1 We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,  
R2 We sing your praise in the midst of life and death,  
the birth of a new heaven and a new earth.

**C 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**

**Psalm: 103**

**Reading: John 15:1-17**

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup>He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. <sup>9</sup>As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. <sup>10</sup>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. <sup>11</sup>I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

<sup>12</sup>“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. <sup>13</sup>No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. <sup>14</sup>You are my friends if you do what I command you. <sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another. NRSV

**Response: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (verses 1 & 2) ELW #708**

***Refrain:***

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet,  
Master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain.***

**Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race,  
Neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain.***

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.  
Music: Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin  
Text and music © 1969 Hope Publishing Company

**Short silence** (*approximately 1 minute*)

**Intercessions**

**R** 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.

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

**R** 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.

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

**R** 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.

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

**R** 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.

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

**Action: A time of silence**

**R** Very often we think of prayer as something we do, an activity of our own. In this short time we are invited to an interior silence, and to turn aside from all the noise and concerns of our lives and thoughts. In this silence the action belongs to God. We are simply called to abide in God's love, to rest in him.

**Silence** (*approximately 5 minutes*)

**Hymn: Prayer of St. Francis**

**Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there is hatred, let me bring Your love.  
Where there is injury, Your pardon Lord.  
And where there's doubt, true faith in You.**

***Refrain:***

**Oh Master, grant that I may never seek.  
So much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all my soul.**

**Make me a channel of Your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let me bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light.  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

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Contributors: Sebastian Temple

## **Second Vigil - The visible unity of Christians**

**Psalm:** 85

**Reading:** 1 Corinthians 1:10-13a

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. <sup>11</sup>For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. <sup>12</sup>What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." <sup>13</sup>Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? NRSV

**Response: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (verse 3) ELW #708**

***Refrain:***

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;  
All these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain.***

**Short silence** (*approximately 1 minute*)

**Intercessions**

R 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”.

**C Lord have mercy.**

R 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.

**C Lord have mercy.**

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

**C Lord have mercy.**

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

**C Lord have mercy.**

R 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.

**C Lord have mercy.**

**Action: Sharing a Sign of Peace**

R 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.

*Everyone is invited to turn toward your neighbour, extend your hand, and say;  
**Peace be with you sister/brother!***

**Hymn: Prayer of St. Francis**

**Make me a channel of Your peace.  
It is pardoning that we are pardoned.  
In giving to all men that we receive.  
And in dying that we're born to eternal life.**

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Contributors: Sebastian Temple

**Third Vigil The unity of all peoples and all creation**

**Psalm: 96**

**Reading: Revelation 7:9-12**

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. <sup>10</sup>They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" <sup>11</sup>And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, <sup>12</sup>singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." NRSV

**Response: Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love (verse 4) ELW #708**

***Refrain:***

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,  
show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

**Kneel at the feet of our friends, silently washing their feet;  
This is the way we will live with you. *Refrain.***

**Homily**

**Short silence (approximately 1 minute)**

**Intercessions**

R 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.

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

R 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.

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

R 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.

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

R 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.

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

**Action: Moving to the centre ... and out to the world**

*inspired by a text of Dorotheus of Gaza*

R We are called to be ministers of God's healing and reconciling love. This work can only be fruitful when we abide in God, as branches of the true vine which is Jesus Christ. As we come closer to God we draw closer to one another.

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

*Designated persons stand up and stand on both sides of a central candle.*

R The centre represents God, and the paths to the centre are different ways people live. When people living in this world, desiring to draw closer to God, walk toward the centre of the circle ...

*The persons take several steps toward the centre.*

R ... to the extent that they move closer to the centre, to God, they move closer to one another. And the closer they come to one another ...

*The persons move to an arms-length from the candle.*

R ... the closer they come to God.

*When the candle-bearers can reach the candle, they each light their candle.  
As they stand there, all keep a time of prayer in silence.*

**Short Silence** (*approximately 1 minute*)

## **The Lord's Prayer**

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

**C 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, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever Amen.**

*After the Lord's Prayer the candle-bearers return to their seats.*

R Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Prayer and action belong together.  
When we abide in Christ, we receive the Spirit of courage and wisdom to act against  
all injustice and oppression. We say together:

**C Pray and work that God may reign.  
Throughout your day  
let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest.  
Maintain inner silence in all things  
so as to dwell in Christ.  
Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes:  
joy, simplicity, mercy.**

*These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp Community.*

## **Hymn: Prayer of St. Francis**

**Make us a channel of Your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let us bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light.**

**And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

*Refrain:*

**Oh Master, grant that we may never seek.  
So much to be consoled as to console.  
To be understood as to understand.  
To be loved as to love with all our soul.**

**Make us a channel of Your peace.  
Where there's despair in life, let us bring hope.  
Where there is darkness, only light.  
And where there's sadness, ever joy.**

**Make us a channel of Your peace.**

## **Blessing**

- L** Be one, so that the world may believe!  
Abide in his love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.
- C** **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.**

## **Sending Song**

### **We Are Called**

**ELW #720**

**Come, live in the light!  
Shine with the joy and the love of the Lord!  
We are called to be light for the kingdom  
To live in the freedom of the city of God.**

*Refrain:*

**We are called to act with justice  
We are called to love tenderly  
We are called to serve one another  
To walk humbly with God**

**Come, open your heart  
Show your mercy to all those in fear  
We are called to be hope for the hopeless  
So all hatred and blindness will be no more. *Refrain.***

**Sing, sing a new song  
Sing of that great day when all will be one  
God will reign and we'll walk with each other  
As sisters and brothers united in love. *Refrain.***

Text: David Haas, b.1957

Music: David Haas

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## LEADERSHIP PARTS

L – Leader - Doug

C – Congregation

R – Reader - Lynn

R1 – Reader One - Messiah

R2 – Reader Two – Angie Karlson

Scripture Readings

- Vigil 1 - Greg
- Vigil 2 - Leonard and Jonne Johnson
- Vigil 3 - David

Action – Moving to the Centre – Greg & Lynn