

## Prayer for Unity

God of all creation,  
who called every being into life,  
who is mindful of humankind in all its diversity,  
who embodies us with dignity,  
granting different gifts and talents to shape life in this world,  
we ask for your Spirit to unite us  
where we face a lack of understanding and  
disunity in our churches, in our communities,  
in our countries.  
In silence, we lay before you the burdens of our hearts.

*(Silence)*

We ask for your Spirit to unite us  
in the face of the conflicts, hatred, and violation of life  
experienced in so many regions of the earth  
And, in silence, we bring to you the pain of the victims.

*(Silence)*

We ask for your Spirit to unite us  
wherever fear prevents us from caring for our neighbor,  
from meeting people of different ethnicities, cultures,  
and faith communities with respect,  
And, in silence, we bring to you the brokenness of human  
relationships.

*(Silence)*

God of all creation,  
In Christ we are reconciled,  
And so we ask for your uniting Spirit  
to help us overcome all our divisions  
that we may live in peace.

**In One Voice we Proclaim, Amen and Ase!**

## Prayer of Confession

God, we believe you have called us to unity,  
but often we have isolated ourselves from others.  
**God, forgive us for the times we have turned our backs  
on those who are different.**

God, we believe you have called us to live together as one body.  
**God, forgive us for the times we have created division  
within your worldwide church.**

God, we believe you ask us to look, listen, and learn from others.  
**God, forgive us for the times we have ridiculed and attacked  
those with different viewpoints.**

God, we believe you ask us to accept and seek to understand  
all who are called by your name.  
**Forgive us for the times we have offended you  
by failing to love others as we do ourselves.**

God, we believe you call us to be one, even as you are one.  
**Forgive us for the disunity we have harbored  
and make us one.**

*(Pause to offer up prayers for unity within the church.)*

**God and Creator of all humankind, Your son Jesus Christ prayed that  
Your church might be one, even as You our God are one.  
May You renew our minds and rekindle Your love in our hearts,  
so that by the power of the Spirit, we might find the Oneness that  
You intend for us.**

**God, may we recognize in Your Oneness our need for unity.  
God, may we recognize in Your Three-ness, our need for community.  
God, may we recognize in Your creativity, our need for diversity.  
God, may we recognize in Your Self, our need to love each other.  
Amen.**

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