

# Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

Theme: REMAINING IN THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Led by Gordon Thomson, organist and lector with Fr. Ness

As envisaged by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland.

AND

As Interpreted by St. Brendan's RC Church, Muirhouse,  
Motherwell

## Gathering Hymn

Bind us together [65] verses 1 and 3.

## Entrance/Introductory Hymn

Christ be beside me [82] all verses.

## Welcome and Outline of the Liturgy.

**Leader**: May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you always.

Response: and with your Spirit.

**Leader**: Short commentary on the Order of Religious Sisters of Grandchamp in Switzerland and on the task set to them by the Churches Together -- ***last year the theme was St. Paul's journey to Rome for trial before the Roman Emperor - a journey which had been interrupted by the Shipwreck on Malta.***

This liturgy or Service involves the display of the Easter or Paschal Candle. It is positioned centrally surrounded by three tables, with three candles.

**Leader**: The Prayers over the eight days are divided into three Vigils.

We will base our Liturgy today around the prayer and Meditation of the Second Vigil which has the title: ***The visible Unity of Christians.***

**Gordon**: Sacred Scripture 1 Cor 1: 1-3 and 10-13. 17. [*combine and read as one, the 2 passages from the Lectionary Volume 1 at pages 642 and 645*]

**Leader:** Sisters and brothers in Christ, this year the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, chosen by the Sisters is this quotation from Chapter 15 of John's Gospel "Remain in my love and you will bear much fruit."

**Leader:** Let us listen to chapter 15 verses 1- 8, which Gordon will now proclaim

**Gordon:** John 15: 1-8 [Lectionary Volume 2 page 1579]

**Leader:** It is the great desire of God, expressed by Jesus that we might come to him and remain in him. He waits for us effortlessly and tirelessly, hoping that united to him in love, we will bear fruit that will bring life to all. Christians who are faced with differences risk withdrawing into themselves and seeing only that which separates us. However we are called by Christ to remain in his love, and so bear much fruit.

**Leader:** Let us listen to chapter 15 verses 9-17 which Gordon will now proclaim

**Gordon:** John 15: 9-17 [Lectionary Volume 2 page 1580]

**Leader:** We remember the call of Christ in the three moments of prayer which follow. We turn to his love, to him who is the centre of our life. For the path of unity will begin in our inner relationship with God. Remaining in God's love strengthens the desire to seek unity and reconciliation with others. God opens us up to those Christians and those others 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

## **Closing Prayer**

**Leader:** Prayer as at page 17 of the booklet.

## **Litany of Praise.**

**Leader:** Commentary as at page 17 of the booklet.

**Response:** Kyrie Elieson, Christie Eleison, Kyrie Elieson.

## **Sharing a Sign of Peace**

***Hymn:*** *Ubi Caritas et amor, Deus ibi est. - where charity and love exists there God is found.*

**Leader:** The Lord calls all Christians to be united among themselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it. Let us then in the silence of our hearts call to mind a neighbour or neighbours of a different tradition of Christian faith from our own tradition and offer them spiritually if not in word or action, the peace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Hymn:** Peace is flowing like a river [460 verses 1 and 4]

**Closing thought. - Leader**

## **Recessional Hymn.**

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ Our Lord. [536 all verses]