

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2019



weekofprayer.ca

During the liturgy, participants are called to reflect on how they might commit to a particular act of justice, mercy, or unity, and to write on each of the provided cards what that concrete commitment is. One card will be kept by the one who wrote on it; the other card will be gathered up as part of the offering and put at the foot of the cross. At the conclusion of the worship, the collected cards will be distributed to participants as they leave the church, so that each may pray for another's commitment.

GATHERING GOD'S PEOPLE

Please stand as the liturgical procession enters.

Call to worship

Leader Let us worship the Triune God.

People God, our Father, you crown your creation with justice and mercy,
we come to worship you.

Leader Jesus Christ, your cross brings new life and justice,
People **we come to worship you.**

Leader Holy Spirit, you inspire our hearts to act justly,
People **we come to worship you.**

Leader May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
People **And also with you.**

Hymn 576—For the Healing of the Nations (*found in the blue hymnal Common Praise*)

Gathering

Leader As Christians from separated communities, we gather here to pray for unity. This year, the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity chosen by the churches in Indonesia is “Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue.” This theme is imperative due to the recurring situations that bring divisions and conflicts.

Leader As we pray together, we are reminded that our calling as members of the body of Christ is to pursue and embody justice. Our unity in Christ empowers us to take part in the wider struggle for justice and to promote the dignity of life.

Prayer of Repentance

Leader Beloved sisters and brothers,
let us confess before the Lord that we have sinned
and ask for forgiveness
so that our worship will be pleasing to God.

Reader 1 Compassionate God, you have chosen us to shepherd your flock.
Jesus, your Son, taught us to act justly.
We are aware that in our ministry, we sometimes behave unjustly
towards the people whom you have entrusted to us by:
prioritizing those who are close to us or those who have higher social status;
ignoring strangers, the poor and the least in society; fearing to defend the
oppressed; misusing church resources.
These deeds have caused some people to turn away from your church.

Choir: All: Choir: All:

Lord, have mer - cy, **Lord, have mer - cy,** Christ, have mer - cy, **Christ, have mer - cy,**

Choir: All:

Lord, have mer - cy, **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Reader 2 Loving God, you have gathered us as members of your flock.
Jesus, your Son, taught us to love one another as a sign of being his disciples.
We confess that we have failed to live his commandment of love by:
regarding those of other churches as rivals; being hostile to each other and slow
to forgive; focusing only on our personal interest; ignoring the needs of sisters
and brothers; excluding those who do not share our point of view.
In these ways, our attitudes strengthen the dividing walls between us.

Choir: All: Choir: All:

Lord, have mer - cy, **Lord, have mer - cy,** Christ, have mer - cy, **Christ, have mer - cy,**

Choir: All:

Lord, have mer - cy, **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Reader 3 Gracious God, you have commissioned us to make our common home a place of justice for all. In your generous love, you send rain on the righteous and the unrighteous and, in Jesus, teach us to love without discrimination. We confess that we have failed to follow this teaching by: disrespecting our neighbours; spreading falsehoods through various social media; participating in the disruption of social harmony. Our conduct risks making the world a barren field that no longer brings forth your justice for all of creation.

Choir: All: Choir: All:

Lord, have_ mer - cy, **Lord, have mer - cy,** *Christ, have mer - cy,* **Christ, have mer - cy,**

Choir: All:

Lord, _____ have mer - cy, **Lord, _____ have mer - cy.**

Leader May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive our sins and lead us to eternal life.

All **Amen.**

Hymn The Harvest of Justice

Refrain May we find rich - ness in the har - vest of

1. Gath - er with pa - tience & for those who have

2. For to have mer - cy & on those for -

3. For to have lit - tle is to be in a -

jus - tice which_ Christ Je - sus has

noth - ing. Leave them your rich - es, and

got - ten, this is my true law, this

bun - dance. to give what re - mains, _____ to

rip - ened for us. Bread for the
you will re - ceive, Make room for the
is my com - mand: Clothe the
give all we have, is to walk with the

jour - ney, bread for the hun - gry,
poor ones, make way for the stran - ger;
na - ked, be home for the or - phan,
poor ones and be - come the stran - ger,

all for the glo - ry and praise of
for I am the Lord, the Lord your
be hope for the wid - ow, and wel - come the
one with the Lord, the Lord our

God.
God.
lost.
God.

Please sit after the hymn.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

First Reading

Deuteronomy 16:11-20

Reader

Rejoice before the Lord your God—you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, the Levites resident in your towns, as well as the strangers, the orphans, and the widows who are among you—at the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt, and diligently observe these statutes. You shall keep the festival of booths for seven days, when you have gathered in the produce from your threshing-floor and your wine press. Rejoice during your festival, you and your sons and your daughters, your male and female slaves, as well as the Levites, the strangers, the orphans, and the widows resident in your towns. For

seven days you shall keep the festival to the Lord your God at the place that the Lord will choose; for the Lord your God will bless you in all your produce and in all your undertakings, and you shall surely celebrate. Three times a year all your males shall appear before the Lord your God at the place that he will choose: at the festival of unleavened bread, at the festival of weeks, and at the festival of booths. They shall not appear before the Lord empty-handed; all shall give as they are able, according to the blessing of the Lord your God that he has given you. You shall appoint judges and officials throughout your tribes, in all your towns that the Lord your God is giving you, and they shall render just decisions for the people. You must not distort justice; you must not show partiality; and you must not accept bribes, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and subverts the cause of those who are in the right. Justice, and only justice, you shall pursue, so that you may live and occupy the land that the Lord your God is giving you. The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

82:1-8

The choir sings the verses; the assembly joins in the refrain (R).



A - rise, O God, and rule — the earth.

God takes his stand in the council of heaven; he gives judgement in the midst of the gods: “How long will you judge unjustly, and show favour to the wicked? **R** Save the weak and the orphan; defend the humble and needy; rescue the weak and the poor; deliver them from the power of the wicked. They do not know, neither do they understand; they go about in darkness; all the foundations of the earth are shaken. **R**

Now I say to you, ‘You are gods, and all of you children of the Most High; nevertheless, you shall die like mortals, and fall like any prince.’” Arise, O God, and rule the earth, for you shall take all nations for your own. **R**

Second Reading

Romans 12:1-13

Reader

I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God— what is good and acceptable and perfect. For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think, but to think with sober judgement, each according to the measure of faith

that God has assigned. For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honour. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers. The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as the music begins.

Alleluia



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the Alleluia. The first staff is a treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is written on a single line. The lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!' are written below the first staff. The second staff is identical to the first, with the lyrics 'Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.' written below it.

Gospel

Luke 4:14-21

Deacon

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Deacon

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Deacon

Jesus, filled with the power of the Spirit, returned to Galilee, and a report about him spread through all the surrounding country. He began to teach in their synagogues and was praised by everyone. When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: 'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news

to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.' And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.'
The Gospel of Christ.

People **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Please be seated after the prayer that begins the reflection.

Reflection

Commitment to Justice, Mercy and Unity

Leader Jesus Christ prays for the unity of his disciples.
The gift of his life is justice for the world.

Reader 4 As members of the body of Christ, we are called to walk together in his path.

Reader 5 Let us hear his calling.

All **Holy Spirit, unite us in action.**

Reader 4 As members of the body of Christ, we are called to keep our lives free from the love of money, and be content with what we have.

Reader 5 Let us break the cycle of greed and live in simplicity.

All **Holy Spirit, unite us in action.**

Reader 4 As members of the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim release to captives and victims of all forms of violence.

Reader 5 Let us help them to live in dignity.

All **Holy Spirit, unite us in action.**

Reader 4 As members of the body of Christ, we are called to extend hospitality to strangers.

Reader 5 Let us outdo one another in showing honour.

All **Holy Spirit, unite us in action.**

Reader 4 As members of the body of Christ, we are called to proclaim the good news to the whole creation.

Reader 5 Let us protect the life and beauty of God's creation.

All **Holy Spirit, unite us in action.**

A song for unity and justice will be played as participants write their individual commitments to work together for justice on the cards (the same commitment is written on both cards). Please keep one of these cards close to your heart. The second one will be collected and brought forward as an offering.

Leader What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? We commit ourselves to acts of justice.

The ushers collect the second cards and bring them forward to be put at the foot of the cross. A money offering is collected for Warming Room Community Ministries (warmingroom.ca). Envelopes may be found at the end of the pew. Tax receipts are issued for donations of \$20 or more.

Hymn 575—Let Streams of Living Justice (*blue hymnal*)

Offering Prayer

Leader Gracious God, you have shown us your compassion and care for all creation. Your love inspires us to offer these commitments to act justly by loving others wholeheartedly regardless of their cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Accept now our offerings and transform them into action for the unity of your Church. We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, who live with you as one God forever and ever.

All **Amen.**

Sharing Peace

The leader invites the assembly to exchange a sign of peace, so that together we can proclaim our faith.

Leader The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People **And with your spirit.**

The Apostles' Creed

Leader Let us confess the faith we share in common:

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come 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 life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Leader Let us raise to the Lord our common prayer for the Church and for the needs of all humanity.

Deacon From the islands and the oceans, we worship you, O God, the Creator of life. Throughout the mountains and the valleys, we praise you, O God, the Saviour of the world. With the tongues of all nations, we thank you, O God, the Comforter of bodies and souls. We come before you bearing our burdens and hopes. Today we ask you:

All **O God, hear our prayer and grant us your love.**

Deacon We pray for those who live in the midst of injustice. Encourage us to lift up their voices and strengthen their hope. We pray for those who continue to perpetuate injustice. May your kindness fill our hearts and make us agents of freedom and peace. We pray for every institution and person who stands for justice. Let us act justly according to your words. Today we ask you:

All **O God, hear our prayer and grant us your justice.**

Deacon We pray for the visible unity of the Church. Lead us to fulfil Jesus' prayer that we may be one and work together to manifest your Kingdom. Today we ask you:

All **O God, hear our prayer and grant us passion for unity.**

Deacon We thank you for the many colours, cultures, and customs that we share in this world. In our differences, unite us by your love. Enable us to act together to uphold life and to make this world a just and peaceful household for all humanity. Today we ask you:

All **O God, hear our prayer and grant us your peace.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-low-ed be your
name, your king-dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav-en. Give us to-day our dai - ly bread. For-

give us our sins as we for-give those who sin a - gainst us.
 Save us from the time of trial and de - liv-er us from
 e - vil, for the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are yours,
 now and for ev - er.

Concluding Prayer

Leader Grant, O Lord Jesus, that the ears which have heard the voice of your songs may be closed to the voice of dispute; that the eyes which have seen your great love may also behold your blessed hope; that the tongues which have sung your praise may speak the truth in love; that the feet which have walked in your courts may walk in the region of light; and that the bodies which have stood before you in worship may be restored in newness of life. Glory to you for your inexpressible gift; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

All **Amen.**

Blessing

Bishops May God embrace you with love and make kindness flow out from you. May God ignite courage within you and transform you into agents of God's justice and peace. May God grant you humility and give you perseverance to nurture unity.

All **Amen.**

Hymn 29—The Day Thou Gavest (*blue hymnal*)

*As you leave this gathering, you will be given one of the commitment cards.
 We invite you to pray for the commitment written on the card.*

All are invited to a time of fellowship and refreshment in the Guild Hall.

Celebrating 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Canada

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 the 2019 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by colleagues in Indonesia. The 2019 theme, *Justice and only justice you shall pursue (Deut 16:18-20)*, calls us to move from shared prayer to shared action. Drawing on the traditional values of *Bhineka Tunggal Ika (Unity in Diversity)* and *gotong royong (living in solidarity and by collaboration)*, Indonesian Christians invite us to be a united witness, and an agent of Christ's healing grace in a broken world, by making specific commitments to justice, equality, and unity.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity was first proposed in 1908 as an observance within the Roman Catholic Church by Fr Paul Wattson, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Graymoor, New York. Since the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1948, many other Christian denominations around the world have come to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In Canada, the Canadian Council of Churches and its ecumenical partners, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, work for 'unity in diversity' by supporting the celebrations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity across Canada. For over 40 years, their Canadian ecumenical writing team has adapted the Week of Prayer materials developed by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity for the Canadian context.

In Peterborough, it is a long-standing custom that the Anglican and Roman Catholic communities, under the leadership of our respective bishops, gather to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is our hope that other Christian communities will join in this annual observation.

Participants

Leader: The Right Reverend Riscylla Shaw
Area Bishop of Trent-Durham, Anglican Diocese of Toronto

Speaker: The Most Reverend Daniel Miehm
Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Peterborough

Clergy and Laity from the Churches of Peterborough