

Worship@Home 19th January 2025 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time: With Revd Dr Samantha Gillard

Week of prayer for Christian Unity 18th to 25th January 2025

Opening Prayer:

Creator God, we worship and adore you.

Standing with all creation, we know ourselves to be made for your glory. Reflecting your image and likeness, we feel your touch upon our lives. Remembering your faithfulness, we bless you that you never give up on us. Hearing your call to us, through story, saint, and sage, we bless you for your compelling presence in our midst.

Lord of life, we worship and adore you. Standing at your tomb, with Mary, we weep. Failing to know you again, we want to cling to you. In your gentle love, you restore us and compel us to call others to life in your name.

Spirit of power, we worship and adore you. Recalling creation's story, we feel your brooding presence. Travelling from slavery, we follow you into freedom. Standing before the cross, we seek you in the darkness. Burning with your fire, we are compelled to discipleship. Creator God, Lord of Life, Spirit of power, we worship and adore you, **Amen.**

<https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WPCU-2025-English-Pamphlet-for-website.pdf.pagespeed.ce.apcKAcRDaN.pdf> , p, 14-15

STF 690 The Church's one foundation <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1YBYrJ8Hzg>

The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord;
she is his new creation by water and the Word;
From heaven he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.

Elect from every nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one holy name she blesses, and shares one holy food,
as to one hope she presses, with every grace endued.

In toil and tribulation, and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace for evermore;
till, with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest,

at last the Church victorious shall be the Church at rest.

Yet she on earth hath has union with God the Three in One,
and mystic, sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy! Lord, give us grace that we,
with them, the meek and lowly, in heaven your face shall see.

By Brian Doerksen Words & Music © 2005 Thankyou Music & Integrity Music. Admin by worshiptogether.com
CCL: Song Number: 4662491

Please read: John 11: 17-27 <https://bible.oremus.org/beta>

Time to Reflect

Jesus prayed for all believers “that all of them may be one” (John 17:21). Jesus’s prayer ‘May be one’ is behind the ecumenical Week of Prayer for Christian Unity’. This year it is the 1700th anniversary of the Council of Nicaea. The Council drew together people of faith, who were diverse in their perspectives and united in their statements of faith. **“We believe in the one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in the one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God”**.

When I am asked as to why there are so many different church denominations, my answer refers to flavours of crisps. There are many flavours of crisps, but they are made from the same potato. Flavours relate to the different expressions and understandings of Christian faith, because God created us with individual characteristics and therefore diversity and unity go together. However, Christian unity throughout history, including at the Council of Nicaea, has been intertwined with conflicts and divisions.

This year we are being encouraged to celebrate and draw strength from sharing our Christian faith. The action of sharing our faith ecumenically brings flavours together, which give fresh insights of God’s unconditional love for all. Being strengthened and encouraged is a gift we can give to one another, which in turn enables us to reflect more of God’s love to those around us. A love that is needed in the world today, which so often appears fractured, lacking in hope, as conflicts continue and where peace is so desperately needed.

The question then for us to reflect on today is; if diversity and unity are part of our humanity and inter-connectedness, how can we better embrace our shared identity as Christians and be more of a collective witness to the world. The ecumenical monastery of brothers and sisters in northern Italy, a community that is shaped by prayer, have written eight days of reflections for us to use throughout this week of prayer for Christian unity. Each of the eight days pick out key statements within the Nicene Creed to reflect on alongside the Scriptures. Through which us encourages each other to be more of a collective witness of the love of God. Amen <https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WPCU-2025-English-Pamphlet-for-website.pdf.pagespeed.ce.apcKAcRDaN.pdf>,

Prayer of Intercession

You are invited to pray silently for:

The needs of the world...

The Church and its calling...

Loved ones going through difficult times...

For peace, justice, and reconciliation...

In Jesus name. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven...

StF 347 Crown him with many crowns

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FiJYqC_6AFc

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! how the heav'nly anthem drowns, all music but its own!
Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
And hail Him as thy matchless King, through all eternity.

Crown Him the Son of God, before the worlds began;
and ye who tread where he has trod,
crown him the Son of Man, who every grief has known
that wrings the human breast, And takes and bears them for his own,
that all in him may rest.

Crown him the Lord of life, who triumphed o'er the grave,
and rose victorious in the strife for those he came to save.
His glories now we sing, who died, and rose on high;
who died, eternal life to bring, and lives, that death may die.

Crown Him the Lord of peace, whose power a sceptre sways
From pole to pole, that wars may cease,
Absorbed in prayer and praise. His reign shall know no end,
And round His pierced feet, fair flowers of paradise extend
Their fragrance ever sweet.

Crown Him the Lord of Love: Behold His hands and side;
Rich wounds, yet visible above, in beauty glorified:
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

Noel Richards. © 1986 Thankyou Music. Admin: Integrity Music. CCLI Song Number: 121074

Final Prayer:

Almighty God, accept our praise and thanksgiving for what already unites us.

Hasten the hour when we will recognise each other in the one communion you willed and for which you Son prayed.

Blessed be God, now and forever.

Amen.

<https://ctbi.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/10/WPCU-2025-English-Pamphlet-for-website.pdf.pagespeed.ce.apcKAcRDaN.pdf>, p. 22-3.