

Churches Together in Cornwall

Becoming Better Together

*a service of celebration
and re-dedication for
Christian Unity*



St Petroc's Church, Bodmin

27th January 2024 2.00 pm

About this Service

Ten years ago, the leaders of our various church denominations gathered here at St Petroc's Church, Bodmin, to celebrate the signing of a Declaration of Intent and Letter of Companionship as they promised to work more closely together.

Today Christians from across Cornwall gather once more here at St Petroc's. This special service marks an important milestone on our journey as we are all invited to sign a new Covenant. In this way we re-dedicate ourselves and our churches to working towards the fullness of unity for which Christ prayed, through the power of the Holy Spirit and to the praise and glory of God.

We are all invited to sign this Covenant and for these to be brought up and presented towards the end of our service. In this way we will renew the Covenant that we are making with each other in obedience to Jesus' desire that we should all be one.

Please join in the words in bold type and follow any indications of when to 'Stand' or 'Sit' only as you feel able and comfortable.

We express our thanks to all involved in the planning and production of this special service, and especially to all those at St. Petroc's Church, Bodmin for welcoming us today.

Please do stay for tea, cake and fellowship.

Any donations for the continuing work of Churches Together in Cornwall may be placed in the 'Donations' basket at the back of church, thank you.

Welcome to St Petroc's

Rev'd Simon Atkinson, Associate Minister, St Petroc's Church

The Procession

With representatives of Churches Together in Cornwall

Hymn

Please stand

Father, Lord of all creation

Father, Lord of all creation,
ground of being, life and love;
Height and depth beyond description,
only life in you can prove:
You are mortal life's dependence:
thought, speech, sight are ours by grace;
Yours is every hour's existence,
sovereign Lord of time and space.

Jesus Christ, the man for others
we, your people, make our prayer
help us love, as sisters, brothers
all whose burdens we can share
where your name binds us together
you, Lord Christ, will surely be
where no selfishness can sever
there your love the world may see.

Holy Spirit, rushing, burning
wind and flame of Pentecost
fire our hearts afresh with yearning
to regain what we have lost
may your love unite our action
nevermore to speak alone
God, in us, abolish faction
God, through us, your love make known.

Words: Stewart Cross, 1928-1989 Words: Stewart Cross, 1928-1989

Music: Abbot's Leigh, Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1907-1991 © Oxford University Press

The Greeting

Leader – Rev'd Loraine Mellor, Methodist Chair of District and Chair of Churches Together in Cornwall

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

All **And also with you**

The Call to Worship

The world belongs to God

All **The earth and all its peoples**

How good it is, how wonderful

All **To live together in unity**

Love and faith come together

All **Justice and peace join hands**

If Christ's disciples keep silent

All **These stones would shout aloud**

Open our lips, O God

All **And our mouths shall proclaim your praise**

(From the Iona Abbey Worship Book, © The Iona Community, 2016)

Please sit

Leader

In the presence of the God and Father of us all,
we meet together with one accord from our various churches.

We give thanks for the spiritual unity which is already ours
as members of the Body of Christ.

Let us pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
you prayed that we might be one
even as you are one with the Father.
Help us to live at one with you
and so in unity with each other.
Lord, strengthen our common bonds
and help us to appreciate the richness in
our diversity:
that we may be one in love and in you.
We ask this in the power of your love,
Jesus Christ, our Lord

All Amen

*(Written by David Adam in the Celtic Tradition: from
"Affirming his presence - A prayer for every day of the year" © Kevin Mayhew Ltd.
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Leader

As a sign of the unity that we enjoy and the unity that we seek, we
will present our Covenants as we promise to work together more
closely in life and mission, in witness and service.

As we celebrate this great work that God is working amongst us, let
us offer ourselves afresh to him that together we may fulfil his
purposes of love.

All

**Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one,
we pray to you for the unity of Christians,
according to your will, according to your means.
May your Spirit enable us
to experience the suffering caused by division,
to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope.
Amen.**

*(from the Daily Prayer for Christian Unity of the Chemin Neuf Community,
reproduced in Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland).*

Thanksgiving for our Common Baptism

Leader – The Right Reverend Hugh Nelson, Anglican Bishop of St Germans

Ten years ago, we used the symbols of both water and light to remind ourselves that it is the Father who provides us with water, which is essential for all of Creation, that Jesus is the light of world, and the Holy Spirit offers us all re-birth and new life.

So, we use these symbols once again: we light the Easter candle as a sign of Christ's resurrection and give thanks for water as we celebrate our new life together on the path to unity.

Hymn during procession to the Font

Please stand

Longing for Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you.

Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

*Christ, be our light! shine in our hearts, shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light! shine in your church gathered today.*

Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light...

Longing for food, many are hungry. Longing for water, many still thirst.

Make us your bread, broken for others, shared until all are fed.

Christ, be our light...

Longing for shelter, many are homeless. Longing for warmth, many are cold.

Make us your building, sheltering others, walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light...

Many the gifts, many the people, many the hearts that yearn to belong.

Let us be servants to one another, making your kingdom come.

Christ, be our light...

*(Words and music: Bernadette Farrell © 1993, 2000, Published by OCP
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Prayer over the Water

Leader

God in Christ gives us water welling up for eternal life.

With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

All Lord, give us this water, and we shall thirst no more.

Leader

Praise God who made heaven and earth,

All Who keeps his promise for ever.

Leader

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Leader

Father, we give you thanks and praise for your gift of water in creation; for your Spirit, sweeping over the waters, bringing light and life; for your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, baptized in the river Jordan.

We bless you for your new creation,
brought to birth by water and the Spirit,
and for your grace given to us your children, washing away our sins.
May your holy and life-giving Spirit move upon these waters.
Restore through them the beauty of your creation,
and bring us all to new birth in the family of your Church.
Drown the sin of our divisions in the waters of your grace,
anoint your children with the Spirit of unity from on high,
and make us one with Christ in the freedom of your kingdom,
for all might, majesty, dominion and power are yours,
now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Sprinkling

Bishop Hugh invites the people to receive the sprinkling as a reminder of their baptism.

During the sprinkling the following **hymn** is sung:

Water of Life

Refrain

Water of life, cleanse and refresh us; Raise us to life in Christ Jesus

1. All you who thirst, come to the waters, And you will never be thirsty again.

Refrain

2. As rain from heaven, so is God's word, it Waters the earth and brings forth life.

Refrain

3. Dying with Christ, so we shall rise with him. Death shall no longer have power over us.

Refrain

*(Words and music: Stephen Dean © 1981 Published by OCP Publications
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*Reader – Rev'd Dr Ben Aldous, Churches Together in England -
Principal Officer for Mission and Evangelism*

1 Corinthians 12: 4-12 and 27

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 138

Reader

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;

before the gods I sing your praise;

I bow down towards your holy temple

and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your
faithfulness;

for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

Response

On the day I called, you answered me.

On the day I called, you answered me;

you increased my strength of soul.

All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord,

for they have heard the words of your mouth.

Response

On the day I called, you answered me.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord,
for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly;
but the haughty he perceives from far away.

Response

On the day I called, you answered me.

*(from Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Order of Service 2024,
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)*

Gospel Acclamation

Please stand

*Reader – Fr Paul Keys, Roman Catholic Parish Priest of Bodmin,
Padstow, Wadebridge and Tintagel*

Alleluia, alleluia.

Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts,
to which indeed you were called in the one body.

All Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37

This is the Gospel of the Lord

All Praise to you, O Christ

Address

Please sit

The Rev'd Loraine Mellor, Chair, Churches Together in Cornwall

A time of silence is kept

Introduced by Geoff Watson from the Society of Friends (Quakers)

Lord, today, teach us to listen.

Lord, teach us the silence of humility,

the silence of wisdom,

the silence of love,

the silence that speaks without words,

the silence of faith.

Saviour, teach us to silence our hearts

that we may listen to the gentle movement

of the Holy Spirit within

and come to know and live from the depths

which are God today and always.

(A sixteenth century Frankfurt prayer)

The Liturgy of Unity

Presentation and Dedication of the Covenants

Leader – Rev'd Loraine Mellor

We come now to the presentation and dedication of the Covenant that we are making with each other in obedience to Jesus' command that we should all be one. This represents the next step on our journey and recognises that each of us has a part to play. We can all contribute to building the body of Christ and truly celebrate that we are indeed Better Together.

As the Covenants are brought up, presented and placed on the altar we sing the following hymn:

What shall our greeting be

What shall our greeting be:
Sign of our unity?
'Jesus is Lord!'
May we no more defend
Barriers he died to end:
Give me your hand, my friend:
One Church, one Lord!

What is our mission here?
He makes his purpose clear:
One world, one Lord!
Spirit of truth descend,
All our confusions end:
Give me your hand, my friend:
'Jesus is Lord!'

He comes to save us now:
To serve him is to know
Life's true reward.
May he our lives amend,
All our betrayals end:
Give me your hand, my friend:
'Jesus is Lord!'

*(Words: Fred Pratt Green © 1975 Stainer & Bell Ltd; Music: Moscow, Public Domain
CCLI Song #491340)*

The Covenants are placed on the altar

Leader

As part of God's Church here in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, we dedicate ourselves to the unity to which we have been called. Together let us declare our Covenant with each other in the presence of God.

All

We give thanks to God **for the way in which Christians from different traditions have grown together - through worshipping and serving, fellowship and learning, sharing both gifts and differences in love.**

We give thanks **for the role of Churches Together in Cornwall, and all of the Churches and Christians Together groups, as we grow positive relationships where unity can increase.**

We lament **that there are still issues which divide us and we repent that we damage the Body of Christ, weakening our witness to communities in Cornwall.**

We rejoice **in the diversity of our traditions that enrich us all, as we journey together.**

We celebrate **the heritage of Cornwall which we share in our holy places, our welcome to one and all, and renewed tradition of pilgrimage.**

We commit **to share our gifts freely, and value each other's treasures, as we learn and grow in Christ. Together we will proclaim the Good News through evangelisation and mission as we seek to deepen local relationships.**

We commit **to working for God's kingdom through better understanding and closer co-operation. Together we will serve the people of Cornwall through positive social action and work for climate justice, caring equally for our common home and those who experience disadvantage.**

We re-dedicate ourselves **and our churches to working towards the fullness of unity for which Christ prayed, through the power of the Holy Spirit and to the praise and glory of God.**

Hymn

10,000 Reasons

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning
It's time to sing Your song again
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Chorus

Bless the Lord, oh my soul
Oh my soul, worship His holy name
Sing like never before, oh my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger
Your name is great and Your heart is kind
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Chorus

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul
Worship His holy name
Sing like never before, O my soul
I'll worship Your holy name

*(Words and Music: Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman
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CCLI Song #6016351)*

Prayers of intercession

Please sit

Leaders – Rev'd Fiona Giorla, South Camel Churches Together and Mrs Jan Winslade, Falmouth & Penryn Churches Together

We have been called to love God and our neighbour as ourselves. As we renew our commitment to this calling, may love strengthen our unity as Christians.

God of boundless love, we pray that all people may come to know your unlimited mercy and your infinite love.

Response **Fill us with your love. Make us one in you**

God, our shepherd, we who are scattered ask you to gather us into one fold.

Response **Fill us with your love. Make us one in you**

God of mission, enliven us by your Spirit and send us again to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Response **Fill us with your love. Make us one in you**

God of our journey, in our weakness and fear we often pass by on the other side. Grant grace to risk embracing the stranger in need, tending their wounds of body, mind and spirit.

Response **Fill us with your love. Make us one in you**

God of communion, we pray that we may work together for your greater glory and spread the Good News of salvation for all.

Response **Fill us with your love. Make us one in you**

*(from Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Order of Service 2024,
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)*

The Lord's Prayer

Leader – Rev'd Simon Atkinson, Associate Minister, St Petroc's Church

We have dedicated ourselves afresh to God and to one another so united in heart and mind, let us pray together with confidence to the Father in the words that Jesus taught us:

All – please pray using your preferred version and language.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation

but deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.**

Amen.

Holy God,

your Son Jesus Christ came among us
to show us the way of compassion.

Help us by your Spirit to follow his example,

to serve the needs of all your children,

and so to witness together as Christians to your ways of love and
mercy.

We pray in Jesus' name.

Amen

*(from Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024, Day 7
Churches Together in Britain and Ireland)*

Brother, sister, let me serve you

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.

I will hold the Christlight for you
in the night time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.

I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow,
till we've seen this journey through.

When we sing to God in heaven,
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.

Brother, sister, let me serve you;
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.

(Richard Gillard

*Words and Music: © 1977 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing
CCLI Song #72673)*

The Peace

Leader – Major Susan Tidball, Salvation Army

Christ is our hope;
we give him glory for the great grace
by which upon the cross
he stretched out his hands in love to us all.
By that same grace may he come, our risen Saviour,
into every gesture of unity and fellowship
which we make toward one another,
and make the peace we share together.

The peace of the Lord be always with you
All And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.
Please exchange a sign of peace as you feel comfortable.

Closing Prayer

Leader – Matt Noble, Pastor, City Life Baptist Church, Truro

Lord our God,
you fill us with hope in the abundance of your love
and all the gifts you shower upon us in your church.
We recognize our need for one another
to heal our weakness and enlighten our confusion.
In the power of your Holy Spirit we dedicate ourselves
to discover the gifts of our fellow Christians
so that the whole Body of Christ may flourish in every possible way
and we be made ready to give an account to others
of the hope that is in us;
in the name of Jesus.
All Amen.

*(From Churches Together in England
'Embracing the Other: A Resource for Receptive Ecumenism')*

Blessing and sending out

Leaders – All the church leaders/representatives together

May God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
three persons in one God,
inspire us to live as one,
that we may witness to the perfect unity of his love;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Leader – Rev'd Loraine Mellor

Go in unity and peace to love and serve the Lord

All In the name of Christ. Amen

Recessional Hymn

Thy hand, O God, has guided

Thy hand, O God, has guided
Thy flock, from age to age;
The wondrous tale is written,
Full clear, on every page;
Our forebears owned thy goodness,
And we their deeds record;
And both of this bear witness,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy heralds brought glad tidings
To greatest, as to least; They bade them rise, and hasten
To share the great King's feast;
And this was all their teaching,
In every deed and word,
To all alike proclaiming
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Through many a day of darkness,
Through many a scene of strife,
The faithful few fought bravely
To guard the nation's life.
Their gospel of redemption,
Sin pardoned, hope restored,
Was all in this enfolded,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

And we, shall we be faithless?
Shall hearts fail, hands hang down?
Shall we evade the conflict,
And cast away our crown?
Not so: in God's deep counsels
Some better thing is stored;
We will maintain, unflinching,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

Thy mercy will not fail us,
Nor leave thy work undone;
With thy right hand to help us,
The victory shall be won;
And then by all creation,
Thy name shall be adored,
And this shall be their anthem,
One Church, one Faith, one Lord.

(Words: E. H. Plumptre (1864), Tune: Thornbury, public domain)

We are very grateful to Canon Perran Gay for his generous sharing of service materials from 2013. The legacy of Christian unity in Cornwall is precious and continues to grow.

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