

DAY 3

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021



Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit
(cf. Jn 15:5-9)



Coloured windows in the chapel at the Community of Grandchamp

© Churches Together in Britain and Ireland



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

DAY 3

“Love one another as I have loved you”

(John 15:12b)

Introduction and Welcome *Pat FitzPatrick*

*We are grateful to the sisters of the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, for creating the material for this special week. The sisters of Grandchamp have offered us something uniquely precious. Their chosen theme is “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”. Abiding in Christ, we receive the strength and wisdom to act in love to fully recognize ourselves as brothers and sisters in humanity, and to be creators of a new way of living; we are, ‘one body in Christ’. **Forming one Body** is our focus for today’s service.*

Hymn: Bind us Together Lord *Clive Morris (solo)*

Opening Prayer *Pat FitzPatrick*

Leader: May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of Holy Spirit be with you always!

All: **And also with you.**

God's Word

In preparation to listen to God’s word, take a few moments to relax your body and gently breathe in the goodness and love of God.

Colossians 3: 12-17 Clothe yourself with compassion

(The Message) *David Arondelle*

Silent reflection

A time to reflect, noticing words and phrases that seem to call to your attention. Ponder these words tenderly and speak to the Lord about why your heart is drawn here.

John 13:1-15; 34-35 Love one another

(Jerusalem Bible) *Mary Bradley*

Silent reflection

FORMING ONE BODY

MEDITATION *Jan Winslade*

Peter received Jesus at his feet; he was washed and was touched by the humility and gentleness of Christ. Later he would follow Jesus' example and serve the fellowship of the faithful in the early church.

Jesus wishes that life and love circulate through us as the sap through the vine, so that Christian communities be one body. But today as in the past, it is not easy to live together. We are often faced with our own limitations. At times we fail to love those who are close to us in a community, parish or family. There are times when our relationships break down completely.

In Christ we are invited to be clothed in compassion, through countless new beginnings. The recognition that we are loved by God moves us to welcome each other with our strengths and weaknesses. It is then that Christ is in our midst.

“With almost nothing, are you a creator of reconciliation in that communion of love, which is the Body of Christ, his Church? Sustained by a shared momentum, rejoice! You are no longer alone, in all things you are advancing together with your brothers and sisters. With them, you are called to live the parable of community.”

[The Sources of Taizé (2000) pp. 48-49]

A few moments of silence

Prayer *Eve O'Connor*

Leader: God our Father,
 you reveal to us your love through Christ
 and through our brothers and sisters.
 Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other
 with our differences and live in forgiveness.
 Grant us to live united in one body,
 so that the gift that is each person comes to light.
 May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ.

All: **God of love, in you is our hope**

FORMING ONE BODY

Fairtrade *Pat FitzPatrick*

Let us pray together *Nona Wright*

Leader: We thank you for the work of the Fairtrade Foundation – for the opportunity it gives us to declare our intention to live out love and justice in our daily life. May we continue steadfast in our support for all that makes trade fairer, seeking justice and fairness for all.

All : **God of love, in you is our hope.**

All: **Almighty God, we grieve that in Your world today, despite all the riches You have given us so freely, selfishness and greed so often rule our decisions in trade as in so many areas of our lives. Forgive us our acceptance of unjust structures of trade, and help us to act justly, love tenderly, and walk humbly with you.**

Leader: Amen

Leader: Loving Lord, grant us the Prophets' vision and strength, that hearing Your call, we may together, speak out and work for love and justice, through Jesus Christ.

All: **God of love, in you is our hope.**

Blessing

Make known in us O Lord,
the abundance of your mercy
and in the power of your Holy Spirit
remove the divisions between Christians,
that your Church may appear more clearly
as a sign raised high among nations
and that the world, enlightened by your Spirit,
may believe in Christ whom you sent.
And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
come down on us and remain with us for ever. Amen

(Fr Brian Kenwick, St Mary's Falmouth)

FORMING ONE BODY

Final Hymn: One Bread One Body – Clive Morris (solo)

For consideration on your own after the service:

QUESTIONS

- Can you think of a person in your life who you would identify as being “clothed in compassion”? Can you recall a time when you have been the recipient of compassion?
- How does your church community need to be more compassionate with members and visitors?
- What would it look like for the churches in your area to be more compassionate within your community? Where is compassion most needed in the world today?

GO AND DO

(see www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo)

Global: What action can we take in response to the compassion needed in the world?

Local: Consider making a banner or quilt together as churches and the wider community to demonstrate the things that thread and weave you together.

Personal: Consider the clothing in your wardrobe and the lives and hands that have touched them. Have these clothes been made with fair pay and good working conditions?