



A Service for Christian Unity

Worship at Home...

We believe that wherever we worship God 'in Spirit and in truth', He will be present. To worship in your household, choose a specific place - perhaps somewhere you can light a candle, and where you and those joining you can sit together undisturbed. Choose a time when you can be unhurried. Then read slowly through the service sheet, praying the prayers as you go. If you are with others, then one of you can take the lead and say the words in normal type, with the other(s) reading the lines in bold, or you could take it in turns to lead. If it is just you, then read it all yourself. Some people find it helps to read the prayers and responses aloud, even on their own.

The Collect, the Bible readings and the Reflection are provided separately. Short intercessions are included, but you may wish to use your own prayers, or some may be provided by your church.

At any point, you could pause to look at the 'pick n mix' activities, or do them later instead – whatever age you are! Hymns and songs are not included in the written version of this service. But these written words also accompany an audio version of this service which does include music. You can find each week's audio service via www.lordsbridge.org

Find what works for you and, as you worship, pray and learn at home, may God bless you and those others doing the same.

A week of Prayer for Christian Unity...

This service is themed around Unity. Every year there is an international week of prayer for Christian Unity which falls surrounds the Third Sunday in Epiphany. Our unity has been expressed in new ways throughout 2020 in response to the pandemic. We pray that it will continue to be strengthened, locally, internationally and ecumenically. For it is loving one another that we witness to Christ. (John 13.34-35)

Opening Words

The Lord be with you.

Generous God, you gave us our voices,
no two the same,
no finer instruments with which to praise you.

For these we thank you, Lord.

You gave us words and music,
peculiar gifts, with which to wound or wonder,
bore or bless, inspire or disable.

For these we thank you, Lord.

And in your Church you have gathered us.
In your community of common folk and complainers,
prophets and puzzled people,
you have made a place for us.

For this we thank you, Lord.

So let what we say and do here,
what we ponder and decide here,
be real for us and honest to you,
and prepare us for life lived out in the world.

Amen.

Confession

We have come together as God's family
to pray for the recovery of the unity of Christ's Church
and for the renewal of our common life.
Let us confess our sin and complicity in the lack of unity.

**Most merciful God,
we confess that we have sinned against you
and against one another,
in thought, and word, and deed.
We are truly sorry for our pride,
and for our lack of faith, of understanding and of love.
We repent of our narrow-mindedness,
of our bitterness and our prejudices.
Pardon and forgive us,
save us and renew us,
that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon *us*,
pardon and deliver *us* from all *our* sins,
confirm and strengthen *us* in all goodness,
and keep *us* in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

A Collect for Unity

Heavenly Father,
you have called us in the Body of your Son Jesus Christ
to continue his work of reconciliation
and reveal you to the world.
Forgive us the sins which tear us apart;
give us the courage to overcome our fears
and to seek that unity which is your gift and your will;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Bible Readings and Reflections

See separate sheet.

Affirmation of Faith

We share one faith,
have one calling,
have one God and Father,
are filled with one Spirit,
are baptized with one baptism,
eat of one bread and drink of one cup,
confess one Name,
are obedient to one Lord,
work for one cause,
and share one hope.

**We believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**We believe 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

We pray for the whole Church of God
that she may be united in the Spirit of Love and so bear witness to the Kingdom.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the churches in the Lordsbridge Team,
that in working together we may find joys and gifts that we could not discover apart.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for our ecumenical partners in this area;
for Hardwick Evangelical Church, for Comberton Baptist, for the Methodist
Churches, for our Roman Catholic brothers and sisters.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who work to foster institutional unity amongst the Churches,
that they may be given the Spirit of wisdom, patience, and understanding.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church ministering in places of hardship, destitution and difficulty;
that she may have courage, determination and hope to both proclaim and bring
about your Kingdom.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the Church ministering in places of apathy, wealth and arrogance;
that the Spirit might enlighten dull hearts and embolden the Church in her witness.
Lord in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

*In silence we pray for all that lies heavy on our hearts this day.
As our saviour taught us, so we pray...*

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Closing prayer

From where we are
to where you need us,
Christ be beside us.

From what we are
to what you can make of us,
Christ be before us.

Through the streets of this world,
to the gates of heaven,
Christ be above us.

Surround us with your presence.
Inspire us with your purpose.
Confirm us in your love.
Amen.

Blessing and Dismissal

The Lord Jesus Christ,
Son of the living God,
teach you to walk in his way more trustfully,
to accept his truth more faithfully,
and to share his life more lovingly;
that by the power of the Holy Spirit
you may come as one family to the kingdom of the Father.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**
Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ.