

## ABIDING IN CHRIST

Notes:

This year's prayer has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, who are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence.

The theme that was chosen, 'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit', is based on John 15:1-17, expresses the Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family. The worship follows their prayer life, which in turn follows the Benedictine tradition, with its pattern of readings from scripture, a response, a time of silence, and prayer, rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church Catholic.

### Daily Readings

Monday      Called by God: 'You did not choose me but I chose you.'  
John 15:16a  
Tuesday      Forming one body: 'Love one another as I have loved  
you' John 15:12b  
Wednesday   Praying together: 'I do not call you servants any longer,  
but I have called you friends' John 15:15  
Thursday      Welcoming other: 'Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last'  
John 15:16b  
Friday        Growing in unity: 'I am the vine, you are the branches'  
John 15:5a

*These readings are all taken from John 15:1-17.*

*It is left to the leader's discretion to use as much or as little of the whole passage surrounding the daily text as they wish, and to expound on it, or not, as they wish!*

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

### ABIDING IN CHRIST



### Words of Welcome

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

**And also with you.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ,  
this year the theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, chosen by the sisters of the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, is 'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit'.

It is the great desire of God, expressed by Jesus, that we might come to him and abide in him.

He waits for us tirelessly, hoping that, united to him in love, we will bear fruit that will bring life to all.

In the moments of prayer that follow, we remember the call of Christ, and we turn to his love, to him who is the centre of our life.

### Prayer

*In peace, let us pray to the Lord:*

Lord, as a vinedresser tend the vine, so you tend us in love.

You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united to the vine, the beauty of each person. And yet, too often the differences in others make us afraid. We withdraw into ourselves.

Our trust in you is forsaken. Enmity develops between us.

Come and direct our hearts towards you once again.

Grant us to live from your forgiveness

so that we may be together and praise your name.

## Litany of Praise

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all people,  
We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise among suffering and tears,  
We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;  
We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,  
We sing your praise in the midst of life and death, the birth of a new  
heaven and a new earth.

**You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!**

## Reading of the Day

*Followed by a time of silence, or reflection by the leader.*

## Prayer Together

*This may be a time of silence, or this or another form of prayer:*

Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places.

Come and whisper in our hearts Jesus' prayer on the eve of his passion:

'that they may all be one.....so that the world may believe'.

**Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that  
suspicions, contempt and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May  
the walls that separate us fall.

**Lord have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and  
reconciliation and bring us back from our wanderings.

**Lord have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that  
we may welcome the unexpectedness of your grace.

**Lord have mercy.**

Holy Spirit, you never abandon the men, women and children who are  
persecuted for their fidelity to the gospel. Give them strength and  
courage, and support those who help them.

**Lord have mercy.**

With words that Jesus taught us, let us now pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven.....**

## Moving out to the world

The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves.

He gives us his peace and invites us to share it.

He calls us to abide in him, as branches of the true vine.

He calls us to bear the fruit of God's healing and reconciling life.

He calls us to draw closer to God and to one another as we offer this  
love to the world.

*We say together words that are recited daily by the Sisters of the  
Grandchamp Community.*

**Pray and work that God may reign.**

**Throughout your day**

**let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest.**

**Maintain inner silence in all things so as to dwell in Christ.**

**Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes: joy, simplicity, mercy.**

## Blessing

Be one, so that the world may believe!

Abide in God's love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.

*We say together:*

**May the God of hope fill us with all joy and all peace in faith,  
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

**In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**