

## Third Sunday in Epiphany and week of prayer for Christian Unity

*We say together the words printed in bold.*

Preparation

Opening hymn 636 – The church's one foundation....,

Leader: The Lord be with you

**All: and also with you**

Leader: Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father

and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you

**All and also with you.**

### Opening Prayer

Lord, you invite us to abide in you who are the vinedresser who cares for us with 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 and one another is lost.

Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.

That as one family we may praise your name.

**Amen.**

### Litany of praise

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leader: 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.

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

Word

Psalm 85

LORD, you were favourable to your land;  
you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

**All: You forgave the iniquity of your people;  
you pardoned all their sin. *Selah***

You withdrew all your wrath;  
you turned from your hot anger.

**All: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,  
and put away your indignation toward us.**

Will you be angry with us forever?  
Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

**All: Will you not revive us again,  
so that your people may rejoice in you?**

Show us your steadfast love, O LORD,  
and grant us your salvation.

**All: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak,  
for he will speak peace to his people,  
to his faithful, to those who turn to him in their hearts.<sup>[a]</sup>**

Surely his salvation is at hand for those who fear him,  
that his glory may dwell in our land.

**All: Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet;  
righteousness and peace will kiss each other.**

Faithfulness will spring up from the ground,  
and righteousness will look down from the sky.

**All: The LORD will give what is good,  
and our land will yield its increase.**

Righteousness will go before him,  
and will make a path for his steps.

**All: All: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the  
beginning is now and shall be for ever. Amen**

At the end of each reading these words may be said. This is the word of the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading 1 Corinthians 1:1-3**

*Silence*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading John 15:1-17 - Jesus the True Vine**

Sermon

Apostles' Creed

**All I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I 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 to judge the living and the dead.  
I 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.**

**Hymn 72, Bind us together lord....,**

Prayers

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray

**All 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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Leader: God of love, through Christ you said to us: "You did not choose me but I chose you." You invite us to receive your friendship. Teach us to respond more deeply to this invitation, and to grow and grow in a life that is ever more complete.

**All** **The joy of our heart is in God.** *(all touch their heart and smile)*

Leader: God of life, you call us to be praise in the midst of the world and to accept one another. May your loving gaze, which rests upon each person, inspire us to celebrate each other just as we are.

**All** **The joy of our heart is in God.** *(all touch their heart and smile)*

Leader: God you who gather, you knit us together as one vine in Jesus. May your loving Spirit abide in us at church and in our community that together we may celebrate you with joy.

**All** **The joy of our heart is in God.** *(all touch their heart and smile)*

Leader: God of the one vineyard, you call us to live in your love in all we do and say. Touched by your goodness, grant us to be a reflection of that love in our homes, schools and workplaces.

**All** **The joy of our heart is in God.** *(all touch their heart and smile)*

Reader: Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace

**All** **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader: O Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life for people who suffer in so many different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, gifts and resources with all those in need.

**All** **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader: Holy Spirit, you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate change. Guide us toward new ways of living that are in harmony with all creation.

**All** **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader: At the centre of the world is God, in whom all our desires and longings find their meeting place.

As we move closer to God, so we draw closer to one another. And the closer we come to one another . . .

**All** **The closer we come to God. Intercessions**

Reader: Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace

**All** **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader Holy Spirit, you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate change. Guide us toward new ways of living that are in harmony with all creation.

**All God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader At the centre of the world is God, in whom all our desires and longings find their meeting place.

As we move closer to God, so we draw closer to one another. And the closer we come to one another . . .

**All The closer we come to God.**

The Collect

Almighty God,  
whose Son revealed in signs and miracles  
the wonder of your saving presence:  
renew your people with your heavenly grace,  
and in all our weakness  
sustain us by your mighty power;  
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.

**Blessing**

Leader: Be one, so that the world may believe! Abide in God's love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.

**All: May the God of all creation, 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.**

Leader: Let us bless the Lord

**All: Thanks be to God**

**Closing hymn, 88 – Brother, sister, let me serve you....,**

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