



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021: Abiding in Christ

Service opening & Vigil 1

Each person needs a large candle, a card heart, and a pencil/pen.

Light your large candle & place it in front of 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

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 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!

First Vigil – Abiding in Christ: the unity of the whole person

Reading: John 15:1-17

1 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. **2** He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. **3** You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. **4** Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. **5** “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. **7** If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. **8** This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.

9 “As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. **10** If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. **11** I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. **12** My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. **13** Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. **14** You are my friends if you do what I command. **15** I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. **16** You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you. **17** This is my command: Love each other.

A short time of silence

Intercessions

Reader 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)*

Reader 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)*

Reader 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)*

Reader 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)*

Action: A time of silence where we reflect on God's love. Write/draw your name on your card and place it by the candle.

Closing Prayer:

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

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.