

# DAY 7

## 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

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WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

# DAY 7

## Welcome and Introduction

“The unity of Christians never did nor ever will or can stand in uniformity of thought and opinion, but in Christian love only.”

Thomas Story 1737

*“I am the vine, you are the branches”*

**(John 15:5a)**

1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:21-23 Is Christ divided?

John 17:20-23 As you and I are one

## Growing in Unity

### PRAYER

Holy Spirit,

vivifying fire and gentle breath, come and abide in us.

Renew in us the passion for unity so that we may live in awareness of  
the bond that unites us in you.

May all who have put on Christ at their Baptism

unite and bear witness together to the hope that sustains them.

Amen

### A PERIOD OF STILLNESS

During this quiet period you may wish to silently consider the words of the meditation and the two questions.

The stillness will end with a short reading from the Book of Christian Discipline, ‘Quaker Faith & Practice’

# DAY 7

## MEDITATION

On the eve of his death, Jesus prayed for the unity of those the Father gave him: “that they may all be one ... so that the world may believe”. Joined to him, as a branch is to the vine, we share the same sap that circulates among us and vitalizes us.

Each tradition seeks to lead us to the heart of our faith: communion with God, through Christ, in the Spirit. The more we live this communion, the more we are connected to other Christians and to all of humanity. Paul warns us against an attitude that had already threatened the unity of the first Christians: absolutizing one’s own tradition to the detriment of the unity of the body of Christ. Differences then become divisive instead of mutually enriching. Paul had a very broad vision: “All are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God” (1 Cor 3:22-23).

Christ’s will commits us to a path of unity and reconciliation. It also commits us to unite our prayer to his: “that they may all be one. . .so that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21).

“Never resign yourself to the scandal of the separation of Christians who so readily profess love for their neighbour, and yet remain divided. Make the unity of the body of Christ your passionate concern.”

[The Rule of Taizé in French and English (2012) p. 13]

## QUESTIONS

- What part of your tradition is vital and life giving and what can you learn from what is vital and life giving within other Christian traditions?
- What could be the impact on the world of greater unity between the churches?

# GROWING IN UNITY

*Quaker Faith & Practice 27.14*

What, then, is the focus for Christian unity? It must be Jesus, who calls us not into structures but into discipleship and to follow him in his way. Can we not know that we are one in him when we are faithful to his calling and when we exercise towards one another that greatest gift of love? Can we not rejoice in our diversity, welcoming the opportunities to learn from each other? Can we not seek a recognition of each other's ministries as the work of the same Spirit? That Spirit can, if we are ready to adventure, lead us into ways we have not known before.

*London Yearly Meeting, 1986*



**GO AND DO** (see [www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo))

**Global:** Find out more about the ACT Alliance and Caritas International and celebrate the coming together of Christian organisations to bring transformation across the world.

**Local:** Organise an online or in person conversation with the assistance of a facilitator on the theme of unity for the churches in your area.

**Personal:** Consider and commit to one act of unity.

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