

# DAY 8

## 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 8

*“So that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete”*

**(John 15:11)**

## Leader – Introduction and Welcome

We are grateful to the sisters of the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, for creating the material for this special week. The sisters of Grandchamp have offered us something uniquely precious.

Their chosen theme is “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”. Abiding in Christ, we receive the strength and wisdom to act in love to fully recognize ourselves as brothers and sisters in humanity, and to be creators of a new way of living; we are, ‘one body in Christ’. Reconciling with all of creation is our focus for today’s service.

Hymn 1: You are the Vine, we are the branches

## Opening Prayer

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

**All – And also with you.**

## God’s Word

“Through [Christ] God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven” (Colossians 1:20).

In preparation to listen to God’s word, take a few moments to relax your body and gently breathe in the goodness and love of God.

Colossians 1:15-20     In him all things hold together (read by Nona Wright, FMC)

*Silent reflection*

Mark 4:30-32     As small as a mustard seed (read by Nona Wright, FMC)

*Silent reflection*

# RECONCILING WITH ALL OF CREATION

## MEDITATION

The hymn to Christ in the epistle to the Colossians invites us to sing the praise of God's salvation, which encompasses the entire universe. Through the crucified and risen Christ, a path of reconciliation has been opened up; creation too is destined for a future of life and peace.

With the eyes of faith, we see that the kingdom of God is a reality that is very close but still very small, hardly visible – like a mustard seed. However, it is growing. Even in the distress of our world the Spirit of the Risen One is at work. He encourages us to become involved – with all people of good will – in tirelessly seeking justice and peace, and ensuring the earth is once again a home for all creatures.

We participate in the work of the Spirit so that creation in all its fullness may continue to praise God. When nature suffers, when human beings are crushed, the Spirit of the risen Christ – far from allowing us to lose heart – invites us to become part of his work of healing.

The newness of life that Christ brings, however hidden, is a light of hope for many. It is a wellspring of reconciliation for the whole of creation and contains a joy that comes from beyond ourselves: “so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete” (Jn 15:11).

“Do you wish to celebrate the newness of life that Christ gives through the Holy Spirit, and let it live in you, among us, in the church, in the world and in all of creation?”

[Second promise made during profession at the Community of Grandchamp]

# DAY 8

Poem (read by Jo Walker, FMC)

*From The Quarantine Quatrains VI by Malcolm Guite, Poet/Priest  
(with thanks to Christians Aware for permission to share this work)*

They say the Lion and the Leopard keep  
The Courts where Jamshýd gloried and drank deep:  
And now in every corner of the world  
The wild things flourish whilst the cities sleep

For when they see our influence abate  
The banished creatures soon resume their state:  
Blithe dolphins sport along the grand canal,  
Coyotes call across the golden gate.

The grass grows green in every city square  
And little foxes, once so shy and rare  
Saunter our streets and boulevards by day  
Whilst birds and insects throng the cleaner air

How soon the tide of nature has returned  
How soon renew the forests that we burned  
How soon they seed and repossess our streets  
Those precious plants and animals we spurned.

Perhaps in all this crisis, all this pain,  
This reassessment of our loss and gain  
Nature rebukes our brief authority  
Yet offers us the chance to start again

And this time with a new humility,  
With chastened awe, and mutual courtesy;  
To re-accept the unearned gift of life  
With gratitude, with joy and charity

Perhaps we'll learn to live without so much  
To nurture and to cherish, not to clutch,  
And, if I'm spared, I'll hold the years I'm given  
With gentler tenure and a lighter touch.

# RECONCILING WITH ALL OF CREATION

Reflection *Euan McPhee*

Hymn 2: Touch the earth lightly  
by Shirley Erena Murray (1931-2021)

Touch the earth lightly,  
use the earth gently,  
nourish the life of the world in our care:  
gift of great wonder,  
ours to surrender,  
trust for the children tomorrow will bear.

We who endanger,  
who create hunger,  
agents of death for all creatures that live,  
we who would foster  
clouds of disaster--  
God of our planet, forestall and forgive!

Let there be greening,  
birth from the burning,  
water that blesses and air that is sweet,  
health in God's garden,  
hope in God's children,  
regeneration that peace will complete.

God of all living,  
God of all loving,  
God of the seedling, the snow and the sun,  
teach us, deflect us,  
Christ reconnect us,  
using us gently, and making us one.

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# DAY 8



## QUESTIONS

- How much does your life declare God's salvation? What view of God would others have from how you live?
- What could your church(es) and community do together to make justice and peace flourish in your locality?
- How does your church or group of churches care for God's creation? What changes, large or small, could you make which would make that care more effective?

## PRAYER

**Thrice-holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us.  
We thank you for your presence in us and in creation.  
May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it,  
In the hope of this vision, may we be  
able to work for a world  
where justice and peace flourish, for the glory of your name.**

## GO AND DO

(see [www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo](http://www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo))

**Global:** Find out about and join the prayer chain for climate justice.

**Local:** Campaign together for climate justice in the lead up to the United Nations climate change talks in Glasgow 2021.

**Personal:** Take action for climate justice in your own life.

# RECONCILING WITH ALL OF CREATION

## Show the Love Prayer 2021

*(Prayers courtesy of Green Christian; composed as part of the Climate Coalition's  
Show the Love 2021 campaign  
<https://www.theclimatecoalition.org/show-the-love>)*

O God who is love  
Let love empower our compassion  
Let love embrace each and everyone  
Let love unite humans and non-human  
In restorative co-existence.  
O Jesus, love come down to earth  
May we honour the earth  
May we honour all that dwells in the earth  
May we be reconciled with the earth  
Become what we are, of the earth.  
O Spirit of love  
Grant us a spirit of humility  
Grant us a spirit of carefulness  
Grant us a spirit of friendship  
For the earth and all that dwells with us here.

Toni Bennett



# DAY 8

## Show the Love Blessing 2021

May our loving God,  
who created the world and all that is in it,  
Inspire us to delight in our beautiful home,  
And to live in wonder, peace and joy.  
May our living God keep our hearts turned to loving our neighbour and to  
respecting the creation we share.  
May our merciful God help us to live this week in goodness and hope,  
And fill us with God's peace.  
Amen

*Ash Vale Chapel Poetry Group*

*To view these prayers, and more besides, go to: <https://greenchristian.org.uk/show-the-love-prayer/>*

## Hymn 3

You Shall Go Out With Joy  
And Be Led Forth With Peace  
The Mountains And The Hills  
Will Break Forth Before You  
There'll Be Shouts Of Joy,  
And All The Trees Of The Field  
Will Clap, Will Clap Their Hands

