

"Abiding in Christ"

Evening Prayer

Week of Prayer for Church Unity 2021

&

Sunday of the Word of God 2021

Sunday 24 January 2021

St Mary's, Navan

Gathering Hymn

Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.
Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear.
In Him no sin is found. We stand on holy ground.
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here

Be still for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around.
He burns with holy fire, with splendour He is crowned.
How awesome is the sight - our radiant King of light.
Be still for the glory of the Lord, is shining all around

Be still for the power of the Lord, is moving in this place.
He comes to cleanse and heal, to minister His grace.
No work too hard for Him in faith receive from Him.
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

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!

All **And with your spirit.**

Brothers and sisters in Christ, this year the theme of 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. Faced with our differences and in this time of pandemic, we risk withdrawing into ourselves and seeing only that which separates us. But let us listen to how Christ calls us to abide in his love, and so bear much fruit.

In the moments of prayer that follow, we remember the call of Christ, we turn to his love, to him who is the centre of our life. For the path of unity begins in our intimate relationship with God. Abiding in God's love strengthens the desire to seek unity and reconciliation with others. God opens us up to those who are different from us. This is an important fruit, a gift of healing for the divisions within us, between us, and in the world.

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, you 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 is forsaken. Enmity develops between us.

Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.

Grant us to live from your forgiveness

so that we may be together and praise your name.

- All** **Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!**
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** **Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!**
We sing your praise among suffering and tears,
We sing your praise among promises and achievements.
- All** **Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!**
We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;
We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.
- All** **Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!**
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** **Laudate omnes gentes, laudate Dominum!**

A reading from the book of Revelation (7:9)

After that I saw a huge number, impossible to count, of people from every nation, race, tribe and language; they were standing in front of the throne and in front of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palms in their hands. They shouted aloud, 'Victory to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!' And all the angels who were standing in a circle round the throne, surrounding the elders and the four animals, prostrated themselves before the throne, and touched the ground with their foreheads, worshipping God with these words, 'Amen. Praise and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and strength to our God for ever and ever. Amen.'

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Reflection: Canon John Clarke

Silence

Canticle:

Rev 19: 1-2, 5-7

Praise God, all you his servants, both great and small, alleluia!

Salvation and glory and power belong to our God, his judgements are true and just.	Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!
---	--

Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great.	Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!
---	--

The Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns, let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory.	Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!
---	--

The marriage of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready.	Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!
---	--

Praise the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit, for ever, for ages unending.	Alleluia! Alleluia, alleluia!
---	--

Praise God, all you his servants, both great and small, alleluia!

Proclamation of the Gospel:

John 15: 1-8

Jesus said to his disciples:

‘I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser.
Every branch in me that bears no fruit he cuts away,
and every branch that does bear fruit
he prunes to make it bear even more.
You are pruned already,
by means of the word that I have spoken to you.
Make your home in me, as I make mine in you.
As a branch cannot bear fruit all by itself,
but must remain part of the vine,
neither can you unless you remain in me.

I am the vine,
you are the branches.
Whoever remains in me, with me in him,
bears fruit in plenty;
for cut off from me you can do nothing.
Anyone who does not remain in me
is like a branch that has been thrown away – he withers;
these branches are collected and thrown on the fire,
and they are burnt.
If you remain in me
and my words remain in you,
you may ask what you will
and you shall get it.
It is to the glory of my Father
that you should bear much fruit,
and then you will be my disciples.'

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection: Fr Declan Hurley

Intercessions

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

All Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie eleison!

Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe".

All Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie eleison!

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

All Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie eleison!

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

All Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie eleison!

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

All Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie eleison!

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.

All Kyrie, Christe, Kyrie eleison!

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

All Our Father...

Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Prayer and action belong together. When we abide in Christ, we receive the Spirit of courage and wisdom to act against all injustice and oppression. We say together the words which are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp Community:

**All 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.

All

**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
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Concluding Hymn

This is My will, My one command,
that love should dwell among you all.
This is My will that you should love
as I have shown that I love you.

No greater love a man can have
than that he die to save his friends.
You are My friends if you obey
what I command that you should do.

You chose not Me, but I chose you
that you should go and bear much fruit.
I chose you out that you in Me
should bear much fruit that will abide.

All that I ask My Father, dear,
for My name's sake you shall receive.
This is My will, My one command,
that love should dwell in each, in all.