

Glastonbury Together in prayer



A news sheet for members of Glastonbury churches during the crisis caused by Covid 19

Abiding in Christ

The theme for this years week of prayer for Christian unity is abiding in Christ, a theme taken from the 15th chapter of John. Abiding in Christ is an inner attitude that takes root in us over time. It demands space to grow. It can be overtaken by the struggle for the necessities of life and is threatened by the distractions, noise, activity and challenges of life. We live in a time that is troubling and magnificent, challenged by the pandemic, poverty, racism and climate change. As Christians seeking reconciliation justice and peace we know the full value of spiritual life. We need to unite and help each other to create the situations where people can call upon the creative word of God. Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Abiding in Christ, we receive the strength and wisdom to act against injustice and oppression. To recognise ourselves as brothers and sisters in humanity. To be creators of a new way of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation.

Meeting details

Lunch time: 13:00 start

Topic: Week of prayer lunch time
Every day, 18th Jan until 25th Jan, 2021, but not Sunday
Join Zoom Meeting
By Computer
Meeting ID: 969 9464 4397
Passcode: CTiGWoP13
By Telephone call
0131 460 1196 United Kingdom
0203 481 5237 United Kingdom
Meeting ID: 969 9464 4397
Passcode: 556039136

Evening: 19:00 start

Topic: Week of prayer evening
Every day, 18th Jan until 25th Jan 2021 but not Sunday
By Computer
Meeting ID: 913 4884 6183
Passcode: CTiGWoP19
By Telephone call
0131 460 1196 United Kingdom
0203 481 5237 United Kingdom
Meeting ID: 913 4884 6183
Passcode: 498514573



What do you need to join in this year?

What do you need to take part in this years week of prayer events in Glastonbury? The most important requirement is yourself. The meetings will be available by telephone or by computer over the internet. If you have a computer you will be able to watch the people taking part but it is not necessary for you to have a camera or microphone as it is possible to make text comments. Details of the material provided by Churches together in Britain and Ireland is available on the internet if you want to preview it but the daily pages will be displayed on the zoom chat. There are bible readings each day, if you have a bible it would be useful to have it available so you can look at the readings during the meeting. Each day there are readings, a meditation and questions for discussion. There is also a daily prayer. Join us if you can at as many session as possible. The evening and lunchtime session will cover the same material but with different participants the discussion may be different, you are welcome too join both if you are available.

Praying for Unity

The community of Grandchamps

The material for this year's week of prayer was prepared by the Sisters of the community of Grandchamps, a monastic community which brings together sisters from different churches and various countries. They have ecumenical vocation which commits them to the path of reconciliation among Christians and within the human family, and to respect the whole of creation. The community was founded in the 1930s by a group of women who sought to rediscover the importance of silence and listening to God. Because they were formed close to linguistic and cultural borders they were drawn to discover others who were different. They welcomed German and Dutch women into their midst shortly after World War II, and their vocation of reconciliation. The background of the community makes them very suitable to produce the material for the week of prayer for Christian Unity yet when they were invited the pandemic and its impact could not be predicted. The general secretary of Churches Together says

"Ecumenical prayer, prayer for unity, was there at the heart of the life of our community from the start, and that is clearly the work of the Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit that led the first sisters (with Mother Geneviève) to meet with Catholic and Anglican nuns. These contacts were a great help to them in their search for a life of prayer and community."

Sister Minke



Towards a united land

unity expanded into a vocation of reconciliation. The background of the community makes them very suitable to produce the material for the week of prayer for Christian Unity yet when they were invited the pandemic and its impact could not be predicted. The general secretary of Churches Together says *"The sisters have offered us something uniquely precious, an opportunity to engage in a form of prayer that is ancient yet appropriate for our time. The ancient rhythms of prayer found in many religious orders teach us that when we pray we pray not just with those who are physically close but with the whole Church, the Body of Christ, of Christians in other places and other times."*

Community of Christ

With the week of prayer having been prepared by a community perhaps it is appropriate to look at a young hymn written at the end of the twentieth century but already found in six hymn books. "Community of Christ" has four verses and was written by New Zealander Shirley Erana Murray. She has an ecumenical background having been raised as a Methodist but marrying a Presbyterian Minister. The hymn shows her concern for human rights and unity. The first three verses all start with "Community of Christ" before giving their message. In the first verse this is to live out the creed and risk your life for the children of God who are every race. In the second verse we are asked to look beyond the door of the Church to the refugee, hungry, poor, oppressed and jobless. In a reference to Jesus washing his disciples feet we are told to take a towel and water and wash our neighbours feet. In verse three it is through the Community of Christ that the word must sound, crying out for justice and peace. Disarm those who war and destroy, turn bombs to bread and tears to joy. The fourth verse sums up the message as: *"When menace melts away, so shall God's will be done, the climate of the world be peace and Christ its sun; our currency be love and kindness our law, our food and faith be shared as one for evermore."*

A look at the lectionary - 2nd and 3rd Sundays

The lectionary for the weeks following the baptism of Jesus look at calling both in the Old Testament and in the Gospel readings. On the Second Sunday after Epiphany/in ordinary time the Old Testament reading in both lectionaries is the call of Samuel. Samuel hears a voice in the night but does not know it is the Lord calling him. He goes to Eli who tells him to sleep, but after a second call Eli tells him to answer the call from his bed. When the call came again Samuel said speak Lord your servant is listening and heard the message. Samuel became a reliable prophet, remembering the Lord's words all his days. The Gospel readings for this Sunday give John's version of Jesus calling his disciples. In the Catholic lectionary we hear of the calling of Andrew and his brother Simon from verses 35-42. This is where Jesus tells

Simon that he will be called Peter. In the Revised common lectionary, however, we hear of the calling of Philip and Nathaniel in verses 43-51. On the Third Sunday after Epiphany/in ordinary time we hear in the Old Testament reading of Jonah being sent to Nineveh to tell them to repent. This week the Gospel reading is the same in both lectionaries and gives Mark's version of the calling of Simon Peter. There is a small difference between the Gospel accounts with John relating that Andrew, a disciple of John the Baptist, went to his brother Simon and told him about Jesus. In Mark we hear of Jesus seeing Simon and Andrew as he walked along the Sea of Galilee. Putting the two together suggests that the brothers would not be surprised at their call when it came as they had been prepared for it in advance.