



SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 2022
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
Minister: The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Readers: Colleen Gareau, Tech Team:
Glenn Erwin, Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALL TO THE GATHERED:

HYMN: VU#664 "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

1. What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
everything to God in prayer!
O what peace we often forfeit,
O what needless pain we bear,
all because we do not carry
everything to God in prayer.

2. Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful
who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness;
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3. Are we weak and heavy laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Christ the Savior is our refuge;
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do our friends despise, forsake us?
Are we tempted to despair?
Jesus' strength will shield our weakness,
and we'll find new courage there.

OPENING PRAYER: Read by John McCullough

Holy One, you desire the unity of all Christians. Set aflame the whole church with the fire of your Spirit. Unite us to stand in the world as a sign of your love. Help all who have been baptized in your name to live in peace and unity as sisters and brothers in the household of faith, and to serve others in the name of Jesus Christ. May our worship and our relationships with our sister churches reflect our prayers. Amen.

(Rev. Teresa Stricklen from the PC(USA) Office of Theology and Worship, Book of Common Worship)



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE:

One: As we light this Christ candle may it remind us that Christ is in us and in our world.

Sung response: "You Are the Branches" sung by Charlotte Heffernan, Isabelle Mackell, Shayla Brown.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; "The Body of Christ" read by Colleen Gareau

Luke 4:14-21 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me" read by John McCullough

HYMN: VU#588 "Many are the Lightbeams"

1. Many are the lightbeams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the lightbeams from the one light; we are one in Christ.
2. Many are the branches of the one tree. Our one tree is Jesus.
Many are the branches of the one tree; we are one in Christ.
3. Many are the gifts given, love is all one. Love's the gift of Jesus.
Many are the gifts given, love is all one; we are one in Christ.
4. Many ways to serve God, the Spirit is one, servant spirit of Jesus.
Many way to serve God, the Spirit is one; we are one in Christ.
5. Many are the members, the body is one, members all of Jesus.
Many are the members; the body is one; we are one in Christ.

SERMON:

REMINDER OF OUR OFFERING

HYMN: "Though Ancient Walls" by Bells Corners U.C. musicians

1. Though ancient walls may still stand proud and racial strife be fact,
though boundaries may be lines of hate, proclaim God's saving act!
Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!
2. When vested power stands firm entrenched
and breaks another's back,



when waste and want live side by side,
it's Gospel that we lack.

Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

3. The truth we seek in varied scheme,
the life that we pursue,
unites us in a common quest
for self and world made new.
Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!
4. The church divided seeks that grace,
that newness we proclaim;
a unity of serving love
that lives praise to God's name!
Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!
5. This broken world seeks lasting health
and vital unity.
God's people by God's Word renewed,
cast off all slavery!
Walls that divide are broken down; Christ is our unity!
Chains that enslave are thrown aside; Christ is our liberty!

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND LORD'S PRAYER: read by Colleen Gareau

Compassionate and Gracious God, you remind us that you are the vine and we are the branches. We are all part of the body of Christ, one body. Alongside this, we know the truth proclaimed in Your Word that we are all created in Your image. Too easily we allow division based on culture, language, or race. Change our behavior and make us united. Let us focus on our shared status as Your creation and unite together over what we have in common and not fracture over how we differ. To You, the Creator of all people, I pray. Amen.

COMMISSIONING AND BENEDICTION

SUNG BENEDICTION: "Go in Love" sung by Sheila Payne

Go in love; have no fear.
God will guide you; God is always near.
Go in love; take God's hand.
God will hear you, God will understand.
May God's light forever shine upon you;
may God's peace be always in your heart.
Go in love; face each day.
God will lead you, God will show the way.
Go in love and live in faith. Amen.

