



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2023
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
Minister: The Reverend Karen Ptolemy-Stam
Music Director: Victoria Warwick
Readers: Dan Donaldson, Fran Hill
Tech Team: Glenn Erwin, Gabriela & Rick Dell,
Bruce Wilcox

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CALL TO THE GATHERED:

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE LAND

HYMN: VU#372 "Though I May Speak"

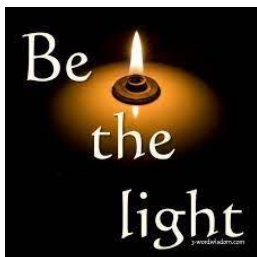
1. Though I may speak with bravest fire,
and have the gift to all inspire,
and have not love, my words are vain
as sounding brass and hopeless gain.
2. Though I may give all I possess,
and striving so my love profess,
but not be given by love within,
the profit soon turns strangely thin.
3. Come, Spirit, come, our hearts control,
our spirits long to be made whole.
Let inward love guide every deed;
by this we worship, and are freed.

OPENING PRAYER: Read by Dan Donaldson

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 followers of Christ 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)

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: VU#82 "A Light is Gleaming" Refrain and Verse 1

**Refrain: A light is gleaming, spreading its arms throughout the night,
living in the light. Come share its gladness, God's radiant love is burning bright, living in the light.**

1. When light comes pouring into the darkest place, it hurts our eyes to see the glow. Sometimes a word of hope reminds us of our fears, our memories and tears.

Refrain:

THEME CONVERATION: (Children leave for Discovery Kids)

SCRIPTURE READINGS: 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23"- Fran Hill

SERMON:

HYMN: VU#588 "Many are the Light beams"

1. Many are the light beams from the one light. Our one light is Jesus.
Many are the light beams 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.

GIVING OF OUR GIFTS AND OFFERTORY ANTHEM

SUNG RESPONSE: MV #182

**Grateful for the life you give us,
thankful for your Holy Son,
Joyful in your Spirit flowing over all, O God of love.
Grateful for the birth of Jesus, Thankful for Emmanuel.
Jesus born in Bethlehem and in our hearts as well.**



OFFERTORY PRAYER

HYMN: "Though Ancient Walls"

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:

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"

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.

