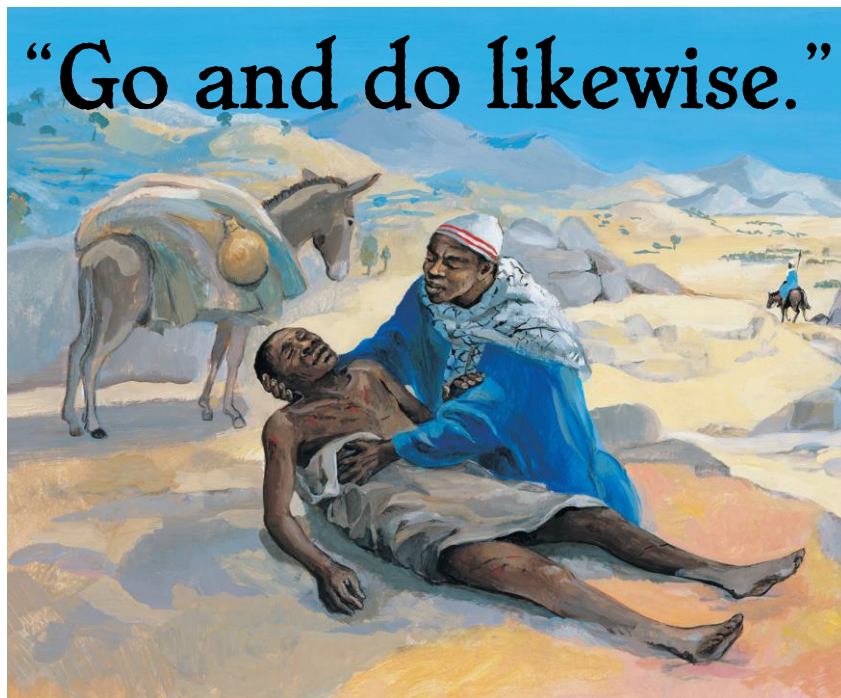


WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2024

“You shall love the Lord your God ...
and your neighbor as yourself.”

(Luke 10:27)



6:30 p.m. on Friday, January 19th on Zoom

with music from Church of the Beloved in Northglenn
and Mary of Magdala in Fort Collins

All are welcome to join us on Zoom at

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89641992874?pwd=RXZpbjRQbEFxakRCNnl1SXN2Uk9RZz09>

Meeting ID: 896 4199 2874 Passcode: unity

Order of Worship


Participants are asked to prepare their sacred space
with a shallow bowl of oil or soothing lotion.

The service is an adaptation of that jointly prepared and published by the Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity Commission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches. As the Burkina Faso version focuses on a water ritual that would not include remote participation, we've changed the opening reading with its focus on hospitality to a focus on the healing balm offered by the Good Samaritan.

Welcome

Fr. Michael Nicosia, as the ECC Region's Vicar of Ecumenical Engagement, welcomes all and shares the following directions:

- Remote participants are encouraged to prepare their home spaces with a lit candle, and a vial or shallow bowl of oil or soothing hand lotion.
- Zoom protocol: We invite participants to identify themselves by name and community by renaming their screenshot* or typing them in the chat.
- The link for program will periodically be posted in chat.
- We ask everyone without assigned speaking parts to remain on mute for the assembly responses and singing.

**To change your name, click on the "Participants" button in the Zoom window. Next, hover your mouse over your name in the "Participants" list, click on  and then on "Rename". Type "Your Name, Community" (example: Fr. Michael, StPaulDenverECC).*

Opening Flute Meditation

Invitation to Pray

Rev. Jane Reina, Church of the Holy Family ECC:

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **ALL: Amen.**

We are gathered as companions on the road that leads to the visible unity of Christians. At the heart of our prayer and worship tonight is a parable of brokenness side-stepped and ignored. Is there no balm for the brokenness in the Body of Christ?

In response to our plight Jesus repeats the divine call to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Let us prepare to meet the God of Love in thanksgiving and joy, remembering his command to love.

Gayle Craun, Church of the Holy Family ECC:

Glory to you, God of Compassion, for you hold all things in your heart
and call all people to live in communion with you and with one another.

Glory to you, Christ Jesus, for you give yourself entirely to each one of us
and invite us to do the same.

Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you gather us together in love and unity.

Glory to you, God of Love, in whom we are created, redeemed and made one.

ALL: Amen.

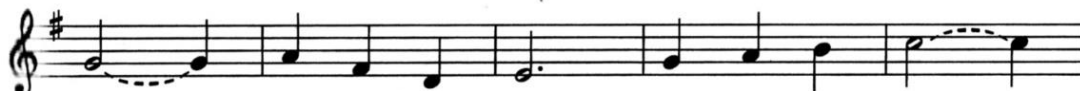
Fr. Michael Nicosia: Please remain muted as we join the music ministers of Mary of Magdala in singing "Christ, Be Our Light". *(Bill Smith on vocals and guitar, Rosanna Bateman on piano, and Mary Vogel on flute)*

Hymn: Christ, Be Our Light

Bernadette Farrell © 1993. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Used with permission under Onelicense #A-736044.



- 1. Long-ing for light, — we wait in dark-ness. Long-ing for
- 2. Long-ing for peace, — our world is trou-bled. Long-ing for
- 3. Long-ing for food, — man-y are hun-gry. Long-ing for
- 4. Long-ing for shel-ter, man-y are home-less. Long-ing for
- 5. Man-y the gifts, — man-y the peo-ple, man-y the



- 1. truth, — we turn to you. Make us your own, —
- 2. hope, — man-y de-spair. Your word a-lone —
- 3. wa-ter, man-y still thirst. Make us your bread, —
- 4. warmth, — man-y are cold. Make us your build-ing,
- 5. hearts that yearn to be-long. Let us be ser-vants



- 1. your ho-ly peo-ple, light for the world to see.
- 2. has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv-ing voice.
- 3. bro-ken for oth-ers, shared un-til all are fed.
- 4. shel-ter-ing oth-ers, walls made of liv-ing stone.
- 5. to one an-oth-er, mak-ing your king-dom come.

Refrain



Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the dark-ness.



Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gath-ered to-day.

Litany of Praise and Thanksgiving

Pastor Katie Chullino, Bethlehem Lutheran:

Let us turn our hearts to God in praise:

Praise to you, O God, for you have poured out your love into our hearts so that we never lose hope. You free our lives from fear because of your love, and dress our wounded and injured hearts. Praise to you for all the people who sow seeds of love and hope for their neighbors around the world.

ALL: Holy One, we praise you.

Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus your Son, the Redeemer of all people. Thanks be to you for the grace of conversion and all the seeds of faith, hope and charity among your people and everywhere. Thanks be to you for the faith we received from the apostles, for Jesus' prayer for unity, and for the gift of the Good News of salvation.

ALL: Holy One, we thank you.

God of love, we adore you for the generosity of your love for all people – a love so perfect, it is beyond our understanding; a love in which there is no distinction, all inclusive. We adore you, who out of love sent your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world and continue to fill our lives with your love through the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Holy One, we adore you.

Prayers of Confession

Mary Lu Stenson, Light of Christ ECC:

We come before you now, O God, to confess our failures to love:

By seeking happiness without God and ignoring the command to love, we have turned away from God and from our neighbor. Our selfishness and our desire to possess and control separate us from God. [Silence]

Merciful God: ***ALL: forgive and heal us.***

When we accept ideologies that demean the humanity of others, we build walls of division, sow the seeds of hatred and violence and abandon God's command to love one another. [Silence]

Merciful God: ***ALL: forgive and heal us.***

We have hardened our hearts and deceived ourselves. In our lack of compassion, we no longer see Jesus in those who are different from ourselves. [Silence]

Merciful God: ***ALL: forgive and heal us.***

We fail to open our hearts and minds to the infinite and unconditional nature of God's love for all. By being closed to this love, the world is darkened by selfishness, violence, indifference and absence of meaning. [Silence]

Merciful God: ***ALL: forgive and heal us.***

God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem all creation, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us by your Holy Spirit.

ALL: Glory to God, whom we praise with one voice.

Trisagion

Fr. Michael: We now invite everyone to join in a prayer from the Eastern Orthodox Tradition, the Trisagion.

ALL: Holy God, Holy and Strong, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us!

Hebrew Scripture Reading: Jeremiah 8:21-22

Sue Hester, St. Paul Denver ECC:

A reading from the book of the Prophet Jeremiah.

Since my people are crushed, I am crushed; I mourn, and horror grips me. Is there no balm in Gilead? Is there no physician there? Why then is there no healing for the wounds of my people?

The Word of God. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial: Psalm 138

Sara Gordon, Sixth Avenue United Church of Christ:

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

ALL: On the day I called, you answered me.

On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

ALL: On the day I called, you answered me.

They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord. For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he perceives from far away.

ALL: On the day I called, you answered me.

Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me. The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

ALL: On the day I called, you answered me.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

ALL: As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Gospel Reading: Luke 10:25-37

Rev. Alice Bradley, Church of the Beloved ECC:

A reading of the Good News according to Luke.

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

John Immele, Church of the Beloved ECC:

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'"

Rev. Marcia Meier, Northglenn United Church of Christ:

Jesus asked the lawyer, "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

He said, "The one who showed him compassion."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Good News of our salvation.

ALL: Praise to you, O Christ.

Expression of Gratitude

Fr. Michael: Let us express our gratitude to the God of Compassion as we pray...

We thank you, O God, for the many ways we express our unity as the Body of your Christ—in faith, in mission and, yes, even in worship, though we pray for a fuller communion one day.

We are grateful for the many ways we collaborate in the service of our neighbors in need, recognizing that we are one human family.

Continue to bless all of our ecumenical partnerships, including our participation in the Colorado Council of Churches as it unites and amplifies our advocacy. All to your glory, out of love we pray.

ALL: Amen.

Please observe a moment of silence, thankful for the ties that bind.

Moment of Silence

Let us sing of the compassion we extend to one another
as Christ's disciples.

Hymn: "The Servant Song"

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1. Will you let me be your servant?

Let me be as Christ to you;

Pray that I may have the grace to

Let you be my servant, too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey;

We are trav'lers on the road;

We are here to help each other

Walk the mile and bear the load.

Affirmation of Love: 1 Corinthians 13:1-8, 13

Fr. Michael: The following is read antiphonally, with participants divided into two groups by the first letter of their first name.

REMEMBER to stay muted while our designated readers lead us.

Let us affirm our love.

A-M: *If I speak in human tongues or that of the angels, but I do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

N-Z: If I have the gift of prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have the faith to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

A-M: *If I give away everything I own, and if I give over my body in order to boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

N-Z: Love is patient, love is kind, it is not envious. Love does not brag, it is not puffed up. It is not rude, nor self-serving, nor easily angered or resentful.

A-M: *A loving heart is not glad about injustice, but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.*

N-Z: Love never ends. But if there are prophecies, they will cease; if there are tongues, they will be stilled; if there is knowledge, it will pass away.

ALL: *Faith, hope and love remain; but the greatest of these is love.*

Hymn: Ubi Caritas

Text: 1 Corinthians 13:2-8; Where charity and love are found, God is there; Taizé Community, 1979

Tune: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994 © 1979, Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. All rights reserved. Used with permission under Onelicense #A-736044.

U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor,
Live in char - i - ty and stead - fast love,

u - bi ca - ri - tas De - us i - bi est.
live in char - i - ty; God will dwell with you.

Prayers of Intercession

Pat Wiedower, Trinity Lutheran Church: We have been invited to live the divine call to love God and our neighbor as ourselves. As we renew our commitment to this call, may this love strengthen our unity as Christians.

With all our hearts, we desire to dwell in God's love and to have the grace to love our neighbors as ourselves. God of boundless love, we pray that all people may come to know your unlimited mercy and believe in your desire to fill us with your infinite love.

ALL: Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.

Cindy Cloyd, Mary of Magdala ECC: We join our prayers to that of Jesus, who prayed for the unity of all who follow him. God of communion, we pray that we may work together for your greater glory and spread the Good News of salvation for all.

ALL: Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.

Our hearts are broken because of the confusion and division in our world. God, our healer, we who are scattered like sheep without a shepherd, ask you to gather us into one fold. Enliven us by your Spirit and send us again, two by two, to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

ALL: Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.

Laurie Gudim, St. Paul's Episcopal: Our world is scarred by terror and violence. Millions are forced to leave their homes in search of refuge and safety. God of welcome, grant us the grace to risk embracing the stranger, tending their wounds and standing in solidarity with them. Strengthen our resolve to be kind and merciful and to act towards our siblings at all times as you do towards us.

ALL: Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.

In our weakness and fear we know that we often pass by on the other side, turning away from those who need our help. God of power, despite our lack of charity, open our hearts to experience the length, width, height and depth of your love, so that we may love you more and love our neighbor as ourselves.

ALL: Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.

Healing Balm

Fr. Michael: There is, indeed, a balm for our brokenness, for we stand in God's grace. There is a physician here, ministering to the needs of the Church, for Christ has promised and is in our midst.

I invite you all to anoint your hands with God's healing balm. As we sing the next verses of "The Servant Song", massage your hands with the oil or lotion you've brought for our communal worship, as a ritual preparation for our ministry to the neighbors we meet on life's road.

Hymn: “The Servant Song”

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**3. I will hold the Christ-light for you
In the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
Speak the peace you long to hear.**

**4. I will weep when you are weeping.
When you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow
Till we've seen this journey through.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fr. Michael: As children of the one God, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
Please use the words most familiar to you while remaining muted:

ALL: *Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Closing Prayer

Fr. Michael: And let us fulfill Jesus' command, praying together:

ALL: *Jesus, who prayed that all might be one, we pray to you for the unity of all Christians, according to your will, according to your means. May your Spirit enable us to experience the suffering caused by division, to see our sin and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.*

Sending Forth

Bishop Kae Madden, ECC Rocky Mountain Region:

Refreshed by this night's communion with God and one another,
let us go forth to love God, and to love our neighbor as ourselves,
united in Christ and enlivened by the Holy Spirit.

ALL: Everything we can do together, let's do it! Amen!

Fr. Michael: Together, but still muted, let us sing.

Hymn: "The Servant Song"

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**5. When we sing to God in heaven,
We shall find such harmony
Born of all we've known together
Of Christ's love and agony.**

**6. Will you let me be your servant?
Let me be as Christ to you;
Pray that I may have the grace to
Let you be my servant, too.**

Special thanks

to all our ecumenical partners who have joined us or used this service in their own communities or as a private devotion;

to the Burkina Faso community who composed the framework and many of the prayers for this year's theme, and to the planning committee who adapted it for our use (Bishop Kae Madden, Fr. Michael Nicosia, Mother Rosean Amaral, Tom Moos and Bill Smith);

to our tech master, Tom Moos of Mary of Magdala, assisted by Laurie Gudim from St Paul's Episcopal.