

ECUMENICAL CELEBRATION

Leader/Facilitator's Guide

Introduction

The material for *The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity* (WPCU) in 2021 was prepared by the Monastic community of Grandchamp¹. This guide, the accompanying participants' service sheet and the 8-days of prayer booklet were produced by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference Ecumenical committee to incorporate the Southern Hemisphere timing of the WPCU and to enculturate for the New Zealand context.

This celebration reflects the ways in which the sisters of Grandchamp pray. In their tradition three of the monastic prayer services - sometimes called 'vigils' or 'nocturns' in the Benedictine tradition, traditionally said during the night are combined into one evening service. In the same way, our service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is shaped by three sections, called 'vigils', which follow a pattern used by the community of Grandchamp.

Each vigil follows the same pattern: readings from scripture; a response; a time of silence; and intercessions. Each vigil also has an action reflecting the theme as outlined below.

The first vigil is centred on the unity of the whole person and our abiding in Christ. Participants are invited to five minutes of silence.

The second vigil expresses the desire to rediscover the visible unity of Christians anchored in the love of Christ, we turn to our neighbours and exchange with each other a sign of his peace.

The third vigil opens us up to the unity of all peoples, all creation. The action in it is inspired by a text of Dorotheus of Gaza (see introduction). Several people are positioned around a circle and move towards the centre. The closer we move to God - the centre - the closer we draw to each other.

There is a variety of ways in which this action may be choreographed depending on the space being used, and the traditions of those involved. The following may serve as a guide:

- Each person in the congregation will need to have an unlit candle.
- Organisers may wish to consider whether it is possible for the congregation to be "in the round" with radial aisles to facilitate this action.
- A large, raised lit candle (for example the Easter candle in many traditions) is set as the central point of a circle.
- Six to eight people from different Christian traditions surround the candle in a circle that may be outlined on the ground or shaped by the congregation's sitting in the round.
- Each of these people carries a small unlit candle raised high so all can see.
- During the reading accompanying the action, each person in the circle takes steps at the same pace towards the centre.
 - When they reach the centre, they light their unlit candles and return to the congregation. Everyone's candle is then lit.
- During the lighting of the congregation's candles, an appropriate song is sung
- Everyone holds their lighted candle through to the Dismissal.
- In some places, where it is appropriate and practicable, the congregations may process out of the place of worship into the wider world, with candles lit.

The litany at the beginning can be read or sung - if possible, by two different people.

Copyright responsibilities: Songs are suggested, and lyrics provided. NZCBC does not own the copyright of these songs. Local copyright protocols must be followed. These are the responsibility of those producing the participants worship sheet or equivalent.

¹ Find out more about these community at www.grandchamp.org

Order of the Celebration

Leader/Facilitator's Guide

L/ Leader C/ Congregation R/ Reader

Invitation to prayer

Gathering Hymn Invoking the Holy Spirit

Send us your Spirit, O Lord
Evening enfolds us and holds us too near
Wake the morning light; make our living bright
Shine on our darkness, O Lord

Teach us your wisdom, O Lord
Shadows have clouded, have crowded our sight
Give us hearts that see. Set our loving free
Hear us and help us, O Lord

Send Us Your Spirit O Lord Dan Schutte © 1985, 2009, OCP. All rights reserved.

Send us good summer, O Lord
Winters have chilled us, have stilled us too long
Give us love's own fire. Be our true desire
Send us your Spirit, O Lord

Word of Welcome

L May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always!
C ***And also with you.***

R1

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".

R2

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 the difference of the other', 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.

R1

In the three 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.

L

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.

And so, we pray:

C

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. Amen

Litany of praise

C *You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!*

R1 We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all peoples,

R2 We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

C *You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!*

R1 We sing your praise among suffering and tears,

R2 We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

C *You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!*

R1 We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;

R2 We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

C *You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!*

R1 We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,

R2 We sing your praise in the midst of life and death, the birth of a new heaven and a new earth.

C *You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!*

First Vigil

Abiding in Christ:

The unity of the whole person

Reading: Jn 15:1-17

Response: *Te Aroha O (Ubi caritas)* Jacques Berthier, Tune: © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France

Te aroha o (Ubi caritas)

Te a-ro-ha o, te A-tu-a, me-te a-ta-whai, kei rei-ra ko la.
U-bi ca-ri-tas et a-mor, u-bi ca-ri-tas De-us i-bi est.

Short silence *approximately one minute*

Intercessions:

Congregational response: *The joy of our heart is in God*

R God of love, through Christ you said to us: "*Abide in my love*". 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. We pray:

C *The joy of our heart is in God.*

R God of life, you call us to be praise in the midst of the world and to welcome one another as a gift of your grace. May your loving gaze, which rests upon each person, open us to receive each other just as we are.

We pray:

C *The joy of our heart is in God.*

R God who gathers, you knit us together as one vine in your Son Jesus, May your loving Spirit abide in us at parish meetings and local ecumenical gatherings. Grant that together we might celebrate you with joy.

We pray:

C *The joy of our heart is in God.*

R God of the one vineyard, you call us to abide in your love in all we do and say. Touched by your goodness, grant us to be a reflection of that love in our homes and workplaces. May we pave the way for bridging rivalries and overcoming tensions.

We pray:

C *The joy of our heart is in God.*

Action: A time of silence

R Very often we think of prayer as something we do, an activity of our own. In this short time, we are invited to an interior silence, and to turn aside from all the noise and concerns of our lives and thoughts. In this silence the action belongs to God. We are simply called to abide in God's love, to rest in him.

Silence *approximately 5 minutes*

Hymn: *Christ Be Our Light* Bernadette Farrell © 1993, Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Longing for light, we wait in darkness
Longing for truth, we turn to You.
Make us Your own, Your holy people
Light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.

Second Vigil The visible unity of Christians

Reading: 1 Cor 1:10-13a

Response: *There is One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism* Jacques Berthier, Tune: © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

M : J. Berthier

There is one Lord one faith, one bap - ti - sm ;

there is one God who is Fa - ther of all.

Short silence *approximately 1 minute*

Intercessions

R
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".

C *E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou (Lord have mercy)*

R
Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions, contempt, and misunderstanding cease in the church, May the walls that separate us fall

C *E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou (Lord have mercy)*

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

C *E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou (Lord have mercy)*

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

C *E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou (Lord have mercy)*

R

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.

C *E te Ariki, tohungia rā mātou (Lord have mercy)*

Action: Sharing a Sign of Peace

R

The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it. Let us exchange a sign of his peace with our neighbours.

Sign of Peace *Everyone turns to those near them and offers the sign of peace in keeping with local context*

Hymn: *Christ Be Our Light* Bernadette Farrell © 1993, Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled

Longing for hope, many despair.

Your word alone has pow'r to save us.

Make us your living voice.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in our hearts.

Shine through the darkness.

Christ, be our light!

Shine in Your church gathered today.

Third Vigil

The unity of all peoples and all creation

Reading: Rev. 7: 9-12

Response: *Whakamoremititia (Laudate omnes gentes)* Jacques Berthier, Tune: © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France

Wha - ka - moe - mi - ti - ti - a, wha - ka - ko - rō - ri - a. Wha -
Sing prai - ses, all you peo - ples, sing prai - ses to the Lord. Sing
Lau - da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -

ka - moe - mi - ti - ti - a tō tā - tou A - tu - a. Wha -
prai - ses, all you peo - ples, sing prai - ses to the Lord. Sing
da - te om - nes gen - tes, lau - da - te Do - mi - num. Lau -

Homily optional

Short silence *approximately 1 minute*

Intercessions

R

God of life, you have created every human being in your image and likeness. We sing your praise for the gift of our many cultures, expressions of faith, traditions, and ethnicities. Grant us the courage always to stand against injustice and hatred based on race, class, gender, religion, and fear of those do not like ourselves. We pray

C **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

R

Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace. We pray

C **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

R

O Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life for people who suffer in so many ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, life, and goods with all those in need. We pray

C God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

R

Holy Spirit you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate change. Guide us toward new behaviours. May we learn to live in harmony as part of your creation. We pray

C God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

Action: Moving to the centre... and out to the world: *Inspired by a text of Dorotheus of Gaza*

R

We are called to be ministers of God's healing and reconciling love. This work can only be fruitful when we abide in God, as branches of the true vine which is Jesus Christ. As we come closer to God we draw closer to one another.

Imagine a circle drawn on the ground. Imagine that this circle is the world.

The designated persons stand up and form a circle around a central candle.

R

The centre represents God, and the paths to the centre are different ways people live. When people living in this world, desiring to draw closer to God, walk toward the centre of the circle...

The persons take several steps toward the centre.

R

... to the extent that they move closer to the centre, to God, they move closer to one another. And the closer they come to one another...

The persons move to the centre together:

R.....the closer they come to God.

When the candle-bearers reach the centre they each light their candle. As they stand together at the centre all keep a time of silent prayer.

Short Silence *approximately one minute*

The Lord in My Light, My Light and My Salvation Communauté de Taizé, Tune: © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France.

The Lord is my light, my light and sal-va-tion: in
 him I trust, in him I trust. The

The Lord's Prayer

L With the words that Jesus taught us, and in our language of comfort let us now pray together:

C Our Father...

Hymn: Christ Be Our Light Bernadette Farrell © 1993, Published by OCP. All rights reserved.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless
 Longing for warmth, many are cold.
 Make us Your building, sheltering others
 Walls made of living stone.

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in Your church gathered today.

Many the gift, many the people
Many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another
Making Your kingdom come.

During the singing the candle-bearers return and share with the congregation the light that they have received.

R

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 pray together:

C

***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.***

These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp community.

Blessing

L Be one, so that the world may believe! Abide in his love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.

C

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, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Final Hymn *How Great Thou Art* Stuart Hine © Hope Publishing, Craig Courtney. All rights reserved.

Whakaaria mai tou ripeka ki au;
Tiaho mai ra roto I te po:
Ki kona au titiro atu ai: Ora mate, hei a au koe noho ai (Repeat)

O Lord my God, when I'm in awesome wonder,
Consider all the works thy hands made.
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder
Your power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee,
how great thou art, how great thou art (Repeat)

