

A Digital Project of the Regional Ministries of Brome-Missisquoi



A Service of Morning Prayer for
The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
(24 Jan 2021)

A Prayer for Christian Unity

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 live a life that brings life to all.

In this time of prayer and celebration, 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.

**The Church's one foundation is
Jesus Christ our Lord.**



Hymn 525: The Church's One Foundation

1. The church's one
foundation
is Jesus Christ, our Lord;
we are a new creation
by water and the Word:
from heav'n he came and
sought us
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought
us,
and for our life he died.

2. Elect from every nation
yet one o'er all the earth;
our charter of salvation,
one Lord, one faith, one birth;
one glorious name we hallow,
partake one holy food,
and to one hope we follow,
with every grace endued.

3. Thou with dismay and
wonder
we see the Church oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder,
by heresies distressed:
yet saints their watch are
keeping;
their cry goes up 'how long'
and soon the night of weeping
shall be the mourn of song.

4. 'Mid toil and tribulation
and tumult of our war,
we wait the consummation
of peace for ever more,
till with the vision glorious
our longing eyes are blessed,
and the great Church
victorious
shall be the Church at rest.

5. Yet we on earth have union
with God the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those who rest is won.
O happy ones and Holy.
Lord, give us grace that we
Like them, the meek and
lowly,
on high may dwell with thee.



Territorial Acknowledgment

For thousands of years, First Nations people have walked on the lands that we now call Canada; their relationship with the land was, and remains today, at the centre of their lives and spirituality.

In this holy time and place, when we pray for love and reconciliation amongst our Christian community, we pray also for a spirit of truth and reconciliation with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

We acknowledge with respect that we gather on the traditional, ancestral territories of the Abanaki and Mohawk first peoples.

May the living Christ lead us all on pathways of reconciliation and peace.



The Navajo Christ, by iconographer Father John Giuliani

Confession & Absolution

God of life, you call us to be your love in the midst of a broken world, and to welcome one another as a gift of your grace; and yet, we turn against your law of love, and hurt both each other and your creation.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

May your loving gaze, which rests upon each person, open us to receive each other just as we are. May Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Opening Responses

Lord, open our lips,
**And our mouth shall proclaim
your praise.**

O God, make speed to save us.
O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit;
**as it was in the beginning, is
now, and will be for ever.
Amen.**

The Church's one foundation is Jesus
Christ our Lord.
O come, let us worship. Alleluia!



Glory to God (#702)

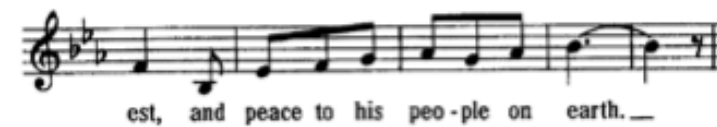
Refrain:

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
(Refrain)

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy upon us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer.
(Refrain)

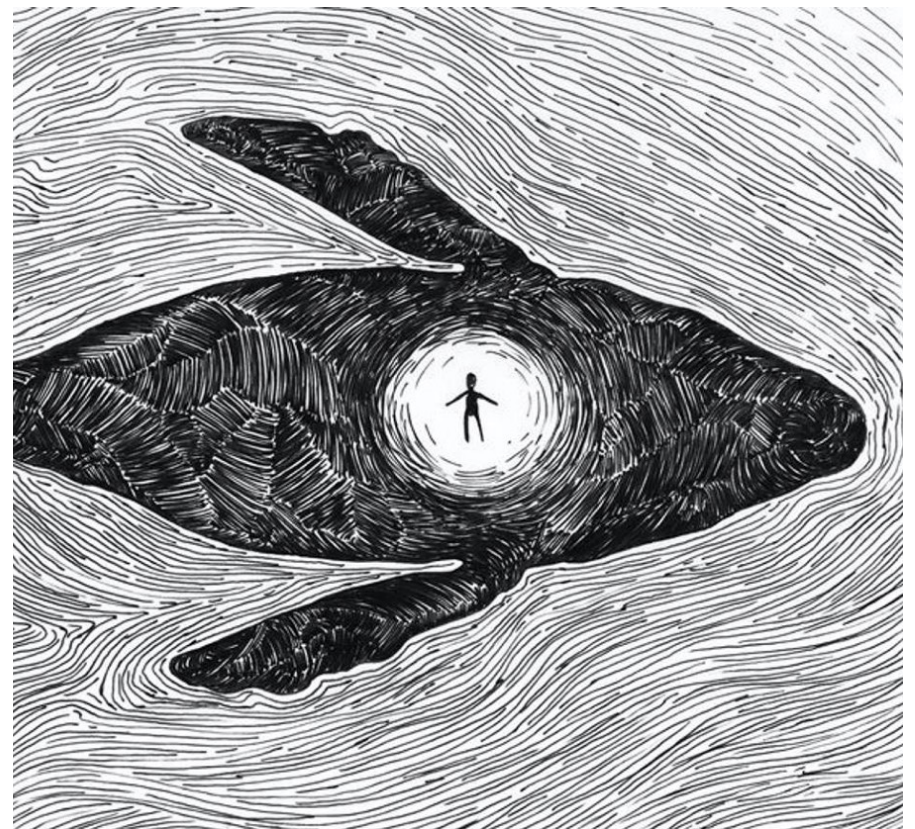
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen
(Refrain)



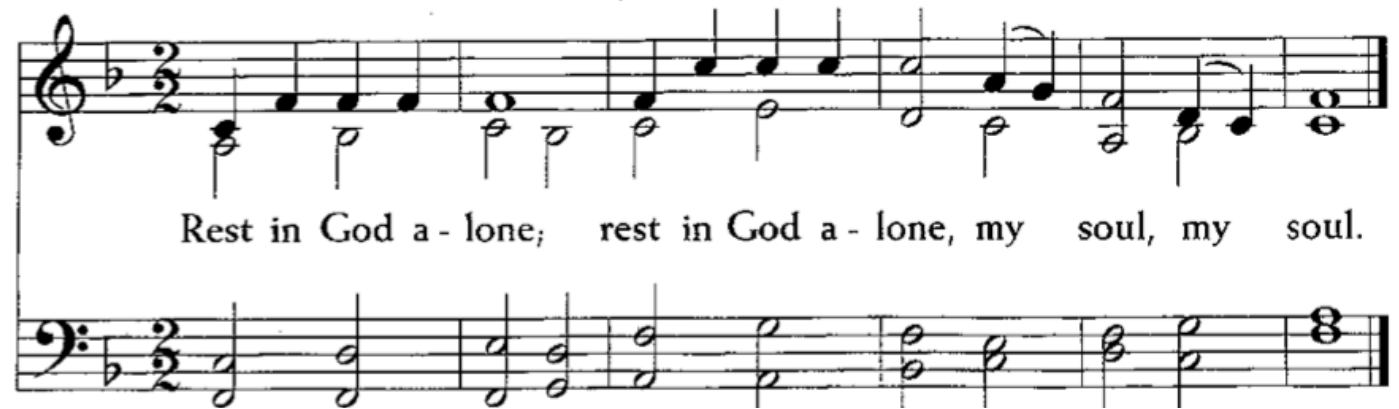
Jonah 3:1-5, 10

The word of the Lord came to Jonah a second time, saying, “Get up, go to Nineveh, that great city, and proclaim to it the message that I tell you.” So Jonah set out and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the Lord. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly large city, a three days' walk across. Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's walk. And he cried out, “Forty days more, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!” And the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast, and everyone, great and small, put on sackcloth.

When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil ways, God changed his mind about the calamity that he had said he would bring upon them; and he did not do it.



Psalm 62



How long will all of you set upon me and batter me, as though I am a tottering wall or a leaning fence?

Their purpose is to thrust me down from my eminence, they delight in lies; they bless with their lips, but curse me in their hearts. Yet be still, my soul, and wait for God, From whom comes my hope of deliverance.

Refrain

In God is my deliverance and my honour, the rock of my strength and my place of refuge. **Put your trust in God always, you people; pour out your hearts before the One who is our refuge. Refrain**

For we mortals are only a puff of wind, the great among us are but illusion;

Placed in the balance, we weigh less than breath.

Put no trust in extortion, set no vain hopes on plunder;

If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them.

Once God has spoken, and twice have I heard it said: "Power belongs to you, O God. Steadfast love is yours."

You reward us all according to our deeds.

Refrain

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

I mean, brothers and sisters, the appointed time has grown short; from now on, let even those who have wives be as though they had none, and those who mourn as though they were not mourning, and those who rejoice as though they were not rejoicing, and those who buy as though they had no possessions, and those who deal with the world as though they had no dealings with it. For the present form of this world is passing away.



Hymn 432: Jesus calls Us O'er the Tumult

1. Jesus calls us; o'er the tumult
of our live's wild restless seas,
day by day His voice is sounding,
saying, 'Christian, follow me;'

2. As of old, the apostles heard it
by the Galilean lake,
turned from home, and toil, and
kindred,
leaving all for His dear sake.

3. Jesus calls us from the worship
of the vain world's golden store,
from each idol that would keep us,
saying, 'Christian, love Me more.'

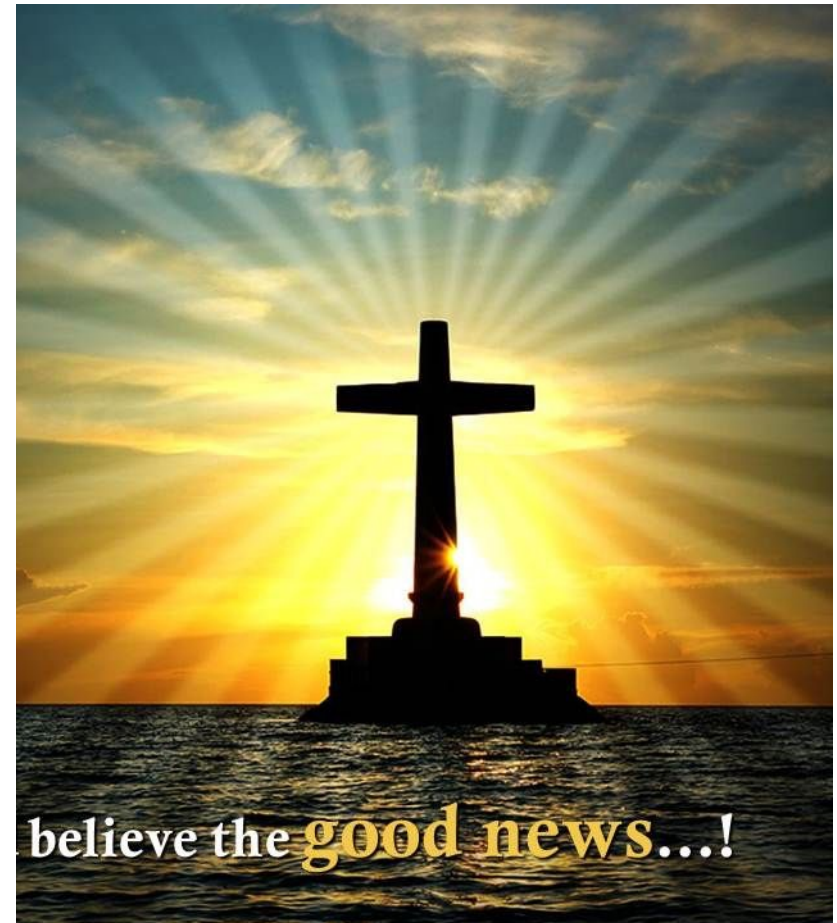
4. In our joys and in our sorrows,
days of toil and hours of ease,
still He calls us, in cares and
pleasures,
'Christian, love Me more than these.'

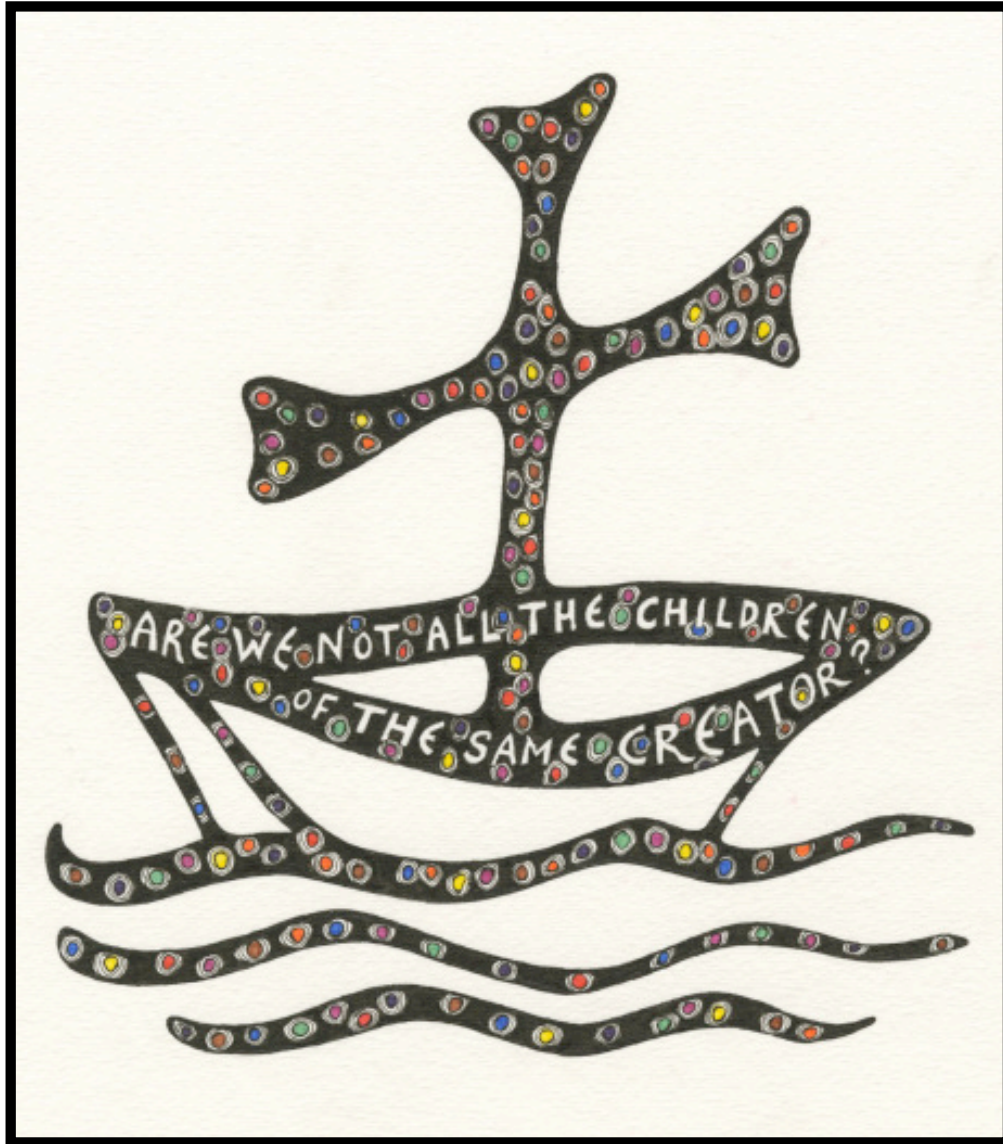
5. Jesus calls us! By Thy mercies,
Saviour, may we hear Thy call,
give our hearts to Thine obedience,
serve and love Thee best of all.

Mark 1:14-20

After John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen. And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” And immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets. Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.





The Sermon

Fr. Nicholas Forte

*“Follow me and I will make you
fish for people” (Mark 1:17)*

Confession of Faith

1. **We believe** in God the Father,
God Almighty by whose plan,
earth and heaven sprang to being,
all created things began.
We believe in Christ the Saviour,
Son of God in human frame,
virgin-born, the child of Mary,
upon whom the Spirit came.

2. Christ, who on the cross forsaken,
like a lamb to slaughter led,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
he descended to the dead.
We believe in Jesus risen,
heaven's king to rule and reign,
to the Father's side ascended
'Till as judge he comes again.

3. We believe in God the Spirit;
in one Church, below, above:
Saints of God in one
communion, one in holiness and love.
So by faith, our sins forgiven,
Christ our Saviour, Lord, and friend,
we shall rise with him in glory
to the life that knows no end.



Prayers of the People

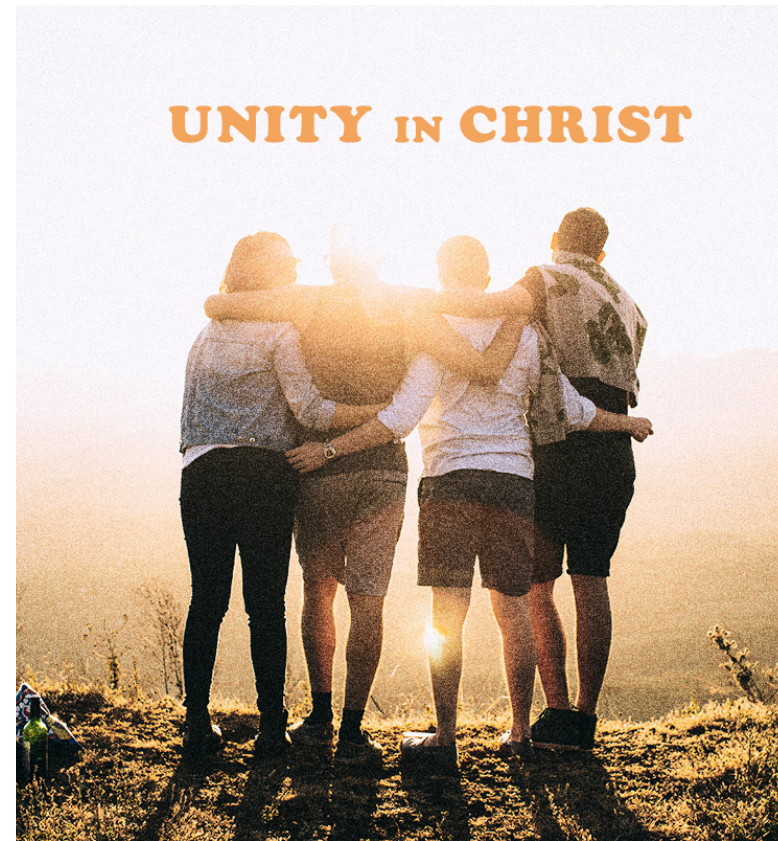
Led by Pam Dillon,
St. James the Apostle
(Stanbridge East)



The Collect of the Day

God of life, you have created every human being in your image and likeness. In Christ we are all made one body. 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 not like ourselves. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen. Alleluia!



The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

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.

Notre Père, qui es aux cieux, que ton nom soit sanctifié, que ton règne vienne, que ta volonté soit faite sur la terre comme au ciel. Donne-nous aujourd'hui notre pain de ce jour. Pardonne-nous nos offenses, comme nous pardonnons aussi à ceux qui nous ont offensés. Et ne nous laisse pas entrer en tentation mais délivre-nous du mal. Car c'est à Toi qu'appartiennent le règne, la puissance et la gloire, pour les siècles des siècles. Amen.

Hymn 431: Take Up Your Cross, The Saviour Said

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour
said,
if you would my disciple be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

2. Take up your cross; let not its
weight
fill your weak soul with vain alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart, and nerve your
arm.

3. Take up your cross, nor heed the
shame,
and let your foolish pride be still:
your Lord for you endured to die
upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.

4. Take up your cross, then, in his
strength,
and calmly every danger brave;
'twill guide you to a better home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

5. Take up your cross and follow
Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down;
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious
crown.



Blessing and Dismissal

Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Prayer and action belong together. Pray and work that God may reign in our world. 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; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be upon you this day and evermore. **Amen.**

Be one, so that the world may believe! Abide in God's love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love. Go forth in the name of Christ.

Amen. Alleluia!

