



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2021

Abiding in Christ

18th – 25th January

Introduction to this year's theme

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2021 has been prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland. The theme that was chosen, "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit", is based on John 15:1-17 and expresses Grandchamp Community's vocation to prayer, reconciliation and unity in the Church and the human family.

Today the community has fifty sisters, all women from different generations, Church traditions, countries and continents. In their diversity the sisters are a living parable of communion. They remain faithful to a life of prayer, life in community and the welcoming of guests. The sisters share the grace of their monastic life with visitors and volunteers who go to Grandchamp for a time of retreat, silence, healing or in search of meaning.

For 2021, the sisters are inviting churches across the world to enter into their tradition of prayer and silence that is rooted in the ancient traditions of the Church catholic.

Hymns can be accessed and heard on the website of the Community of Grandchamp:

www.grandchamp.org.

You can also listen to their common prayer online every day at:

www.grandchamp.org/prier-avec-nous.

Day 1: Called by God

"You did not choose me but I chose you"

(John 15:16a)

- Genesis 12:1-4 The call of Abraham
- John 1:35-51 The call of the first disciples

Prayer

Jesus Christ,

you seek us, you wish to offer us your friendship
and lead us to a life that is ever more complete.

Grant us the confidence to answer your call
so that we may be transformed

and become witnesses of your tenderness for the world.

Day 2: Maturing internally

"Abide in me as I abide in you"

(John 15:4a)

- Ephesians 3:14-21 May Christ dwell in our hearts
- Luke 2:41-52 Mary treasured all these things

Prayer

Holy Spirit,

May we receive in our hearts the presence of Christ,
and cherish it as a secret of love.

Nourish our prayer,
enlighten our reading of Scripture,
act through us,

so that the fruits of your gifts can patiently grow in us.

Day 3: Forming one body

“Love one another as I have loved you”

(John 15:12b)

- Colossians 3:12-17 Clothe yourself with compassion
- John 13:1-15; 34-35 Love one another

Prayer

God our Father,
you reveal to us your love through Christ
and through our brothers and sisters.
Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other
with our differences and live in forgiveness.
Grant us to live united in one body,
so that the gift that is each person comes to light.
May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ.

Day 4: Praying together

“I do not call you servants any longer... but I have called you friends”

(John 15:15)

- Romans 8:26-27 The Spirit helps us in our weakness
- Luke 11:1-4 Lord, teach us to pray

Prayer

Lord Jesus,
your entire life was prayer,
perfect harmony with the Father.
Through your Spirit, teach us to pray according to your will of love.
May the faithful of the whole world unite in intercession and praise,
and may your kingdom of love come.

Day 5: Letting oneself be transformed by the word

“You have already been pruned by the word...”

(John 15:3)

- Deuteronomy 30:11-20 The word of God is very close to you
- Matthew 5:1-12 Blessed are you

Prayer

Blessed are you, God our Father,
for the gift of your word in Holy Scripture.
Blessed are you for its transforming power.
Help us choose life and guide us by your Spirit,
so that we can experience the happiness which you want so much to share with us.

Day 6: Welcoming others

“Go and bear fruit, fruit that will last”

(John 15:16b)

- Genesis 18:1-5 Abraham hosts the angels at the Oak of Mamre
- Mark 6:30-44 Jesus' compassion for the crowds

Prayer

Jesus Christ,
we desire to welcome fully the brothers and sisters who are with us.
You know how often we feel helpless in the face of their suffering,
yet you are always there ahead of us
and you have already received them in your compassion.
Speak to them through our words, support them through our actions,
and let your blessing rest on us all.

Day 7: Growing in unity

“I am the vine, you are the branches”

(John 15:5a)

- 1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:21-23 Is Christ divided?
- John 17:20-23 As you and I are one

Prayer

Holy Spirit,
vivifying fire and gentle breath, come and abide in us.
Renew in us the passion for unity
so that we may live in awareness of the bond that unites us in you.
May all who have put on Christ at their Baptism
unite and bear witness together to the hope that sustains them.

Day 8: Reconciling with all of creation

“So that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete”

(John 15:11)

- Colossians 1:15-20 In him all things hold together
- Mark 4:30-32 As small as a mustard seed

Prayer

Thrice-holy God, we thank you for having created and loved us.
We thank you for your presence in us and in creation.
May we learn to look upon the world as you look upon it, with love.
In the hope of this vision, may we be able to work for a world
where justice and peace flourish,
for the glory of your name.