

Saturday 5th February



"The search for unity"

Bible Readings: Hosea 6.1-6; Matthew 6.19-21

Reflecting: *Global* - Climate justice is being recognised as an expression of social justice with which churches can act together on a global scale. Why is this the case?



Local - Sometimes we talk of Christian Unity being advanced more easily when local churches work together on a specific project, often one involving an expression of social justice. How have you experienced this in your local area?

Personal - How do you consider the importance of church as a place for offering worship and a place from which to call for social justice?

Prayer:



"God, through your prophets you have called us to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with you. In Christ you have shown us what that looks like. Through your Holy Spirit you continually enable us to hear your words, to follow Christ's example, and to live as his disciples. So, as we gather at the manger, heal our wounds, reconcile our divisions and hold us together in your love. Amen."

Pray today for Barnet United Reformed Church and St Andrew's Chesterfield Road URC; and for the appointment of Publicity Officer for CTfCB

Sunday 6th February



"Beyond the familiar routes of separation to God's new paths"

Bible Readings: Psalm 16; Matthew 11.25-30

Reflecting: *Global* - What other ways of journeying together could we explore that would lead us into a better future?



Local - What do we take for granted about our daily rhythms? What blessing might someone of another tradition receive from the worship in your church? How might the worship of your church be perceived by someone of another tradition?

Personal - How does it feel when your familiar ways or traditions are challenged?

Prayer:



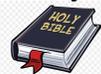
"Gracious God, when we only know one way and we think we must return to it, when we think that all roads are blocked and we fall into despair, we always find you there, creating a new unexpected path before us. If we search our maps and find no route, nonetheless we always find you, who lead us by a yet more excellent way, trusting that you will always lead us back to you and forward in unity together. Amen."

Pray today for Christ Church Barnet (Anglican), and for the appointment of Prayer Secretary for CTfCB



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2022: for Daily Reflection & Prayer

Sunday 30th January



"Raise us up and draw us to your perfect light"

Bible Readings: Psalm 139.1-10; 2 Timothy 1.7-10

Reflecting: *Global* - What could the role of the Church be in proclaiming the good news of the Gospel in a world where there is so much injustice?



Local - Where have you seen signs of hope in your community, especially during a time of pandemic?

Personal - How have you sought 'the light' in the midst of darkness?

Prayer:



"Creator of light, illumine our path by the light of Christ who moves before us and leads us. May he be a beacon for our pilgrimage. Enlighten us and dwell within us. Guide us to discover a manger in our hearts where a great light still shines. We thank you for the gift of that unfading Star, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour. Heal our divisions and draw us closer to the Light that we may find our unity in him. Amen."

Pray today for Underhill Baptist Church, and the Office-holders for CTfCB, soon to be elected at the AGM on February 24th.

Monday 31st January



"Humble leadership breaks down walls and builds up with love"

Bible Readings: Jeremiah 23.1-6; Philippians 2.5-11

Reflecting: *Global* - How have you seen the Church follow Jesus' pattern of leading through service?



Local - What Christian leader (either local or national) do you admire for the ability to inspire unity and a concern for justice? What qualities enable that person to lead effectively?

Personal - When have you been inspired to take the lead in seeking justice or working towards unity?

Prayer:



"Just and righteous God, we confess before you that we often covet worldly models of leadership. Help us to seek our Lord Jesus Christ not in the palaces of the powerful but in a humble manger. May we emulate him in his meekness and become servants to each other in obedience to you. We pray in the name of Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns forever in glory. Amen."

Pray today for the Chipping Barnet Team (Anglican): St John the Baptist, St Mark's Barnet Vale, St Peter's Arkley, St Stephen's Bells Hill, and for the Chair of CTfCB

Tuesday 1st February



"The presence of Christ, turning the world upside down"
Bible Readings: Psalm 2.1-10; 2 Thessalonians 2.13-3.5

Reflecting: *Global* - How have you seen the Church follow Jesus' pattern of leading through service?



Local - What Christian leader (either local or national) do you admire for the ability to inspire unity and a concern for justice? What qualities enable that person to lead effectively?

Personal - When have you been inspired to take the lead in seeking justice or working towards unity?

Prayer:



"Lord, you led us out of darkness to hope in Jesus. Unite us in our commitment to establish your reign of love, justice and peace, bringing light to those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment. Shine your light upon us and surround us with the warmth of your love. Lift us up to you, so that our lives may glorify you, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen."

Pray today for Wesley Hall (Methodist), and for the Vice-Chair of CTfCB

Wednesday 2nd February



"Though small and suffering, we lack nothing"
Bible Readings: Micah 5.2-5a, 7-8; 1 Peter 2.21-15; Luke 12.32-40

Reflecting: *Global* - How can the worldwide Christian community best support those Christians who share the (often violently) contested place of the 'Holy Land', *f*
Local - How might our local churches become Bethlehems – places where Christ can be born, welcomed and honoured?



Personal - When have you recognised the life of God growing in people and places to which you have previously paid little attention?

Prayer:



"Good Shepherd, the fragmentation of your 'little flock' grieves the Holy Spirit. Forgive our weak efforts and slowness in the pursuit of your will. Give us wise shepherds after your own heart, who recognise the sin of division, and those who will lead the churches with righteousness and holiness, to unity in you. We ask you, Lord, to hear our prayer. Amen."

Pray today for Barnet Churches Action and its management of Hope Corner; also for The Stable Church and High Barnet Baptist Church;

Thursday 3rd February



"Guided by the one God"
Bible Readings: Psalm 121; Matthew 2.7-10

Reflecting: *Global* - As a global community we continue to face many challenges. How do we seek God's guidance in our response to those challenges?



Local - How is God guiding your Christian community at this time? Where are you being called to act?

Personal - Reflect on a time when you have felt or seen God's guidance. What was that like?

Prayer:



"God our Guide, you sent the star to lead the Magi to your only begotten Son. Fill us with the confidence that you are walking with us. Open our eyes to your Spirit, and encourage us in our faith, so that we may confess that Jesus is Lord, and worship him as the Magi did in Bethlehem. Amen."

Pray today for the church of Mary Immaculate & St Gregory the Great (Roman Catholic), and for the appointment of Secretary of CTfCB

Friday 4th February



"Gathered in worship around the One Lord"
Bible Readings: Psalm 84; Matthew 28.16-20

Reflecting: *Global* - What are you doing as part of your own pattern of worship to pray for the worldwide church?



Local - Within your worship as a local Christian community what are the barriers you face to greater unity and how might they be overcome?

Personal - Can you remember a time when you were able to worship "in spirit and in truth"? What was it like?

Prayer:



"Compassionate God, in your mercy remove the scales from our eyes, and lead us to repent and worship you. In the midst of our sorrow and despite the depth of our sin, give us the capacity to love you with all our hearts. As we journey together with one heart and mind, may we glorify you in the Spirit's fellowship, and witness to those around us. Amen."

Pray today for St Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley (Anglican); and for the Treasurer of CTfCB