

Words of welcome

Leader May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always!

Hymn¹ **[Oh Breath of Life come sweeping through us](#)**

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”.

Leader 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.

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.

Readings: Psalm 103 and John 15:1-17.

Reflection **[Rev Dominic Grant \(United Reformed Church\)](#)**

Hymn **[Love Divine](#)**

Intercessions

God of love, through Christ you said to us: “You did not choose me but I chose you.” 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.

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

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 bridge rivalries and overcome tensions.

Congregation **Amen**

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”.

Lord have mercy.

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.

Lord have mercy.

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

Lord have mercy.

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

Lord have mercy.

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.

Lord have mercy.

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.

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

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 different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, life and goods with all those in need.

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

¹ The hymns and sermon are linked to video clips elsewhere – to see them, right-click on the underlined text (eg: [Love Divine](#)) and select ‘Open hyperlink’

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.

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

Jesus calls us to abide in him, as branches of the true vine. He calls us to bear the fruit of God's healing and reconciling love. He calls us to draw closer to God and to one another as we offer this love to the world.

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

At the centre of the world is God, in whom all our desires and longings find their meeting place.

As we move closer to God, so we draw closer to one another.

And ... the closer we come to God.

The Lord's Prayer

Leader With the words that Jesus taught us, let us now pray together:

Congregation **Our Father...**

Hymn [In Christ Alone](#)

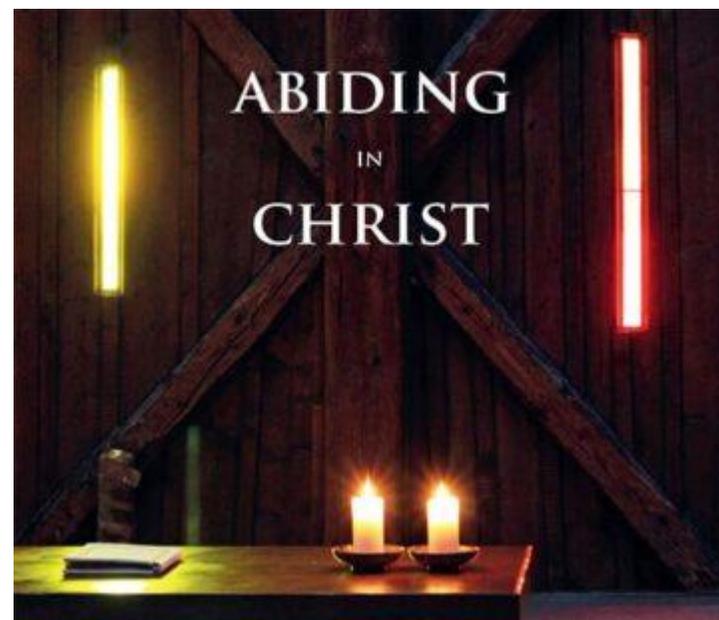
Blessing

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

Cong'n **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.**

Leader The blessing of God, the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit be with you and remain with you always.

With grateful thanks to
Revd. Shaun Sanders and Carol Moeke of Wesley Hall
Revd. Dominic Grant of our two United Reformed Churches



ABIDING IN CHRIST

A celebration of our unity as

Churches Together *for* Chipping Barnet

As part of the Worldwide Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity January 2021