

Be-Longing:

Praying for Unity amidst Injustice



CHRIST
CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
DUBLIN

**Week of Prayer
for
Christian Unity**

Dublin Opening Service

18th January 2023, 8pm

Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin 2

organised by the Dublin Council of Churches



Active participants

Archbishop Michael Jackson – Church of Ireland
Archbishop Dermot Farrell – Roman Catholic Church
Dean Dermot Dunne – Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Church of Ireland
Cherry Poynton – Hon. Secretary *Dublin Council of Churches*, Presbyterian Church
Ayda Lundo – Armenian Apostolic Church
Fr. Damian McNeice – Roman Catholic Church
Lesley Rankin – Methodist Church
Fr. Abraham Koshy – St. Thomas Indian Orthodox Church
Yvonne Luven – Greek Orthodox Church
Permanent Deacon Eamonn Murray – Roman Catholic Church
Fr. Paul O’Driscoll – Roman Catholic Church
Jiby Jacob – Jacobite Syrian Orthodox Church
Niamh Hardiman – Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Pr. Florian von Issendorf – Lutheran Church
Fr. Ioannis Pantelidis – Greek Orthodox Church
Elizabeth Kelly – Methodist Church
Pr. Martin Sauter – Chairperson *Dublin Council of Churches*, Lutheran Church

The Dublin Council of Churches is deeply grateful for the hospitality extended by Dean Dermot Dunne and the Staff of Christ Church Cathedral Dublin, as well as for the music performed by organist James Short and the Christ Church Cathedral Choir under the leadership of Tom Little

We wish all participants a fruitful Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and a blessed AD 2023.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2023

Order of Worship

Processional Hymn – All People That on Earth Do Dwell



**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice;
Him serve with fear, his praise forth tell,
Come ye before him, and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed,
Without our aid he did us make;
We are his folk, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto;
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.**

**For why? the Lord our God is good:
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.**

**To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
The God whom heaven and earth adore,
From men and from the Angel-host
Be praise and glory evermore. Amen.**

Tune: Old Hundredth

Melody by Louis Bourgeois for the Genevan Psalter, 1551

William Kethe († 1594)

WELCOME

Words of Introduction on the theme of this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Opening Responses

Leader 1 God is here

Congregation **The Spirit is with us**

Leader 1 In Christ, we are gathered from the edges and woven into the dream.
Here we feel the hint of heaven,
Where justice, love and mercy meet.
Here we celebrate
The blessedness of unity in God.
We, who were once far off,
Are brought near.

Leader 2 And so we pray,
God, creator of all,
In your love, you have made each one of us
in your grace, you gather us together in your image
in your mercy, you make us restless until we find our rest in you.
Disturb us in our contentment,
distract us in our comforts
deter us from our conflicts
until your kingdom comes and your will is done.

Congregation **Amen**



**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

**We are pilgrims on a journey,
and companions on the road;
we are here to help each other
walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you
in the night-time of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you,
speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping;
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;
I will share your joy and sorrow
till we've seen this journey through.**

**When we sing to God in heaven
we shall find such harmony,
born of all we've known together
of Christ's love and agony.**

**Brother, sister, let me serve you,
let me be as Christ to you;
pray that I may have the grace to
let you be my servant too.**

Servant Song
Richard Gillard (b. 1953)

Richard Gillard (b.1953)

1st Reading

Reader 1

Hear, O heavens, and listen, O earth,
for the Lord has spoken:
I reared children and brought them up,
but they have rebelled against me.
The ox knows its owner
and the donkey its master's crib,
but Israel does not know;
my people do not understand.
When you stretch out your hands,
I will hide my eyes from you;
even though you make many prayers, I will not listen;
Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean;
remove your evil deeds from before my eyes;
cease to do evil; learn to do good;
seek justice; rescue the oppressed;
defend the orphan; plead for the widow.

from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah, Chapter 1 (v. 2-3, 15-17)

Penitential Psalm Psalm 101

My song shall be of mercy and judgement: unto thee, O Lord, will I sing.
O let me have understanding : in the way of godliness.
When wilt thou come unto me : I will walk in my house with a perfect heart.
I will take no wicked thing in hand; I hate the sins of unfaithfulness : there shall no such cleave unto me.
A froward heart shall depart from me : I will not know a wicked person.
Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour : him will I destroy.
Whoso hath also a proud look and high stomach : I will not suffer him.
Mine eyes look upon such as are faithful in the land : that they may dwell with me.
Whoso leadeth a godly life : he shall be my servant.
There shall no deceitful person dwell in my house : he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.
I shall soon destroy all the ungodly that are in the land : that I may root out all wicked doers from the city of the Lord.

Invitation to Confession and Forgiveness

Reader 2

We are gathered to pray for the unity that is Christ's gift to the Church. We gather in hope that the world might believe and be reconciled to God.

We recognise that we are part of churches and communities that are divided: divided by injustice; divided by the sin of racism that stands contrary to the image of God shining from every human face; divided

by the sin of greed that tramples underfoot the dignity of the poor, the integrity of God's good creation.

Reader 1 Words from the Book of the Prophet Micah: "And what does the Lord require of us but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God" (Micah 6:8)

Reader 2 And so we come in penitence and faith to confess ...

Silence

Prayer

Leader Forgive us Lord, when we come to worship without walking humbly before you.

Congregation **May we be forgiven**

Leader We ask forgiveness for our sins of injustice and oppression

Congregation **May we be forgiven**

Leader We ask forgiveness for the complicity of churches in the evils of racism and poverty through their condoning of colonialism in the past and of economic exploitation in the present.

Congregation: **May we be forgiven**

Reader Words from Psalm 85: Bring us back, O God, our saviour!
Put an end to your grievance against us.
Will you be angry with us forever?
Will your anger last from age to age?

Will you not restore again our life,
That your people may rejoice in you?
Let us see, O Lord, your mercy,
And grant us your salvation.

Choral Kyrie

Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.
Lord have mercy upon us, Christ have mercy upon us, Lord have mercy upon us.
Franz Schubert (1797-1828)

Reader

I will hear what the Lord God speaks;
He speaks of peace for his people and his faithful,
And those who turn their hearts to him
His salvation is near for those who fear him,
And his glory will dwell in our land.

Merciful love and faithfulness have met;
Justice and peace have kissed.
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth,
And justice look down from heaven.

Leader

God of all,
Because of your great love
Our sins have been washed away
And we are part of the beloved community.
We come before you, a holy family,
A rainbow people,
United in the beautiful diversity of your creation.
We celebrate the rich tapestry of the human family.
We commit ourselves to overcome prejudice and disunity wherever
We find it
And to walk humbly in your presence.

Congregation Amen! Thanks be to God!

Gospel Acclamation *(The Book of the Gospel will be processed to the centre of the Nave)*

The Gospel**Leader**

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke in the 10th Chapter, verse 25 to 37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself." And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbour?" Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when

he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

Homily – Rev. Canon Fr. Paul O’Driscoll

Anthem

Let justice and judgement be the preparation of thy seat.
Let mercy and truth go before thy face.
Let justice, judgement, mercy and truth, go before thy face.

GF Handel (1685-1749)

Prayers of Intercession

Leader 1

We are in the presence of Holy God who has created each and every one of us in God’s image. We bow our heads in shame that racism and exclusion continue to be endemic in our society.

Leader 2

Our service this evening has been prepared by the Council of Churches of Minnesota.

We stand in solidarity with them, our siblings in Christ. We remember George Floyd, slowly choked to death. *(Pause)* Outrage resounded throughout the world, proclaiming “Black Lives Matter!” We are grateful for that.

We honour all those people who are and have been victims of racism and xenophobia.

We fall silent, and acknowledge that many of their names are not known, many of their stories not heard, justice not delivered *(Pause)*

We remember and honour parents and friends of those whose lives were snuffed out, we remember and honour all who fight tirelessly for justice.

Leader 1

We pray that their suffering may bring forth the fruit of transformation and justice.

Leader 2

Finally, we remember and honour all victims of prejudice, injustice, abuse, bullying or violence of any kind. We ask Christ crucified to bless them, give them strength, lead them to freedom, and we commit ourselves to tirelessly do what we can that those bound by injustice be released.

Invitation to Commitment

Participants are invited to take a moment and formulate a personal commitment on a piece of paper

Moment of Reflection

Concluding Prayer

Loving God,
In the light of Your Word, we have been confronted with the sin of racism and exclusion. We have received your grace in forgiveness for all the ways we have sinned, may we now go out from here, renewed in heart and mind by your holy Spirit to live our lives as true followers of Jesus Christ, Lord and Saviour of all. Amen

Lord's Prayer

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
Lead us not into temptation
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory
Now and forever, Amen.

Concluding Hymn *The Churches' One Foundation*

During the concluding hymn a collection will be taken up for the work of the Irish School of Ecumenics



**The Church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word:
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy Bride;
With his own Blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.**

**Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy Name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.**

**'Mid toil, and tribulation,
And tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation
Of peace for evermore;
Till with the vision glorious
Her longing eyes are blest,
And the great Church victorious
Shall be the Church at rest.**

**Yet she on earth hath union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose 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.**

Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810–1876) Samuel J. Stone (1839–1900)

The Blessing

A Franciscan Benediction attributed to the earliest followers of St. Francis

- Leader 1 May God bless us with discomfort
 At easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships,
 So that we may live deep within our heart.
- Leader 2 May God bless us with anger
 At injustice, oppression and exploitation of people,
 So that we may work for justice, freedom and peace.
- Leader 1 May God bless us with tears
 To shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger, and war,
 So that we may reach out our hand to comfort them
 And turn their pain into joy.
- Leader 2 And may God bless us with enough foolishness
 To believe that we can make a difference in the world,
 So that we can do what others claim cannot be done
 To bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor.

Congregation Amen.

Recessional Postlude Organ Voluntary

After the service all participants are most warmly invited for a cup of tea or coffee in the South Transept. As people are joining the reception in the South Transept, they may leave their piece of paper in a bowl in the Crossing. A second receptacle will be held at the exit.

*For further ecumenical services and prayers please visit
<https://www.dublincouncilofchurches.ie/week-of-prayer-2023>*