

**“You shall love the Lord your God
...and your neighbor as yourself”**

(Luke 10:27)



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY - 2024

Procession

"Fanfare" from The Danserye

Tylman Susato c. 1510-c.1570

Welcome

Monsignor Vincent Grimalia

Welcome to this prayer service for Christian Unity. As we put our faith into practice, we come to learn from one another, to see what we have in common and where we differ. The parable of the good Samaritan teaches us to show love in spite of our differences as children of God.

Invitation to Pray

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.

Bishop of Scranton

Bishop: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
All: Amen.

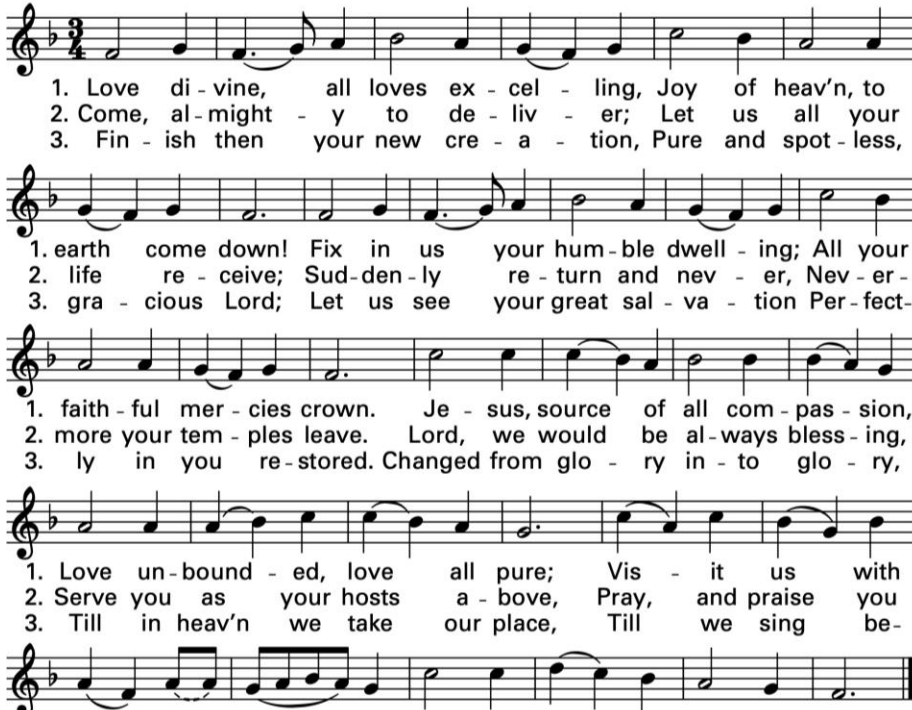
Bishop: We are gathered as brothers and sisters to pray for the visible unity of all Christians. At the heart of our worship is the story of the Good Samaritan where we hear the divine call to love God and to love our neighbors as ourselves.
Let us prepare to meet the God of Love in thanksgiving and joy, remembering his command to love.

All: **Glory to you, Father, for you reveal yourself in your creation and call all people to live in your presence.**
Glory to you, Christ Jesus, for you give yourself entirely to each one of us and invite us to do the same.
Glory to you, Holy Spirit, for you gather us together in love and unity.
Glory to you, God of Love, in whom we are created, redeemed and made one. Amen.

Hymn

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

HYFRYDOL



1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cel - ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2. Come, al - might - y to de - liv - er; Let us all your
3. Fin - ish then your new cre - a - tion, Pure and spot - less,

1. earth come down! Fix in us your hum - ble dwell - ing; All your
2. life re - ceive; Sud - den - ly re - turn and nev - er, Nev - er -
3. gra - cious Lord; Let us see your great sal - va - tion Per - fect -

1. faith - ful mer - cies crown. Je - sus, source of all com - pas - sion,
2. more your tem - ples leave. Lord, we would be al - ways bless - ing,
3. ly in you re - stored. Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry,

1. Love un - bound - ed, love all pure; Vis - it us with
2. Serve you as your hosts a - bove, Pray, and praise you
3. Till in heav'n we take our place, Till we sing be -

1. your sal - va - tion, Let your love in us en - dure.
2. with - out - ceas - ing, Glo - ry in your pre - cious love.
3. fore the al - might - y, Lost in won - der, love and praise.

Text: 87 87 D; Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt. Music: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887.

Litany of Praise and Thanksgiving

Reader: Reverend Lory Ryan

- R:** Let us turn our hearts to God in praise: Praise to you Lord for you have poured out your love into our hearts so that we never lose hope. You free our lives from fear because of your love, and heal our wounded and injured hearts. Praise to you for all the women and men who sow seeds of love and hope for their neighbors around the world.
- All:** Lord, we praise you.

R: Eternal God, we thank you for the gift of Jesus your Son, the Redeemer of all people. Thanks be to you for the grace of conversion and all the seeds of faith, hope and charity among your people and everywhere. Thanks be to you for the faith we received from the apostles, for Jesus' prayer for unity, and for the gift of the Good News of salvation.

All: **Lord, we thank you.**

R: God of love, we adore you for the generosity of your love for all people – a love so perfect, it is beyond our understanding; a love in which there is no distinction on grounds of race, gender or social status. We adore you, who out of love sent your Son, Jesus Christ, into the world and continue to fill our lives with your love through the Holy Spirit.

All: **Lord, we adore you.**

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Rev. Dr. Robert Zanicky

Reader: Protodeacon Sergei Kapral

L: We come before you now, O God, to confess our sins:

R: By seeking happiness without God and ignoring the command to love, we have turned away from God and from our neighbor. Our selfishness and our desire to possess and control separate us from God.

Silence

L: Merciful God:

All: **forgive and heal us.**

R: When we accept ideologies that demean the humanity of others, we build walls of division, sow the seeds of hatred and violence and abandon the Lord's command to love one another.

Silence

L: Merciful God:
All: **forgive and heal us.**

R: We have hardened our hearts and deceived ourselves. In our lack of compassion, we no longer see Jesus in those who are different from ourselves.

Silence

L: Merciful God:
All: **forgive and heal us.**

R: We fail to open our hearts and minds to the infinite and unconditional nature of God's love for all. By being closed to this love, the world is darkened by selfishness, violence, indifference and absence of meaning.

Silence

L: Merciful God:
All: **forgive and heal us.**

R: God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ whom you sent in the fullness of time to redeem all creation, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us by your Holy Spirit.
All: **Glory to God, whom we praise with one voice.**

Trisagion

All: **Holy God! Holy Strong!**
Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!

First Reading **Genesis 18:1-8** **Reverend Rebecca Tanner**

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oak of Mamre, as he sat in the entrance of his tent, while the day was growing hot. Looking up, he saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the entrance of the tent to

greet them; and bowing to the ground, he said: "Sir, if it please you, do not go on past your servant. Let some water be brought, that you may bathe your feet, and then rest under the tree. Now that you have come to your servant, let me bring you a little food, that you may refresh yourselves; and afterward you may go on your way." "Very well," they replied, "do as you have said." Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quick, three measures* of bran flour! Knead it and make bread." He ran to the herd, picked out a tender, choice calf, and gave it to a servant, who quickly prepared it. Then he got some curds* and milk, as well as the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them, waiting on them under the tree while they ate.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 138

Cooney



Lord, on the day I called for help, you an-swered me, you an-swered me.

Text: Based on Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8. Refrain text © 1969, 1981, ICEL. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Music and verses text © 1985, Rory Cooney. Published by OCP Publications. All rights reserved.

Reader: Reverend Russell McDougall, C.S.C.

R: I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing your praise; I bow down towards your holy temple and give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness; for you have exalted your name and your word above everything.

Sung Response

R: On the day I called, you answered me; you increased my strength of soul. All the kings of the earth shall praise you, O Lord, for they have heard the words of your mouth.

Sung Response

R: They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.
For though the Lord is high, he regards the lowly; but the haughty he
perceives from far away.

Sung Response

R: Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve me against the wrath
of my enemies; you stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers
me. The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O Lord,
endures forever. Do not forsake the work of your hands.

Sung Response

R: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;

A: **As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without
end. Amen.**

Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Mass

O'Carroll and Walker



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Gospel Reading

Luke 10:25-37

Prime Bishop Anthony Mikovsky

There was a scholar of the law who stood up to test him and said, "Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? How do you read it?" He said in reply, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your being, with all your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself." He replied to him, "You have answered

correctly; do this and you will live.” But because he wished to justify himself, he said to Jesus, “And who is my neighbor?” Jesus replied, “A man fell victim to robbers as he went down from Jerusalem to Jericho. They stripped and beat him and went off leaving him half-dead. A priest happened to be going down that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. Likewise a Levite came to the place, and when he saw him, he passed by on the opposite side. But a Samaritan traveler who came upon him was moved with compassion at the sight. He approached the victim, poured oil and wine over his wounds and bandaged them. Then he lifted him up on his own animal, took him to an inn and cared for him. The next day he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper with the instruction, ‘Take care of him. If you spend more than what I have given you, I shall repay you on my way back.’ Which of these three, in your opinion, was neighbor to the robbers’ victim?” He answered, “The one who treated him with mercy.” Jesus said to him, “Go and do likewise.”

Sermon

The Reverend Rebecca Barnes

Moment of silence

Affirmation of Love

inspired by 1 Cor 13

Reader: Reverend Carmen Bolock

R: I may speak in the languages of people and angels, but if I lack love, I am simply a banging gong, a loud cymbal.

All: **I may have the gift of prophecy, understanding of all mystery and all knowledge; I may have the fullest faith, that moves mountains; but if I lack love, I am nothing.**

R: I may distribute all my goods to hungry people, I may even deliver my body to the flames, but if I lack love, I gain nothing.

All: **Love demands patience. Love serves. It does not walk away. It is not jealous. It does not brag. It does not seek its own interest. It is not irritable. It does not hold a grudge.**

R: Love does not celebrate injustice, but finds its joy in the truth. It excuses all. It believes all. It hopes for all. It endures all.

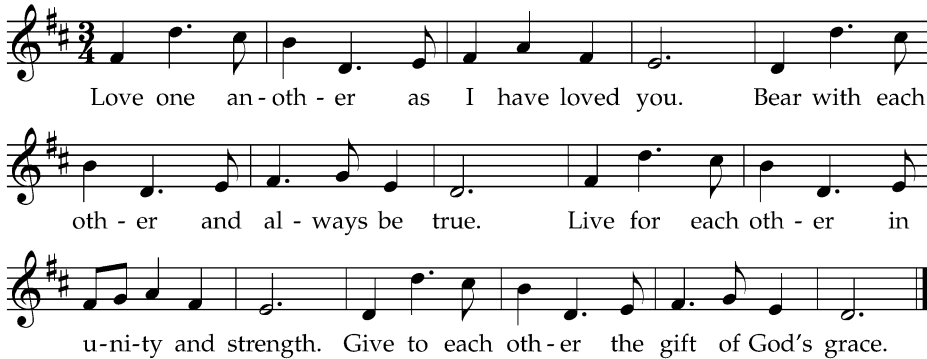
All: Love has no end. Prophecies? They will finish. Tongues? They will come to an end. Knowledge? It will pass.
Faith, hope and love continue. The greatest of these is love.

Hymn

Love One Another

King

REFRAIN



Love one an - oth - er as I have loved you. Bear with each
oth - er and al - ways be true. Live for each oth - er in
u - ni - ty and strength. Give to each oth - er the gift of God's grace.

Feargal King
Text and music © 2000, WLP

Prayers of Intercession

Reader: Reverend Doctor Bonnie Bates

R: We have been invited to live the divine call to love God and our neighbors as ourselves. As we renew our commitment to this call, may this love strengthen our unity as Christians.

R: With all our hearts, we desire to dwell in God's love and to have the grace to love our neighbors as ourselves. God of boundless love, we pray that all people may come to know your unlimited mercy and believe in your desire to fill us with your infinite love.

All: Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.

R: We join our prayers to that of Jesus, who prayed for the unity of all who follow him. God of communion, we pray that we may work together for your greater glory and spread the Good News of salvation for all.

All: **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

R: Our hearts are broken because of the confusion and division in our world. God, our healer, we who are scattered like sheep without a shepherd, ask you to gather us into one fold. Enliven us by your Spirit and send us again, two by two, to be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

All: **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

R: Our world is scarred by terror and violence. Millions are forced to leave their homes in search of refuge and safety. God of welcome, grant us the grace to risk embracing the stranger, tending their wounds and standing in solidarity with them. Strengthen our resolve to be kind and merciful and to act towards our sisters and brothers at all times as you do towards us.

All: **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

R: In our weakness and fear we know that we often pass by on the other side, turning away from those who need our help. God of power, despite our lack of charity, open our hearts to experience the length, width, height and depth of your love, so that we may love you more and love our neighbors as ourselves.

All: **Fill us with your love! Make us one in you.**

The Lord's Prayer

Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

L: As children of the one God, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

All: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**



Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, And we
oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, And to -
oth - er, we will work side by side, And we'll
Je - sus, his on - ly Son, And all
pí - ri - tu y en el Se - ñor, y ro -
ma - dos de la ma - no en u - nión, a - nun -
ni - dos la - do a la - do en a - mor, co - mo
Hi - jo, que nos da la sal - va - ción, y al Es -



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re - stored:
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our land:
guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's pride:
praise to the Spir - it, who makes us one:
ga - mos que un dí - a se res - tau - re e - sa u - nión.
cian - do que en es - ta tie - rra vi - ve y o - bra Dios.
guar - das ce - lo - sos de la gen - te en su ho - nor.
pí - ri - tu San - to que nos u - ne en co - mu - nión.

Refrain / Estribillo



And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love, by our
Y que so - mos cris - tia - nos lo sa - brán, lo sa -



love, yes, they'll know we are Chris - tians by our love.
brán, por - que u - ni - dos es - ta - mos en a - mor.

Acknowledgements

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Mark Ignatovich, *Organist*

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Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute

Fr. James Loughran, SA, *Director*

Graymoor Ecumenical & Interreligious Institute is pleased to announce the international scriptural theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, January 18 – 25, 2024: “You shall love the Lord your God... and your neighbor as yourself.” (Luke 10:27) This year’s theme comes through the combined efforts of the Pontifical Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity, the World Council of Churches and the Christian churches of Burkina Faso. Much of the coordination of this ecumenical project was done by the community of *Chemin Neuf*, a French Catholic and ecumenical community of vowed and lay people, particularly through their local community in Burkina Faso, a country in the Sahel region of West Africa. Luke 10:25-37 tells the story of how Jesus is asked by a lawyer, “What must I do to inherit everlasting life?” and Jesus responds, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” The lawyer responds, “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 neighbor as yourself.” Then Jesus says to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But then in order to justify himself, the lawyer says, “And who is my neighbor?” which leads Jesus to tell the parable of the Good Samaritan. It is a theme rich in charity, mercy, justice and unity. We hope it will facilitate powerful ecumenical prayer and homilies in the 2024 commemoration of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

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