

Do You  
**Believe?**

(John 11:26)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2025



# *Acknowledgements*

The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera, D.D., J.C.L.  
*Bishop of Scranton*

Reverend Dr. Bonnie Bates, *Conference Minister*  
*Penn Northeast Conference*

Archbishop Borys Gudziak  
*Metropolitan Archbishop of Philadelphia, Ukrainian Catholic Church*

Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky  
*Prime Bishop, Polish National Catholic Church*

Reverend Craig A. Miller  
*Bishop, Upper Susquehanna Synod, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Reverend Scott Sterowski  
*Diocesan Coordinator for Ecumenism and Interfaith Relations*

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**Tony Wozinski, Director**      **Mark Ignatovich, Organist**

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# *Order of Worship*

## INVITATION

Leader: The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambara

Reader 1: Reverend Scott Sterowski

Reader 2: Reverend Dr. Bonnie Bates

L: Blessed be our God at all times.

All: Now and forever. Amen.

L: Come, let us worship God our King.

All: Let us worship Christ among us, our King and our God.

L: Come, let us bow down before the Lord our King and our God.

All: Holy God, Holy and Strong, Holy and Immortal, have mercy on us.

R1: When Jesus arrived at Bethany, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

R2: When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home.

R1: Martha said to Jesus: Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.

All: Jesus said to her: Your brother will rise again.

R2: Martha said to him: I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.

All: Jesus said to her: I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

R2: Do you believe this? *Pause*

R1: Do you believe this? *Pause*

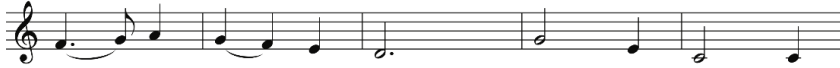
# Hymn

## “Church of God, Elect and Glorious”

ABBOT'S LEIGH



1. Church of God, e - lect and glo - rious, Ho - ly  
2. God has called you out of dark - ness In - to  
3. Once you were an a - lien peo - ple, Strang - ers  
4. Church of God, e - lect and ho - ly, Be the



na - tion, cho - sen race; Called as God's own  
his most marv - 'lous light, Brought his truth to  
to God's heart of love; But he brought you  
peo - ple he in - tends, Strong in faith and



spe - cial peo - ple, Roy - al priests and heirs of grace:  
life with - in you, Turned your blind - ness in - to sight.  
home in mer - cy, Cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove.  
swift to an - swer Each com - mand your Mas - ter sends.



Know the pur - pose of your call - ing, Show to  
Let your light so shine a - round you That God's  
Let his love flow out to oth - ers, Let them  
Roy - al priests, ful - fill your call - ing Through your



all his might - y deeds; Tell of love that knows no  
name is glo - ri - fied And all find fresh hope and  
feel a Fa - ther's care, That they too may know his  
sac - ri - fice and prayer; Give your lives in joy - ful



lim - its, Grace that meets all hu - man needs.  
pur - pose In Christ Je - sus cru - ci - fied.  
wel - come And his count - less bless - ings share.  
serv - ice; Sing his praise, his love de - clare.

L: 1,700 years ago, Christians struggled with questions of belief, confusion and difficulty. Out of these struggles, they were able to proclaim together their faith in the words of the Nicene Creed. Today, as a gathered community of Christians, we come together from different cultures and confessions to celebrate our common faith.

Christ is in our midst.

All: He was. He is. And always shall be.

## *Words Of Welcome*

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

## *Opening Prayer*

Reader 1: Reverend Scott Sterowski

Reader 2: Reverend Craig A. Miller

All: Kyrie, eleison! Lord, have mercy!

R1: O Creator and Guardian of every spirit, who multiply the human family upon earth, let all the peoples know that you are God alone, and Jesus Christ is your Son, and we all are your people, the flock of your pasture.

All: Kyrie, eleison! Lord, have mercy!

R2: Lord, we pray to you: be our help. save those who are afflicted among us, have mercy on the wretched. Show your face to those in need.

All: Kyrie, eleison! Lord, have mercy!

R1: O Lord, faithful throughout all generations, righteous in your judgments, merciful and compassionate, forgive us our transgressions, cleanse us with your Truth, and guide our steps to walk in holiness and righteousness.

All: Kyrie, eleison! Lord, have mercy!

R2: Lord, make your face to shine upon us in peace for our good, give concord and peace to us and to all that dwell on the earth. Grant to our rulers wisdom and intelligence, direct their counsel so that they may administer their authority in justice and in peace.

All: Kyrie, eleison! Lord, have mercy!

(cf Clement of Rome [c. 35-99])

# *Word of God*

## OLD TESTAMENT READING

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9*

Reader: Reverend Dr. Bonnie Bates

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might. Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise. Bind them as a sign on your hand, fix them as an emblem on your forehead, and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

## PSALM

*Psalms 131*

Reader: Archbishop Borys Gudziak

R: Hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

All: Hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

R. O Lord, my heart is not lifted up, my eyes are not raised too high.

All: Hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

R. I do not occupy myself with things too great and too marvellous for me.

All: Hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

R. But I have calmed and quieted my soul,  
like a weaned child with its mother;  
my soul is like the weaned child that is with me.

All: Hope in the LORD from this time on and forevermore.

## EPISTLE READING

*1 Peter 1:3-9*

Reader: Reverend Craig A. Miller

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready

to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith — being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire — may be found to result in praise and glory and honour when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

## RESPONSORY

Reader: Reverend Craig A. Miller

R: Great is the Lord, great is his might.

All: Great is the Lord, great is his might.

R: His wisdom has no bounds.

All: Great is his might.

R: Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

All: Great is the Lord, great is his might.

## GOSPEL

*John 20:24-29*

Reader: Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky

Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord”. But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe”.

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you”. Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe”. Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

*Silence*



# Sermon

Reverend Scott Sterowski

## Meditation Hymn

“O Breathe on Me, O Breath of God”



1. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, Fill  
2. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, Un -  
3. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, My  
4. O breathe on me, O Breath of God, So



me with life a - new, That I may love the  
til my heart is pure; Un - til my will is  
will to yours in - cline, Un - til this self - ish  
shall I nev - er die, But live with you the



things you love And do what you would do.  
one with yours, To do and to en - dure.  
part of me Glows with your fire di - vine.  
per - fect life Of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: Edwin Hatch, 1835–1889  
Tune: ST. COLUMBA, CM; Irish melody; harm. by A. Gregory Murray, OSB, 1905–1992

## Celebration of Our Common Faith

Leader: The Most Reverend Joseph C. Bambera

- L: Jesus said, “I am the light of the world.”  
Jesus also calls his followers to be the light of the world. We are each bearers of the risen light of Christ. We receive this light from Christ through one another. Jesus said to Martha, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

All: “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world”.

L: Let us love one another, so that with oneness of mind, we may confess the faith into which we were all baptised:

All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made; of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us all, and for our salvation he came down from heaven; and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered and was buried.

On the third day he rose from the dead in accordance with the scriptures.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father. Who, with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and to life in the age to come. Amen.

## *Prayers of Intercession*

Reader 1: Most Reverend Anthony Mikovsky

Reader 2: Archbishop Borys Gudziak

R1: For all things were made out of nothing, and their being would again sink into nothing, if the Author of all things did not hold it by the hand of governance.  
*(Gregory the Great [c. 540-604])*

R2: Lord of life, we receive all creation from your hand and by your providence. Teach us to live in your world with care and justice for all that you have created.

All: We believe, help our unbelief.

- R1: I call this faith: the intelligible light which by grace dawns in the soul, that supports the heart, and grants the gift of hope. (Isaac of Nineveh [7th century])
- R2: Loving God, grant us the gift of hope in abundance in a world troubled by strife and discord. Strengthen your people afflicted by apathy and division.
- All: **We believe, help our unbelief.**
- R1: What wonder then, if, coming to God, we first of all profess that we believe, seeing that, without this, not even common life can be lived. (*Rufinus of Aquileia [c. 344-411]*)
- R2: Merciful God, forgive us for the times we have failed to live a common life as Christians. Draw us more deeply to one faith in you so that we may witness to the world.
- All: **We believe, help our unbelief.**
- R1: Let faith prevail: faith that leads the mind to trust, faith that does not come from human logic, but is the fruit of the Holy Spirit. (*Basil of Caesarea [c. 330-378]*)
- R2: O heavenly Comforter, we pray that we may trust more in the gift of your wisdom rather than the cleverness of our thinking.
- All: **We believe, help our unbelief.**
- R1: His light appeared and made the darkness of the prison disappear and hallowed our birth and destroyed death, loosing those same fetters in which we were enchained. (*Irenaeus of Lyon [c. 135-198]*)
- R2: Compassionate Lord, lead us to work together so that wherever there is darkness and oppression, suffering and injustice, we may bring your light and freedom.
- All: **We believe, help our unbelief.**
- L: As brothers and sisters of Jesus, together we pray in the words he taught us:  
All: **Our Father.....**

# Hymn

## “They’ll Know We Are Christians”



1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are  
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will  
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will  
4. All praise to the Fa - ther, from



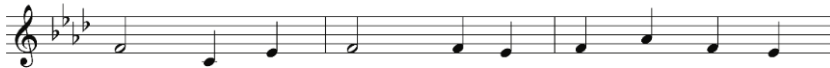
one in the Lord, We are one in the  
walk hand in hand, We will walk with each  
work side by side, We will work with each  
whom all things come, And all praise to Christ



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



pray that all u - ni - ty may one day be re -  
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our  
guard hu - man's dig - ni - ty and save hu - man's  
praise to the Spir - it, who makes us



stored:  
land: And they'll know we are Chris - tians by our  
pride:  
one:



love, by our love, Yes, they'll know we are



Chris - tians by our love.

## *Concluding Prayer*

*(from the Bose community)*

Leader: Bishop Joseph C. Bambera

L: God our Father, accept our praise and thanksgiving for what already unites Christians in the confession of and witness to Jesus the Lord. Hasten the hour when all churches will recognise each other in the one communion you willed and for which your Son prayed to you in the power of the Holy Spirit. Hear us, you who live and reign now and forever.

All: Amen.

## *Sending Forth*

L: Let us bless the Lord

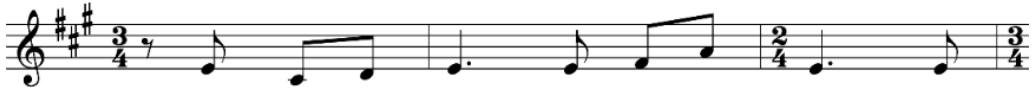
All: Thanks be to God.

L: May he who is our peace and has made us one, grant that we may present one another to the Father in the one Spirit.

All: Amen.

# Closing Hymn

## “We Walk by Faith”



1., 5. We walk by faith, and not by sight; No  
2. We may not touch his hands and side, Nor  
3. Help then, O Lord, our un - be - lief; And  
4. That, when our life of faith is done, In



gra - cious words we hear From him who spoke as  
fol - low where he trod; But in his prom - ise  
may our faith a - bound To call on you when  
realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you



none e'er spoke; But we be - lieve him near.  
we re - joice, And cry, “My Lord and God!”  
you are near, And seek where you are found:  
as you are, With full and end - less sight.

Text: Henry Alford, 1810–1871, alt.

Tune: SHANTI, CM; Marty Haugen, b.1950; acc. by Randall Sensmeier, b.1948, © 1984, 2006, GIA Publications, Inc.

## *“Do you believe this?”*

*(John 11:26)*

For this year, 2025, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity were prepared by the brothers and sisters of the monastic community of Bose in northern Italy. This year marks the 1,700th anniversary of the first Christian Ecumenical Council, held in Nicaea, near Constantinople in 325 AD. This commemoration provides a unique opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the common faith of Christians, as expressed in the Creed formulated during this Council; a faith that remains alive and fruitful in our days. The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2025 offers an invitation to draw on this shared heritage and to enter more deeply into the faith that unites all Christians.

