



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024

Theme: Go and Do Likewise

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> January** See also Romans 14:8-9, Psalm 103:13-18

A lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "What must I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 10:25)

God of life,

You have created us to have life, and life in all its fullness.

Help your wounded Church to be a source of hope and healing.

As we follow Jesus' way with determination, may we lead others to you.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Fri 19<sup>th</sup>** See also Deuteronomy 10:12-13, Psalm 133

Jesus 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." (Lk 10:27)

Lord, give us the grace to know you deeply, in order to love you entirely.

May the gift of your Holy Spirit enable our eyes, ears and minds to receive the unconditional love with which you love us.

Purify our hearts that we may always be ready to love our neighbour, however different, as ourselves, through the self-giving life of Christ our Lord. Amen

**Sat 20<sup>th</sup>** See also Romans 13:8-10, Psalm 119:57-63

"Who is my neighbour?" (Lk 10:29)

God of love, who writes love in our hearts,

instil in us the courage to look beyond ourselves and see the neighbour in those different from ourselves, and to be the unexpected neighbour, that we may truly follow Jesus Christ - our brother and our friend, who is Lord, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Sun 21<sup>st</sup>** United Service at Castle Hill Baptist Church 6pm. Everyone is welcome

When he saw him, he passed by on the other side. (Lk 10:31)

See also Isaiah 58:4-8a, Psalm 34:15-22

Lord Jesus Christ, may our eyes not look away, but be wide open to the world around us. As we travel through life, may we stop and reach out, bind up the wounded and in so doing experience your presence in them.

Give us a renewed commitment to journey with you towards unity. Amen

**Mon 22<sup>nd</sup>** Warm Space at St Paul's, Friars St, 9 - 12 noon, & at Castle Hill BC 12 - 3.30pm

He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. (Lk 10:34)

See also Joel 2:23-27, Psalm 104:14-15, 27-30

Gracious God, you who are the source of all love and goodness: enable us to recognise the needs of our neighbour.

Help us to be honest about our need for healing. Change us, so that we can love all.

Help us to overcome the obstacles of division, that we might build a world of peace for the common good.

Thank you for your renewing work in creation and for leading us to a future which is full of hope: you who are Lord of all, yesterday, today and forever. Amen.

**Tues 23<sup>rd</sup>** Focus on Palestine at St Paul's, Friars St, 10 – 12noon; Community afternoon at Methodist 2 – 4pm (See also Genesis 18:4-5, Psalm 5:11-12)

Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. (Lk 10:34)

God of unity, in Jesus, you showed us the meaning of hospitality, by caring for our fragile humanity.

Help us to become a community that generously welcomes those who feel abandoned and lost, together building an inn where all are welcomed and loved.

May we become closer to each other as we flaunt your unconditional love in the unity of the Holy Spirit. Amen

**Wed 24<sup>th</sup>** Pause in the Park, St Nicholas, 2 – 4pm (See also Philipppians 2.1-5, Psalm 10:17-18)

Jesus said: "Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour?" (Lk 10:36)

Holy God, your Son Jesus Christ came among us to show us the way of compassion.

Help us by your Spirit to follow his example, to serve the needs of all your children, and so witness together as Christians to your ways of love and mercy.

We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

**Thurs 25<sup>th</sup>** See also Romans 12:9-13, Psalm 41:1-2

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise". (Lk 10:37)

Mothering God, who holds the world in loving embrace, may we care for each other as you do, each and every soul.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, open us to each other and strengthen our bonds of communion and grow us in mutual affection.

Prince of Peace, give us the resolve to live out the Gospel faithfully

that we may be radical welcomers and reconcilers, for we ask in Jesus' name Amen.