



Guest Minister: Rev Brian Stevens
Music Director: Steven Webb
January 22, 2023 – Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Gathering Song **Here O God your Servants Gather** **VU 362**

*Here, O God, your servants gather, hand we link with hand;
looking to our Saviour's cross, joined in love we stand.
As we seek the realm of God, we unite to pray:
Jesus, Saviour, guide our steps, for you are the Way.*

*Many are the tongues we speak, scattered are the lands,
yet our hearts are one in God, one in love's demands.
Even in darkness hope appears, calling age and youth:
Jesus, teacher, dwell with us, for you are the Truth.*

Worship Call

One: We thank you for the many colours, cultures, and customs that we share in this world.

All: *In our differences, unite us by your love.*

One: Enable us to act together to uphold life, and to make this world a just and peaceful household for all humanity.

All: *As we worship together, empower us and grant us courage.*

Candle Lighting

Acknowledging the Land

Sing **In Christ There is No East or West** **VU 606**

*In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one great family of love
throughout the whole wide earth.*

*In him shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.*

*Join hands, then, people of the faith,
whate'er your race may be;*

*all children of the living God
are surely kin to me.*

*In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christ-like souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.*

Prayer of Approach

We come together to worship you, Loving God and thank you for your presence. We come to sing praises, to greet each other with your peace, and thank you for the ability to come together. We come to share sacred words and time, many people, unified by our love for you and for the world. May we find connection and strength in all that is shared in this place today. Amen

Sing

Who is My Mother

MV 178

*Who is my mother, who is my brother?
All those who gather round Jesus Christ:
Spirit blown people born from the Gospel
sit at the table, round Jesus Christ.*

*Differently abled, differently labeled,
widen the circle round Jesus Christ:
crutches and stigmas, culture's enigmas,
all come together round Jesus Christ.*

*Love will relate us colour or status
can't segregate us round Jesus Christ:
family failings, human derailings
all are accepted round Jesus Christ.*

*Bound by one vision, met for one mission
we claim each other, round Jesus Christ:
here is my mother, here is my brother,
kindred in Spirit, through Jesus Christ. Amen!*

Prayer of Illumination

Reading Isaiah 9:1–4

Gift of music

Reading **1 Corinthians 1: 10-18**

Reflection **"A Mutual Voice"**

Rev Brian Stevens

Sing **Blest Be the Tie that Binds**

VU 602

*Blest be the tie that binds
our hearts in Christian love;
the unity of heart and mind
is like to that above.*

*Before our Maker's throne
we pour our ardent prayers;
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one,
our comforts and our cares.*

*We share each other's woes,
each other's burdens bear;
and often for each other flows
the sympathizing tear.*

*This glorious hope revives
our courage on the way;
that we shall live in perfect love
in God's eternal day.*

Responding to God and Community

Sing Response **Where Two or Three are Gathered**

MV 14

*Where two or three are gathered in my name,
I am there, I am there.*

Prayers of the People

Sing **I Come with Joy**

VU 477

*I come with joy, a child of God,
forgiven, loved and free,
the life of Jesus to recall
in love laid down for me,
in love laid down for me.*

*As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share,
each proud division ends.*

*The love that made us, makes us one,
and strangers now are friends,
and strangers now are friends.*

*The Spirit of the risen Christ,
unseen, but ever near,
is in such friendship better known,
alive among us here,
alive among us here.*

Benediction & Commissioning

As we go from this place
may we be encouraged to
lift up the voices of the voiceless and open our ears to hear new voices
may we be encouraged to
pray for those who value power over love as we work to choose love.
May we be encouraged to
Support institutions and people who stand for justice as we work to act justly.
In all we do in all our lives.
Amen

Sing blessing

We are One

VU 402

*We are one as we hear,
as we hear, heart and hand unite;
in the word we receive
there's a sense that God is light.*

*We are one as we leave,
as we love, we are loved;
and we seek justice in God's ways
as we move together from this place.*