

La Côte Anglican Church
Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
24 January 2021

'Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit'
(*cf. John 15:5-9*)

Welcome & Introduction

Opening Prayer

Lord, you invite us to abide in you who are the vinegrower who cares for us with love.

You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united to the vine,
the beauty of each person.

And yet, too often the differences in others make us afraid.

We withdraw into ourselves. Our trust in you and one another is lost.

Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.

That as one family we may praise your name.

All: Amen.

First Vigil – The unity of the whole person

The first vigil is centred on the unity of the whole person and our abiding in Christ.

We will be invited to keep a minute of silence.

Song *Be still and know*

1. Be still and know that I am God. (x 3)
2. I am the Lord that healeth thee. (x 3)
3. In thee, O Lord, I put my trust. (x 3)

Reading *John 15:1-17*

I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit. You have already been cleansed by the word that I have spoken to you. Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Chant : *Ubi caritas (Taizé) x 2*

Ubi caritas et amor, ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

(Where there is charity, selfless love, where there is charity, God is truly there).

Intercessions

Reader: God of love, through Christ you said to us: "You did not choose me but I chose you." You invite us to receive your friendship. Teach us to respond more deeply to this invitation and grow in a life that is ever more complete.

All: The joy of our heart is in God.

Reader: God of life, you call us to be people of praise in the midst of the world and to accept one another. May your loving gaze, which rests upon each person, open us to receive each other just as we are.

All: The joy of our heart is in God.

Reader: God who gathers, you knit us together as one vine in Jesus. May your loving Spirit abide in us at church and in our community, that together we may celebrate you with joy.

All: The joy of our heart is in God.

Reader God of the one vineyard, you call us to live in your love in all we do and say. Touched by your goodness, grant us to be a reflection of that love in our homes, schools and workplaces.

All: The joy of our heart is in God.

Action: A time of silence

Very often we think of prayer as something we do, an activity of our own. In this short time we are invited to an interior silence, and to turn aside from all the noise and concerns of our lives and thoughts. In this silence the action belongs to God. We are simply called to abide in God's love, to rest in him.

Silence (approx. 1 minute)

Chant: *Lumière de Dieu (sung by Sisters of Grandchamp) x 3*

Lumière de Dieu, inonde la terre, visite nos cœurs et demeure avec nous.
(Come light, light of God, give light to creation, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world).



Second Vigil: The visible unity of Christians

The second vigil expresses the desire to rediscover the visible unity of Christians. Anchored in the love of Christ, we will turn in a moment to our neighbours and exchange with each other a sign of his peace.

Reading: *1 Cor. 1:10-13*

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

Chant: *There is one Lord (Taizé) x 2, verse, x 2*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism,
There is one God, who is Father of all.

Intercessions

Reader: Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe".

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May the walls that separate us fall.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Holy Spirit, Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation and bring us back to you when we lose our way.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that we may be open to your grace.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Reader: Holy Spirit, you never abandon the men, women and children who are persecuted for their faithfulness to the gospel. Give them strength and courage, and support those who help them.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Action: Sharing a sign of peace

The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it. Let us exchange a sign of his peace with each other ...

Chant: *Lumière de Dieu (Grandchamp) x 3*

Lumière de Dieu, inonde la terre, visite nos cœurs et demeure avec nous.
(Come light, light of God, give light to creation, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world).



Third Vigil : The unity of all peoples and all creation

The third vigil opens us up to the unity of all peoples, all creation and will be led by Kirsty Borthwick, an Anglican ordinand and student at Bossey Ecumenical Institute, with the participation of several of her fellow students. The action in it is inspired by a text of Dorotheus of Gaza and demonstrates that the closer we move to God - the centre - the closer we draw to each other. This has been possible for the Bossey students to do in current circumstances, as they are living and studying together, like a family.

Song: *Sing a new song unto the Lord*

Refrain: *Sing a new song unto the Lord;
Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord
Singing alleluia*

1. Shout with gladness, dance for joy
O come before the Lord!
And play for God on glad tambourines
And let your trumpet sound.

Refrain

2. Rise, O children, from your sleep;
Your Saviour now has come!
He has turned your sorrow to joy
And filled your soul with song.

Refrain

Reading: *Rev. 7:9-12, by Hannah Andres from the United Methodist Church, USA.*

After this I looked, and there was an enormous crowd – no one could count all the people! They were from every race, tribe, nation, and language, and they stood in front of the throne and of the Lamb, dressed in white robes and holding palm branches in their hands. They called out in a loud voice: “Salvation comes from our God, who sits on the throne, and from the Lamb!” All the angels stood around the throne, the elders, and the four living creatures. Then they threw themselves face downward in front of the throne and worshipped God, saying, “Amen! Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power, and might belong to our God forever and ever! Amen!”

Reflection: *‘Living a parable of unity’, by Kirsty Borthwick (Anglican ordinand studying at Bossey Ecumenical Institute)*

Intercessions *read by students at Bossey.*

Reader: God of life, you have created every human being in your image and likeness. We sing your praise for the gift of our many cultures, expressions of faith, traditions and ethnicities. Grant us the courage always to stand against injustice and hatred based on race, class, gender, religion, and fear of those not like ourselves.

All: God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

Reader: Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace.

All: God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

Reader: O Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life for people who suffer in so many different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, life and goods with all those in need.

All: God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

Reader: Holy Spirit, you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate change. Guide us toward new behaviours. May we learn to live in harmony as part of your creation.

All: God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

Action: Moving to the centre ... and out to the world

During this, please join in the **Lord’s Prayer** when it is said by the students in their own languages.

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.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever.
Amen.**

Chant: *Lumière de Dieu (Grandchamp) x 2*

Lumière de Dieu, inonde la terre, visite nos cœurs et demeure avec nous.
(Come light, light of God, give light to creation, enlighten our hearts and remain with your world).

As the students walk towards us bringing us the light with their candles, please light your own candle at home.



Closing Prayer

Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Prayer and action belong together. When we abide in Christ, we receive the Spirit of courage and wisdom to act against all injustice and oppression. We say together:

Pray and work that God may reign. Throughout your day let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest. Maintain inner silence in all things so as to dwell in Christ. Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes: joy, simplicity, mercy.

These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp Community.

Blessing

Be one, so that the world may believe! Abide in his love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.

May the God of hope fill us with all joy and all peace in faith, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Final Song: *We are one in the Spirit*

1. We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
We are One in The Spirit,
We are One in The Lord.
And we pray that all unity may one day be restored.
*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

2. We will walk with each other,

We will walk hand in hand.
We will walk with each other,
We will walk hand in hand.
And together we'll spread the News
that God is in our land.
*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

3. We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
We will work with each other,
We will work side by side.
And we'll guard each man's dignity
And save each man's pride.
*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*

4. All praise to the Father
From whom all things come
And all praise to Christ Jesus His only son
And all praise to the Spirit
Who makes us one
*And they'll know we are Christians by our love,
By our love,
Yes they'll know we are Christians by our love.*



Prayer and Care

This week if you would like prayer for anything, do contact Peta Tracey, who will share your prayer request in confidence with our La Côte Church prayer group.

Please go to www.lacotechurch.ch for more information about our church.

Thank you for joining us in worship – we hope you have found hope and inspiration for your life.

If you would like to support our church with a gift, by card, click on this link:

<https://www.lacotechurch.ch/donate/>

Thank you to all of you who are pledging and donating your collections online, or putting collection money aside each week.

Here are the bank details for your online donations:

IBAN: CH42 0022 8228 5504 9740 H

Holder: La Côte Anglican Church Development Association, 1267 Coinsins

BIC UBSWCHZH80A