

Christian Prayer: January

Prayer for Christian Unity

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been kept by Christians of different denominations since 1908.

The week begins on the 18 January (formerly the feast of the Confession of Saint Peter) and ends on 25 January (the Feast of the Conversion of Saint Paul).

Resources are prepared for the Church around the world each year by Christians of different denominations from a particular country. These resources are available to download from www.ctbi.org.uk. Usually they will include a scripture passage, reflection and prayer for each day of the week.

Gospel: John 17:20-26

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

‘Holy Father, I pray not only for these,
but for those also who through their words will believe in me.
May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,
as you are in me and I am in you,
so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.
I have given them the glory you gave to me,
that they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me,
may they be so completely one
that the world will realise that it was you who sent me
and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.
Father, I want those you have given me to be with me where I am,
so that they may always see the glory you have given me
because you loved me before the foundation of the world.
Father, Righteous One, the world has not known you,
but I have known you, and these have known that you have sent me.
I have made your name known to them
and will continue to make it known,
so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,
and so that I may be in them.’

The following prayer is prayed daily by the ecumenical community Chemin Neuf (New Way) that is part of the household of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Lord Jesus, who prayed that we might all be one,
we pray to you for the unity of Christians,
according to your will,
according to your means.
May your Spirit enable us
to experience the suffering caused by division,
to see our sin
and to hope beyond all hope. Amen.

