

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

22nd January

“Ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising”

(Mt 2:9)

Guided by the one God

Readings

- **Psalm 121** - I lift up my eyes to the hills, from where will my help come?
- **Matthew 2:7-10** - Ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising

Reflection

Again and again, the scriptures tell us how God walks with us. The path may not always be straight: sometimes we are led to retrace our steps, sometimes to return by a different route. But in all our journeying through life, we can be confident that God, who neither “sleeps nor slumbers”, is with us when we slip or fall.

Even in the greatest darkness, God’s light is with us. Most perfectly, in the fullness of time, God sends Jesus Christ, who is the guiding light for all nations, the glory of God in the world, the source of divine light and life.

The way ahead into unity with one another, into closer union with Christ, is not always clear. In our earnest attempts to build unity ourselves it is all too easy to lose sight of this fundamental message of the scriptures: that God does not abandon his people even in their failures and divisiveness. This is God’s message of hope for the whole world. As the story of the Magi reminds us, God guides people of all kinds, by the light of the star, to where Christ, the light of the world, is to be found.

Prayer

God our Guide,
you sent the star to lead the Magi to your only begotten Son.
Fill us with the confidence that you are walking with us.
Open our eyes to your Spirit, and encourage us in our faith,
so that we may confess that Jesus is Lord,
and worship him as the Magi did in Bethlehem.
Amen.

Lá 5

“Agus an réalta, a bhí feicthe acu roimhe sin ag éirí, ghluais sí rompu”

(Matha 2:9)

An t-aon Dia a threoraigh

Léamha

- **Sailm 121** - Tógaim mo shúile chun na sléibhte. Cad as do mo chúnamh?
- **Matha 2:7-10** - Agus an réalta, a bhí feicthe acu roimhe sin ag éirí.

Machnamh

Arís agus arís eile, deir na scríoptúir linn go siúlann Dia inár bhfochair. B’fhéidir nach conair dhíreach a bheadh ann i gcónaí: uaireanta, faighimid treoir dul siar ar ár gcoiscéimeanna, uaireanta fillimid ar bhóthar eile. Ach is cuma an taisteal a dhéanfaimid le linn ár saoil, ní chodlaíonn Dia ná ní dhéanann néal agus is féidir linn glacadh leis go mbeidh sé linn nuair a bhainfidh sciorradh nó titim dúinn.

Sa dorchadas is doimhne, bíonn solas Dé go deo linn. Ar bhealach foirfe ar fad, i bhfoirfeacht an ama, sheol Dia chugainn Íosa Críost, solas stiúrtha na náisiún go léir, glóire Dé ar domhan go léir, foinse an tsolais neamhaí agus an tsaoil.

Ní léir i gcónaí an bealach chun na haontachta lena chéile, in aontacht níos dlúithe le Críost, ní léir é i gcónaí. Le linn ár n-iarrachtaí macánta maidir le hontacht a thógáil eadrainn féin, bíonn sé rófhuirist imeacht ó bhunteachtairacht na scríoptúr: ní thréigeann Dia a phobal d’ainneoin go dteipeann orthu agus go scarann siad óna chéile. Seo é teachtaireacht dóchais Dé don domhan go léir. Mar a chuireann scéal na Saoithe i gcuimhne dúinn, stiúrann Dia daoine de gach cineál, faoi sholas na réaltaí, go dtí an áit a bhfuil fáil ar Chríost, solas an tsaoil.

Paidir

A Dhia, ár dTreoraí tú,

sheol tú an réalta d’fhonn na Saoithe a thabhairt chuig d’aonghin.

Líon sinn le muinín agus tú ag siúl inár measc.

Oscail ár súile ar do Spiorad, agus tabhair moladh dúinn as ár gcreideamh,

agus beidh sé ar ár gcumas a dhearbhuí gur Íosa an Tiarna,

agus é a adhradh, faoi mar a rinne na Saoithe i mBeithil.

Áiméan.