

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

24th January

“Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh”

(Mt 2:11)

The search for unity

Readings

- **Hosea 6:1-6** - (v6 For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice)
- **Matthew 6:19-21** - (v21 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also)

Reflection

The prophet Hosea is known for his cry for justice and love to override religious ritual and regulations. We are called to make a treasure of our expression of love and our work for justice and to let that be the offering that we place before the manger. We know that God does not want our riches or burnt offerings, but rather that God’s power works through our poverty: “I have no silver or gold”. The Lord desires our loving hearts, filled with mercy, truly penitent and desiring change.

Let us then prepare the gift of a heart full of love. Kneeling in worship requires hearts that are contrite for the sin that divides us and obedient to the One we serve. This obedience revives, heals and reconciles everything that is broken or wounded in us, around us, and among us as Christians.

Unity is the gift offered to us by Christ. We grow in communion as we share the graces our different traditions have received, acknowledging that the source of all our gifts is the Lord.

Prayer

God,
through your prophets
you have called us to do justice,
to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with you.
In Christ,
you have shown us what that looks like.
Through your Holy Spirit
you continually enable us
to hear your words,
to follow Christ’s example,
and to live as his disciples.
So, as we gather at the manger,
heal our wounds,
reconcile our divisions
and hold us together in your love.
Amen.

Lá 7

“D’oscail siad a gcistí agus d’ofráil siad tabhartais dó, ór agus túis agus miorra”

(Matha 2:11)

Tóraíocht na haontachta

Léamha

- **Hóisé 6:1-6** - (v6 is mó is mian liom buanghrá ná íobairtí)
- **Matha 6:19-21** - (v21 Óir san áit a mbíonn do stór, is ann a bheidh do chroí freisin)

Machnamh

Is é an aithne atá ar Hóisé ná a chuid achainíocha ar son an cheartais agus an ghrá seachas gnáis agus rialacha reiligiúnda. Iarrtar orainn stór a dhéanamh dár ngrá agus dár gcuid oibre ar son an cheartais faoin tuiscint go mbeadh an méid sin mar bhronntanas uainn lena ofráil os comhair an mhainséir. Tá a fhios againn nach dteastaíonn saibhreas ná ofrálacha dóite ó Dhia, ach gur trínár mbochtaineacht a oibríonn cumhacht Dé: “Níl ór ná airgead agam”. Is é grá ár gcroí a theastaíonn ón Tiarna, iad líon lán le trócaire, fonn chun aithreachais agus fonn chun athraithe iontu.

Ullmhaímis dó mar sin bronntanas an chroí atá líon lá le grá. Lena bheith réidh le glúin a umhlú chun adhartha, is gá croí ina bhfuil aithreachas as an bpeaca agus croí atá dílis as an té a bhfreastalaímid air. Tríd an dílseacht seo, tugtar athbhrí dúinn, cneasaítear sinn, agus tugtar chun athmhuintearais sinn, tar éis ar briseadh nó ar gortaíodh ionainn, timpeall orainn, agus inár measc mar Chríostaithe.

Is í an aontacht an bronntanas a tugadh dúinn trí Chríost. Fásfaimid i gcomaoin lena chéile, agus roinnimid na grástaí éagsúla a tháinig chuig ár dtraidisiún féin, agus aithnímid gurb é an Tiarna foinsí gach bronntanais a fuaireamar.

Paidir

A Dhia,
trí do chuid fáithe,
d’iarr tú chun an cheartais sinn,
chun grá a bheith againn don trócaire,
agus le siúl go humhal i d’fhochair.
I gCríost,
thaispeáin tú dúinn cén chuma a bheidh air sin.
Trí do Spiorad Naomh
ceadaíonn tú dúinn
d’fhocail a chloisteáil,
leanúint de shampla Chríost,
agus le maireachtáil mar dheisceabail.
Mar sin, cruinneoimidne ag an mainséar,
déan-sa cneasú ar ár gcneánna,
réitigh ár ndeighiltí,
agus coimeád le chéile i do ghrá sinn.
Áimeán.