

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2022

25th January

“They left for their own country by another road”

(Mt 2:12)

Beyond the familiar routes of separation to God's new paths

Readings

- **Psalm 16** - You show me the path of life.
- **Matthew 11:25-30** - Because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent, and have revealed them to infants.

Reflection

We do not know what the wise men thought – they who were experts in astronomy and navigation – when they were warned to return by another road. They may well have been very confused, but the same light that illumined their journey showed them that there was another road, another possibility. They were called to change direction.

We often find ourselves bound by our familiar ways of doing things and of seeing the world. When these ways or ‘roads’ are closed, we wonder how to proceed and continue the journey. We have to trust that the everlasting One who gave us the light, can always find a way forward when our ways and paths are blocked. A fresh start is always possible when we are willing and open to the work of the Spirit.

As churches we look to the past and find illumination, and we look to the future in search of new ways so that we can continue to shine the light of the Gospel as we journey by another way, together.

Prayer

Gracious God,
when we only know one way
and we think we must return to it,
when we think that all roads are blocked,
and we fall into despair,
we always find you there,
creating a new unexpected path before us.
If we search our maps and find no route,
nonetheless we always find you,
who lead us by a yet more excellent way,
trusting that you will always lead us back to you
and forward in unity together.
Amen.

Lá 8

“Ghabh siad bóthar eile abhaile chun a dtíre féin”

(Matha 2:12)

Seachain seanslite na deighilte agus tabhair faoi bhealaí nua Dé

Léamha

- **Sailm 16** - Taispeánfaidh tú slí na beatha dom.
- **Matha 11:25-30** - De chionn mar a cheil tú na nithe seo ar lucht eagna agus éirime agus mar a d'fhoilsigh tú do naíonáin iad.

Machnamh

Níl tuairim againn cad é ba dhóigh leis na Saoithe – ba shaineolaithe réalteolaíochta agus loingseoireachta iad – nuair a tugadh rabhadh dóibh bóthar eile abhaile a ghabáil. Gach seans go raibh mearbhall ceart orthu, ach an solas céanna a lasadh ina mbóthar, léirigh siad dóibh go raibh bóthar eile, féidearthacht eile. Iarradh orthu a dtreo a athrú.

Is minic a thugaimid faoi deara go mbímid teoranta ag na gnáthshlite a bhíonn againn le rudaí a dhéanamh agus leis an domhan a thuiscint. Nuair a dhúntar na slite nó na ‘bóithre’ seo, machnaímid ar cén tslí le dul ar aghaidh agus leis an aistear a choimeád sa siúl. Caithfimid muinín a bheith againn as an Té a thug dúinn an lóchrann sin dúinn, an mhuinín go n-aimseoimid an bealach chun tosaigh nuair atá bac ar ár slí agus ar ár mbóthar. Bíonn tús úrnua ar fáil i gcónaí nuair a bhímid toilteanach agus oscailte ar obair an Spioraid.

Mar eaglaisí, féachaimid i dtreo an ama atá caite agus aimsímid an lóchrann, agus féachaimid i dtreo na todhchaí ar thóir slite nua ionas gur féidir leanúint de sholas an tSoiscéil a lonrú le linn an aistir dúinn ar bhóthar eile in éineacht lena chéile.

Paidir

A Dhia an ghrásta,
nuair nach léir dúinn ach slí amháin,
agus nuair a chreidimid gur uirthi amháin is féidir brath,
nuair a chreidimid go bhfuil bac ar gach bóthar,
agus nuair a thitimid in éadóchas,
is tusa a aimsímid go deo ann,
bealach nua gan choinne á leagan síos romhainn agat.
Má chuardaímid ár mapáí agus mura bhfaighimid aon bhealach,
aimseoimid i gcónaí tú dá ainneoin sin,
tugann tú treoir dúinn ar shlite is fearr go mór,
agus bíonn muinín againn go dtabharfaidh tú ar ais chugat i gcónaí,
agus chun tosaigh san aontacht lena chéile.
Áimeán.