

Church

Unity

Commission



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

2023

Ascension to Pentecost

18 May – 28 May 2023

*In search of the unity for which our Lord prayed:
"I ask that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me
and I am in you, may they be in us, so that the world may
believe that you have sent me."*

Published by the Church Unity Commission:

16 Lowlands Ave Tokai 7945

TELEPHONE (021) 712 8609 (8am – 1pm)

Website: www.churchunitycommission.org

E-mail: sg@churchunitycommission.org

UNITY PRAYER

AFRIKAANS

Regverdige en genadige God;
ons kom na U toe met berouvolle harte,
leer vir ons hoe om goed te doen,
ons vra vir die moed om vir geregtigheid vir almal te soek,
en om 'n sinvolle eenheid van die kerk te soek sodat:
die verdruktes kan bevry word
die weeskind en die weduwee mag geregtigheid ken
sodat:
vrede, geregtigheid en liefde mag seëvier; deur die een
wie liefde is, Jesus ons Verlosser, en in die mag van die
een wie se vrug liefde is, die instaatstellende Heilige Gees.
Amen.

ENGLISH

Righteous and merciful God;
we come to you in repentant hearts,
teach us to do good,
give us courage to seek justice for all
and to seek a meaningful unity of the church
so that:
the oppressed may be liberated
the orphan and the widow may know justice
so that:
peace, justice and love may prevail; through the one
who is love, Jesus our redeemer, and in the power
of the one whose fruit is love, the enabling Holy Spirit.
Amen.

ISIXHOSA

Thixo obubungcwalisa no nofefe;
sisondele kuwe ngeentliziyo eziguqukayo
sifundise ukwenza okulungileyo,
siphe ukukhalipha ukuze sifune ubulungisa
sifune ubunye bebandla
ukuze:
abacinezelekileyo bazuze inkululeko
iinkedama nabahlolokazi bazuze ubulungisa
ukuze:
uxolo, ukulunga, nothando buzaliseke ngaye lowo
uluthando, uYesu umkhululi wethu, nangawo amandla
alowo osiqhamo siluthando, uMoya oyiNgcwele. **Amen**

UNITY PRAYER

ISIZULU

Nkulunkulu olungile nonesihe;
siza kuwe ngezinhliziyi eziphendukayo.
sifundise ukwenza okuhle,
Sicela usinikeze isibindi sokufuna ubulungisa
ngenxa yabo bonke abantu
kanye nokufuna ubunye obunengqondo bebandla
ukuze:
abacindezelwe bangase bakhululwe
intandane nabafelokazi bakwazi ukulunga
ukuze:
ukuthula, ubulungisa nothando kungase kunqobe;
ngaye oluthando, uYesu umhlengi wethu,
nangamandla alowo osithelo sakhe siluthando,
uMoya oNgcwele onamandla. **Amen.**

PORTUGUESE

Deus justo e misericordioso; nós viemos a você com
corações arrependidos,
ensina-nos a fazer o bem,
dai-nos coragem para buscar justiça para todos e uma
unidade significativa da Igreja
para que:
os oprimidos possam ser libertados, os órfãos e as viúvas
conheçam a justiça, para que: a paz, a justiça e o amor
prevaleçam; por meio dAquele que é amor, Jesus, nosso
redentor, e no poder dAquele cujo fruto é o amor, o
Espírito Santo capacitador. **Amém.**

Sotho

Molimo ea lokileng, ea mohau;
re tla ho wena ka dipelo tse sokolohang;
re rute ho etsa botle;
re fe sebete sa ho batlela bohle toka
le bonngoe bo nang le moelelo oa kereke
e le hore:
ba hateletsoeng ba ka lokolloa
likhutsana le mohlolohali ba ka tseba toka
khotso, toka le lerato li ka ba teng; ka Eo e leng lerato,
Jesu Molopolli oa rona, le ka matla a eo tholoana ea hae e
leng lerato, Moea o Halalelang o nolofaletsang. **Amen.**

UNITY PRAYER

FRENCH

Dieu juste et miséricordieux;
nous venons à vous avec des cœurs repentants,
apprends-nous à faire le bien,
donne-nous le courage de rechercher la justice pour tous
et de rechercher une unité significative de l'église
de sorte que:
les opprimés peuvent être libérés
l'orphelin et la veuve peuvent connaître la justice
de sorte que:
la paix, la justice et l'amour peuvent prévaloir ;
par celui qui est amour, Jésus notre rédempteur,
et dans la puissance de celui dont le fruit est l'amour,
le Saint-Esprit habitant. **Amen**

GERMAN - DEUTSCH

Gerechter und barmherziger Gott;
wir kommen zu dir mit reuigem Herzen,
lehre uns, Gutes zu tun,
gib uns den Mut, Gerechtigkeit für alle zu suchen
und eine sinnvolle Einheit der Kirche
damit:
die Unterdrückten befreit werden
die Waisen und Witwen Gerechtigkeit erfahren
damit:
Friede, Gerechtigkeit und Liebe herrschen können;
durch den, der die Liebe ist, Jesus, unseren Erlöser,
und in der Kraft dessen, dessen Frucht die Liebe ist, des
belebenden Heiligen Geistes. **Amen**

TSHIVENDA

Mudzimu wa tshilidzi na uluga.
Ri da kha vhone nga mbilu ya u di sola.
Ri funze u ita zwivhuya.
Rifhe mafufufu a u toda mulalo kha vhothe.
Na vhuthihi ha ngoho ha kereke.
Uri: Vho kwanyeledzwaho vha vhothololwe,
zswiwana na tshilikadzi vha divhe mulalo.
Mulalo, mbofholowo na lufuno zwi kunde,
nga kha uyo a re lufuno, Jeso murengululi washu.
Na kha a uyo a ne lufuno lwa vha mutshelo;
Muya mukhethwa a konaho. **Amen**

UNITY PRAYER

SISWATI

Nkulunkulu loyingcwele nalonemusa;
Sisondzela
kuwe ngenhlitiyo lephendvukako,
sifundzise kwenta lokuhle,
usiphe nadvolocina kucinisekisa
kutsi kunebulungiswa kubo bonkhe bantfu,
nelibandla lakho litikhandle ekubeni munye:
labacindzetelwe bakhululwe,
tintsandzane nebafelokati babati bulungiswa
kute kube nekuthula, nebulungiswa, nelutsadvo lugcame;
ngaye lolutsandvo, Jesu umhlengi wetfu,
longemadla onkhe ngaso sitselo selutsandvo,
ngaMoya loNgcwele. **Amen**

PLAN YOUR CELEBRATION OF THE WEEK

THE FEAST OF THE ASCENSION

The day is no longer a Public Holiday, but is an opportunity for churches to combine at an evening celebration together. A Service is provided giving material adapted from WCC material developed by Minnesota Council of Churches.

PULPIT EXCHANGES

Arrange for preachers to swap pulpits for the morning and evening services on the Sunday between Ascension and Pentecost. The RCL text for that day is from John 17, Jesus' prayer that we might all be One.

THE FEAST OF PENTECOST

The afternoon is an ideal opportunity for arranging a combined service with contributions from local churches as a witness to the wider community. This would be in addition to the regular services in the churches across the community.

The CUC acknowledges with thanks the work of several persons who assisted with the translation of the prayer for the 2023 Week of Prayer.

The readings and worship materials are adapted from resources published by the World Council of Churches for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, 2023

READINGS FOR THE WEEK 2023

Eight days intercession on behalf of churches.

- 18 May Feast of the Ascension: Pray for World Council of Churches, SACC, CUC, Ministers Fraternal**
- 19 May Learning to do the right thing:** Is 1:17 "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan; plead for the widow"
Pray for Roman Catholic Church
- 20 May When justice is done...:** Matt 23:23 "Justice and mercy and faithfulness. These you ought to have done" **Pray for Covenant Churches**
- 21 May Seventh Sunday of Easter**
Pray for African Independent Churches
- 22 May Do justice, love mercy, walk humbly:** Mic 6:6-8 "And what does the Lord require of you" :
Pray for Anglican/Episcopal Churches
- 23 May Look, the tears of the oppressed:** Eccles 4:1 "Again I saw all the oppressions that are practiced under the sun. Look, the tears of the oppressed – with no one to comfort them!"
Pray for Lutheran /Moravian Churches
- 24 May Singing the Lord's song as strangers in the land:** Ps 137:1-4 "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" **Pray for Presbyterian /Congregational Churches**
- 25 May Just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me:** Matt 25:40 "I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" **Pray for Methodist Churches**
- 26 May What is now does not have to be:** Lk 1:52 "He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly"
Pray for Reformed Churches
- 27 May The justice that restores communion:** Ps 82:1-4 "Give justice to the weak and the orphan; maintain the right of the lowly and the destitute" **Pray for Orthodox Churches**
- 28 May Pentecost**
Pray for Baptist/Pentecostal Churches