

# Friday evening ecumenical prayer service

Using 1 Corinthians 1:13

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2014

PROCESSIONAL HYMN:

*Leaders of Prayer enter in procession.*

## GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

*Leader, after offering the welcome, begins:* Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: And also with you.**

*Leader:* This worship service was prepared in Canada. The word, "Canada," in the language of some of the country's first people, the Iroquois, means "village." As members of the household of God, Christians around the world indeed inhabit one "village." When Christians worship, they link themselves to this vast global village, so full of beauty, of struggle and of hope. Dear friends, we welcome you to join together in prayer through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit.

Let us pray: Loving God, you call all of us: from our homes and from our offices, from our mines and from our factories, from our fields and from our shops, from our schools and from our hospitals, from many nations, to be one in fellowship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All: Make us one in Christ.**

*Leader:* The indigenous peoples of Canada honor an ancient ritual of praying while facing in different directions. With them, let us unite in prayer, facing each of the directions as indicated:

*Facing East*

*Leader:* From the East, the direction of the rising sun, we receive peace and light and wisdom and knowledge.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*Facing South*

*Leader:* From the South comes warmth, guidance, and the beginning and the end of life.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*Facing West*

*Leader:* From the West comes the rain, purifying waters, to sustain all living things.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*Facing North*

*Leader:* From the North comes the cold and mighty wind and the white snows, giving us strength and endurance.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*Turning towards the front, and facing upward*

*Leader:* From the heavens we receive darkness and light and the air of Your breath.

**All: We are grateful for these gifts, O God.**

*Facing downward*

*Leader:* From the earth we come and to the earth we will return.

*All:* **We are grateful, O God, for your good creation, our earthly home.**

*Leader:* May we walk good paths, blessed God, living on this earth as brothers and sisters should; rejoicing in one another's blessings, sympathizing in one another's sorrows, and together with you, in the name of Jesus, and with the Spirit's awakening breath, renewing the face of the earth.

*All:* **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE:

## PRAYERS OF REPENTANCE

*Leader:* Inspired by Paul's appeal to the community of Corinth, let us confess our sins.

*Leader:* Gracious God, through our union with Christ Jesus you have made us rich in speech and in knowledge of every kind. In our pride, we attribute these gifts to ourselves and do not recognize their true source. Forgive us, Lord.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* Gracious God, in Christ we are not lacking in any spiritual gift. Yet, often we are too timid or too self-absorbed to share the marvels of this life-giving message with those around us. Forgive us, Lord.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* Gracious God, you call us to fellowship in your Son, Jesus Christ. For our lack of enthusiasm to be united in one mind and one purpose; for too readily allowing divisions and quarrels to persist among us, forgive us, Lord.

*All:* **Lord, have mercy.**

*Leader:* Gracious God, you remain faithful even while seeing our weakness. Forgive our sins of mediocrity and our too easy acceptance of divisions among us. By the grace of your Holy Spirit, rekindle our zeal to take concrete steps to honor our covenant of unity with you, with one another, and with all of creation.

*All:* **Amen.**

*please be seated*

## THE WORD OF GOD

LECTOR 1: Isaiah 57:14-19

PSALM: Psalm 36:5-10

*please see music insert*

LECTOR 2: 1 Corinthians 1:1-17

*please stand*

Gospel Acclamation

*Leader:* THE PROCLAMATION OF THE GOSPEL: Mark 9:33-41

*please be seated*

*Leader:* THE HOMILY

## WE RESPOND IN FAITH AND UNITY

*Members of each church light one candle in the center of the assembly and speak aloud the name of their church.*

### AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

*Leader:* Let us stand, and join together in professing the Apostles' Creed.

***All:* I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

### HYMN OF FAITH AND COMMITMENT:

## INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*The Leader prays each of the Intercessions and All respond: And in your love, answer.*

### THE LORD'S PRAYER (Ecumenical Text)

*Leader:* As we strive to realize these goals, may we discern your voice, O Lord, and journey together towards the Kingdom for which you prayed. And so we pray:

***All:* Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen.**

### COLLECT

*Leader:* Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever.

***All:* Amen.**

### SIGN OF PEACE

*Leader:* As a sign of our peace and a way to recognize the gifts we receive from one another, according to an early French-Canadian custom, let us say to each other, "Gift of God." Let us greet one another with an embrace, bow, or handshake, as we say:

***All:* Gift of God**

*please be seated. A collection for Micah Ecumenical Ministries is taken.*

## WE GO FORTH INTO THE WORLD

### COMMITMENT TO UNITY

*Leader:* Let us stand. Paul challenged the Christians in Corinth to know in their hearts and to show in their actions that Christ has not been divided. He challenges us, too, to realize more fully the unity we already have in Christ. With all those in every place who call on the Lord Jesus Christ,

*All:* **Together, we are called to be saints.**

*Leader:* Graced by God in every way,

*All:* **Together, we give thanks for one another.**

*Leader:* Rich in the many blessings God has given us through our union in Christ,

*All:* **Together, we are not lacking in any spiritual gift.**

*Leader:* Sure in the God who strengthens us for love and service,

*All:* **Together, we affirm that God is faithful.**

*Leader:* Embraced by Jesus Christ,

*All:* **Together, we are called into fellowship.**

*Leader:* United in the same mind and the same purpose,

*All:* **Together, we seek to be in agreement.**

*Leader:* Overcoming our quarrels about the one who was crucified for us,

*All:* **Together, we belong to Christ.**

*Leader:* Has Christ, then, been divided?

*All:* **No! Together, we go into the world to proclaim his good news!**

### BLESSING AND SENDING FORTH

*Leader:* The Lord be with you.

*All:* **And also with you.**

*Leader:* May the love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself, may the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service, may the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your spirit, and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you forever.

*All:* **Amen.**

*Leader:* Go in peace, to love and to be loved, to welcome and to belong to serve and to be nourished.

*All:* **Thanks be to God!**

### SENDING HYMN: