

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 1: Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022

#### **Theme:**

'We observed his star in the East' (Mt 2:2)

*Raise us up and draw us to your perfect light*



#### **Question:**

Where have you sought 'the light' in the midst of darkness?

#### **Prayer:**

Creator of light,

illumine our path by the light of Christ who moves before us and leads us.

May he be a beacon for our pilgrimage.

Enlighten us and dwell within us.

Guide us to discover a manger in our hearts where a great light still shines.

We thank you for the gift of that unfading Star, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Heal our divisions and draw us closer to the Light that we may find our unity in him.

Amen.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 2: Wednesday 19th January 2022

#### **Theme:**

‘Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews?’ (Mt 2:2)

*Humble leadership breaks down walls and builds up with love*



#### **Question:**

What Christian leader (either local or national) do you admire for the ability to inspire unity and a concern for justice? What qualities enable that person to lead effectively?

#### **Prayer:**

Just and righteous God,

we confess before you that we often covet worldly models of leadership.

Help us to seek our Lord Jesus Christ

not in the palaces of the powerful but in the humble manger.

May we emulate him in his meekness and become servants to each other in obedience to you.

We pray in the name of Christ, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns forever in glory.

Amen.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 3: Thursday 20th January 2022

#### **Theme:**

'When king Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him' (Mt 2:3)

*The presence of Christ, turning the world upside down*



#### **Question:**

When have you been disturbed into doing what was right?

#### **Prayer:**

Lord, you led us out of darkness to hope in Jesus.

Unite us in our commitment to establish your reign of love, justice and peace, bringing light to those living in the darkness of despair and disillusionment.

Shine your light upon us and surround us with the warmth of your love.

Lift us up to you, so that our lives may glorify you,

Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Amen

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 4: Friday 21st January 2022

#### **Theme:**

'And you, Bethlehem... are by no means least' (Mt 2:6)

*Though small and suffering, we lack nothing*



#### **Question:**

How might our local churches become “Bethlehems” – places where Christ can be born, welcomed and honoured?

#### **Prayer:**

Good Shepherd,

the fragmentation of your ‘little flock’ grieves the Holy Spirit.

Forgive our weak efforts and slowness in the pursuit of your will.

Give us wise shepherds after your own heart

who recognise the sin of division,

and those who will lead the churches

with righteousness and holiness, to unity in you.

We ask you, Lord, to hear our prayer. Amen.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 5: Saturday 22nd January 2022

#### Theme:

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

(Mt 2:9)

*Guided by the one God*



#### Question:

How is God guiding your Christian community at this time? Where are you being called to act?

#### 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.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 6: Sunday 23rd January 2022

#### Theme:

'They saw the child with Mary his mother, and they knelt down and paid him homage' (Mt 2:11)

*Gathered in worship around the One Lord*



#### Question:

Within your worship as a local Christian community what are the barriers you face to greater unity and how might they be overcome?

#### Prayer:

Compassionate God,

in your mercy, remove the scales from our eyes

and lead us to repent and to worship you.

In the midst of our sorrow and despite the depth of our sin,

give us the capacity to love you with all our hearts.

As we journey together with one heart and mind,

may we glorify you in the Spirit's fellowship,

and witness to those around us.

Amen.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 7: Monday 24th January 2022

#### Theme:

'Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh' (Mt 2:11)

*The search for unity*



#### Question:

How do you consider the importance of church as a place for offering worship and as a place from which to call for social justice?

#### 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.

## CHRISTIAN UNITY WEEK

### Day 8: Tuesday 25th January 2022

#### Theme:

'They left for their own country by another road' (Mt 2:12)

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



#### Question:

How does it feel when your familiar ways or traditions are challenged?

#### 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.