

Ecumenical Celebration

Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit
(cf. John 15:5-9)

Welcome by Heather Corbell: Chair of The Bury St Edmunds and District churches Together

Introduction Rev Debbie Borda

Hymn **Let us build a house**

[\(217\) Let Us Build A House - YouTube](#)

- 1 Let us build a house where love can dwell
and all can safely live,
a place where saints and children tell
how hearts learn to forgive.
Built of hopes and dreams and visions,
rock of faith and vault of grace ;
here the love of Christ shall end divisions :
*All are welcome,
all are welcome,
all are welcome in this place.*
- 2 Let us build a house where prophets speak,
and words are strong and true,
where all God's children dare to seek
to dream God's reign anew.
Here the cross shall stand as witness

and as symbol of God's grace ;
here as one we claim the faith of Jesus :

- 3 Let us build a house where love is found
in water, wine and wheat :
a banquet hall on holy ground
where peace and justice meet.
Here the love of God, through Jesus,
is revealed in time and space ;
as we share in Christ the feast that frees us :
- 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach
beyond the wood and stone
to heal and strengthen, serve and teach,
and live the Word they've known.
Here the outcast and the stranger
bear the image of God's face ;
let us bring an end to fear and danger :
- 5 Let us a build a house where all are named,
their songs and visions heard
and loved and treasured, taught and claimed
as words within the Word.
Built of tears and cries and laughter,
prayers of faith and songs of grace,
let this house proclaim from floor to rafter :

Marty Haugen (b. 1950)

Leader May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love
of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us always!

Congregation **And also with you.**

Reader 1 Brothers and sisters in Christ, this year the theme
of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, chosen by the sisters of the
Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, is: "Abide in my love and
you shall bear much fruit".

Reader 2 It is the great desire of God, expressed by Jesus,
that we might come to him and abide in him. He waits for us to be
united to him in love, we will bear fruit that will bring life to all. Faced
with our differences, we risk withdrawing into ourselves and seeing

only that which separates us. But let us listen to how Christ calls us to abide in his love, and so bear much fruit.

Reader 1 In the three moments of prayer that follow, we remember the call of Christ, we turn to his love, to him who is the centre of our life. For the path of unity begins in our intimate relationship with God. Abiding in God's love strengthens the desire to seek unity and reconciliation with others. God opens us up to those who are different from us. This is an important fruit, a gift of healing for the divisions within us, between us, and in the world.

Leader In peace let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, you are the vinedresser who cares for us with love.
You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united
to the vine,
the beauty of each person.
And yet, too often the differences in others make us afraid.
We withdraw into ourselves.
Our trust in you is forsaken.
Enmity develops between us.

Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.
Grant us to live from your forgiveness
so that we may be together and praise your name.

LITANY OF PRAISE

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all peoples,

Reader 2 We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise among suffering and tears,

Reader 2 We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;

Reader 2 We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

Reader 1 We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,

Reader 2 We sing your praise in the midst of life and death, the birth of a new heaven and a new earth.

Congregation You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth: glory to you!

FIRST VIGIL – ABIDING IN CHRIST: THE UNITY OF THE WHOLE PERSON

- Reading: Psalm 103.
- Reading: John 15:1-17.
- Father David speaks

- Response: Ubi caritas.
[\(217\) Taize Ubi caritas - YouTube](#)

Ubi caritas et amor,
ubi caritas,
Deus ibi est.

(Where there is charity and love, God is there.)

- Short silence: (approximately 1 minute).

INTERCESSIONS

Reader God of love, through Christ you said to us: “You did not choose me but I chose you.” You seek us, you invite us to receive your friendship and abide in it. Teach us to respond more deeply to this invitation, and grow in a life that is ever more complete.

Congregation **The joy of our heart is in God.**

Reader God of life, you call us to be praise in the midst of the world and to welcome one another as a gift of your grace. May your loving gaze, which rests upon each person, open us to receive each other just as we are.

Congregation **The joy of our heart is in God.**

Reader God you who gather, you knit us together as one vine in your Son Jesus. May your loving Spirit abide in us at local church and community meetings and ecumenical gatherings. Grant that together we celebrate you with joy.

Congregation **The joy of our heart is in God.**

Reader God of the one vineyard, you call us to abide in your love in all we do and say. Touched by your goodness, grant us to be a reflection of that love in our homes and workplaces. May we bridge rivalries and overcome tensions.

Congregation **The joy of our heart is in God.**

ACTION: A TIME OF SILENCE

Leader Very often we think of prayer as something we do, an activity of our own. In this short time we are invited to an interior silence, and to turn aside from all the noise and concerns of our lives and thoughts. In this silence the action belongs to God. We are simply called to abide and rest in God’s love.

Light a candle as we enter into silence (approximately 2 minutes)

HYMN **Stay with us O Lord Jesus Christ**

[Stay with us O Lord Jesus Christ TAIZE HD with on screen lyrics - Bing video](#)

Stay with us O Lord Jesus Christ
night will soon fall
then stay with us O Lord Jesus Christ
Light in our darkness

SECOND VIGIL – THE VISIBLE UNITY OF CHRISTIANS

- Psalm: 85.
- Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13a.
- Response: There is One Lord, One Faith, One Baptism.

[\(217\) There is one Lord TAIZE HD on screen lyrics – YouTube](#)

*There is one Lord
One faith, one baptism
There is one God
Who is Father of all*

Bear with one another
In love, in charity
Be humble, be patient
Be selfless, be as one *There is one Lord ...*

There is one body
there is one spirit
There is one hope
To which we are called *There is one Lord ...*

We are all to come to unity
In the faith and knowledge
of the Son of God
Until we become
Perfected in the
Fullness of God *There is one Lord ...*

- Short silence: (approximately 1 minute).

INTERCESSIONS

Reader Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the Church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: "that they may all be one... so that the world may believe".

Congregation **Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy).**

Reader Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions, contempt and misunderstanding cease in the Church. May the walls that separate us fall.

Congregation **Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy).**

Reader Holy Spirit, Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation and bring us back from our wanderings.

Congregation **Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy).**

Reader Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that we may welcome the unexpectedness of your grace.

Congregation **Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy).**

Reader Holy Spirit, you never abandon the men, women and children who are persecuted for their fidelity to the gospel. Give them strength and courage, and support those who help them.

Congregation **Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy).**

ACTION: SHARING A SIGN OF PEACE

Light a candle

Leader The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it. Let us exchange a sign of his peace with our neighbours.

We share the peace

Leader The Peace of the Lord be with you

Congregation **The Peace of the Lord be with you**

THIRD VIGIL - THE UNITY OF ALL PEOPLES WITH ALL CREATION

- Psalm: 96.
- Reading: Revelation 7: 9-12

- Response: Ô toi l'au-delà de tout,
O you who are beyond all things.

[\(217\) Taizé - O toi l'au delà de tout - YouTube](#)

Ô toi l'au-delà de tout, quel esprit peut te saisir? Tous les êtres te célèbrent; le désir de tous aspire vers toi.	You who are beyond all things, what mind can grasp you? All that lives celebrates you; the desire of all reaches out to you.
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- Short silence: (approximately 1 minute).

INTERCESSIONS

Reader God of life, you have created every human being in your image and likeness. We sing your praise for the gift of our many cultures, expressions of faith, traditions and ethnicities. Grant us the courage always to stand against injustice and hatred based on race, class, gender, religion, and fear of those not like ourselves.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader O Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life for people who suffer in so many different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, life and goods with all those in need.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

Reader Holy Spirit, you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate

change. Guide us toward new behaviours. May we learn to live in harmony as part of your creation.

Congregation **God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!**

ACTION: MOVING TO THE CENTRE... AND OUT TO THE WORLD

inspired by a text of Dorotheus of Gaza

Reader Jesus calls us to abide in him, as branches of the true vine. He calls us to bear the fruit of God's healing and reconciling love. He calls us to draw closer to God and to one another as we offer this love to the world.

Imagine a circle drawn on the ground. Imagine that this circle is the world.

Reader At the centre of the world is God, in whom all our desires and longings find their meeting place.

Reader As we move closer to God, so we draw closer to one another. And the closer we come to one another . . .

Reader ...the closer we come to God

Light a candle

Short Silence (*approximately 1 minute*)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Leader With the words that Jesus taught us, let us now pray together:

Congregation **Our Father...**

Leader Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Prayer and action belong together. When we abide in Christ, we receive the Spirit of courage and wisdom to act against all injustice and oppression. We say together:

**Congregation Pray and work that God may reign.
Throughout our day
let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest.
Maintain inner silence in all things
so as to dwell in Christ.
Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes:
joy, simplicity, mercy.**

These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp Community.

HYMN Longing for light, we wait in darkness

[\(217\) Longing for Light - Bernadette Farrell - YouTube](#)

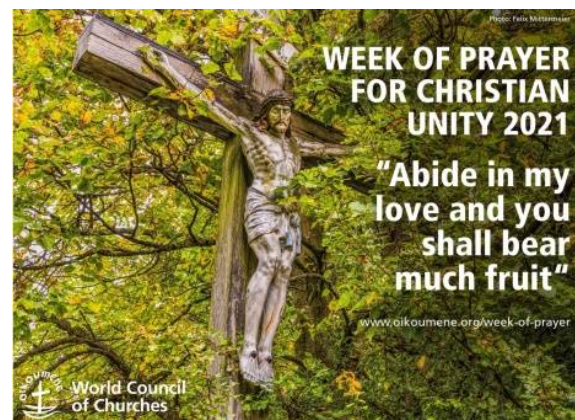
- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.
*Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your Church gathered today.*
- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.
- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.
- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.
- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell (b. 1957)

BLESSING

Leader Be one, so that the world may believe! Abide in God's love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.

Congregation **May the God of hope fill us with all joy and all peace in faith, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.**



Some material:

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