

# **QUEENSFERRY PARISH CHURCH**

## **MIDWEEK SERVICES**

**JANUARY 2022**

### **Week 3 – Christian Unity**

**The 8 days of Prayer for Christian Unity begin on 18<sup>th</sup> January**

#### **Leader:**

Covenant God, whose mission is to reconcile and whose gift is peace, teach us, we pray, to prefer creation to destruction, redemption to condemnation, freedom to retaliation, so that, in turning away from sinful division, we may follow the path to new life and renewed community.

Bless us as we seek to fulfil your will and desire to draw all things into unity with you, our maker, saviour and comforter, now and forever.

#### **Opening responses**

God of many names, revealed and hidden, we welcome you in our midst.

**BRING TO OUR LIVES THE OIL OF JUSTICE, THE LAMP OF TRUTH.**

Remind us to listen more than we speak;

**TO BE OPEN TO RECEIVE MORE THAN WE CAN GIVE.**

Inspire us on the journey with the vision of Christ's passion

**TO BRING LIGHT TO THE WORLD AND GLAD HEARTS TO  
THOSE IN MOURNING**

As we wait for the breath of the spirit to fill us

**KEEP US EVER READY TO SEE VISIONS AND TO DREAM  
DREAMS.**

**You might read a hymn or poetry with a unity theme**

**Read:** Psalm 19

**Prayer**

For the richness of your creation, for different colours  
and scents, for different birds and animals, none the  
same, yet part of one creation,

Generous God,

**WE PRAISE YOU**

For the richness of your world, for different places and  
peoples, for different songs and stories, no person the  
same, yet part of one human family,

Generous God

**WE PRAISE YOU**

For the richness of our community, for different families  
and homes, for different places to work, play and learn,  
no street the same, yet part of one community,

Generous God

**WE PRAISE YOU**

We praise you, Lord, for creating a world of wonder and  
beauty, of diversity and difference.

You love and care for all that you have given and long that your world should know peace. Teach us to live in peace and harmony with you and your world.

Generous God

### **WE PRAISE YOU**

And now hear us as we pray in Jesus' words, saying:

### **OUR FATHER**

**Read:** John 17 verses 9 - 23

### **Reflection**

This should take the form of a short reflection by the leader. You will be able to find material online about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which you might find useful.

This part of the service might involve music or something visual; it might involve silence.

### **Prayer**

This a time for prayers for the world, for the communities in which we live; for our Church and for all other denominations which serve our area; for Presbytery planning; for those known to us to be in particular need of our prayers; for ourselves.

### **CLOSING PRAYER**

Forgive us if we have prayed for unity and done nothing, or very little, to help bring it about, preferring prayers to action and fantasies to hard reality.

**LORD GOD, BE ACTIVE, BE DISTURBING, BE  
EMPOWERING IN YOUR CHURCH, AND AMONG  
CHRISTIAN PEOPLE THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.  
REMIND US OF THE MIGHTY COMPANY IN HEAVEN  
AND ON EARTH TO WHICH WE ALL BELONG.  
AMEN**