



SUNDAY 25TH JANUARY

4.30pm

ST BRIDGET'S WEST KIRBY



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2026

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026 extends an invitation to draw upon a shared Christian heritage and to delve more deeply into our fellowship in Christ, which unites Christians worldwide. For 2026, the prayers and reflections for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the faithful of the Armenian Apostolic Church, along with their brothers and sisters of the Armenian Catholic and Evangelical Churches. Elements of this service draw upon centuries-old traditions of prayer and petitions used by the Armenian people, some of which date as far back as the fourth century.

Welcome

Call to Worship

May the name of the Lord be blessed forever,
whose name is before the sun.

All the nations of the earth will be blessed
and all generations will extol the Lord.

Blessed is the Lord God of Israel,
the only worker of wondrous deeds, the holy
name of His glory is forever blessed.

The whole world will be filled with His glory.

All **Amen! Amen!**

Hymn: Longing for light by Bernadette Farrell

While the hymn is being sung, a candle is lit at the front.

**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.**

*Chorus: Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.*

**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. Chorus**

**Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. *Chorus***

**Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. *Chorus***

Opening Prayer

From sunrise in the east to sunset in the west,
by all people and in every place,
may the holiness of the Lord be proclaimed.
May that holiness come as light in our midst,
guiding our way along pathways of grace.
Walking with the angels of peace,
may we be led away from temptation and sin.
Hearing words of mercy,
may we know ourselves forgiven, loved and free.
Knowing the power of the resurrection
may we find ourselves raised into that same light.

Gathered into the community of God's faithful people,
may we come together in peace.
Peace be with you
And with your spirit.

A sign of peace may be shared.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah (58:6-11).

Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,
and to break every yoke?

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?
Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the LORD shall be your rearguard.
Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I am.
If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.
The LORD will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Ephesians (4:1-13).

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, 'When he ascended on high he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people.'

(When it says, 'He ascended,' what does it mean but that

he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.)

The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

Peace to all.

And with your spirit.

Immortal, invisible, God only wise,
In light inaccessible hid from our eyes,
Most blessed, most glorious, the Ancient of Days,
Almighty, victorious, Thy great name we praise.

Unresting, unhasting, and silent as light,
Nor wanting, nor wasting, Thou rulest in might;
Thy justice like mountains high soaring above
Thy clouds which are fountains of goodness and love.

To all life Thou givest, to both great and small;
In all life Thou livest, the true life of all;
We blossom and flourish as leaves on the tree,
And wither and perish, but nought changeth Thee.

Great Father of Glory, pure Father of Light
Thine angels adore Thee, all veiling their sight;
All laud we would render, O help us to see:
'Tis only the splendor of light hideth Thee.

Let us be attentive to the holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to You, Lord our God.

[Jesus said to the crowd:] ‘Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I,

when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.’ He said this to indicate the kind of death he was

to die. The crowd answered him, ‘We have heard from the

law that the Messiah remains for ever. How can you say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?’

Jesus said to them, ‘The light is with you for a little longer.

Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light.’

The Gospel of the Lord

Glory to You, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Sermon/Homily: Pastor Paul McMichael

Following the sermon, we listen to psalm 103 as candles are lit from the Paschal candle and then from person to person.

As we share in the light of Christ, we affirm our faith

Bathed in the light of the Wisdom of Christ together we affirm our faith,

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us all, and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
and was incarnate
of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
On the third day he rose from the dead
in accordance with the scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
Who, with the Father and the Son,
is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic
Church.**

**We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the age to come.
Amen.**

We extinguish our candles

Prayers of Intercession

*We come now to offer our prayers for our world, especially
commending the Armenian people and the displaced Armenian
people of the Artsakh region under Azerbaijan control.*

After each bidding, the response to

‘Lord in your mercy’ is

Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Hymn

**The Spirit lives to set us free,
Walk, walk in the light;
He binds us all in unity,
Walk, walk in the light.**

Chorus **Walk in the light, Walk in the light,
Walk in the light, Walk in the light of the Lord.**

**Jesus promised life to all,
Walk, walk in the light;
The dead were wakened by his call,
Walk, walk in the light. *Chorus***

**He died in pain on Calvary,
Walk, walk in the light;
To save the lost like you and me,
Walk, walk in the light. *Chorus***

***Chorus* Walk in the light, Walk in the light,
Walk in the light, Walk in the light of the Lord.**

**We know his death was not the end,
Walk, walk in the light;
He gave his Spirit to be our friend,
Walk, walk in the light. *Chorus***

**The Spirit lives in you and me,
Walk, walk in the light;
His light will shine for all to see,
Walk, walk in the light. *Chorus***

Final Prayer

Gracious Lord, God of all,
Guide for the lost, Light for those in darkness.
Our eyes turn to You; hear our prayers.
May the sun of Your glory shine forth,
giving life and light to all, from the east to the west,
and from the north to the south.
Let the morning rays of Your eternal spring
awaken us who await Your coming.
O Jesus Christ, Light from the Light, dwell within us,
Who have come together to worship
your holy and precious name.
Let your life-giving radiance kindle within us
a deeper love for one another.

May Your brilliant light stir us
to ever more flourishing unity.
Like diverse flowers in the garden of your Kingdom,
may your divine brilliance cause us to bloom in harmony.
And so, all as one, may we joyfully praise and glorify
you, and the Father and the Holy Spirit,
now and always and unto the ages of ages.
Amen! Amen! Amen!

Adapted from St Gregory of Narek

The Grace

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with us all evermore
Amen**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord
**In the name of Christ
Amen**