

God, we put our hope in you and praise you for Jesus' promise, "See, I am with you always even unto the end of time."

You see the doubts which beset our hearts on the path to Christian unity. Following the example of the ecumenical pioneers of the Edinburgh conference of 1910, give us courage to denounce together our current fears and clarity to regain trust in 2010 on the path to the fulfilment of your will.

The Lord's Prayer

Sending out

Prayer of commitment

L: Let us pray.

A: Take us from where we are, to where you want us to be;
make us not merely guardians of a heritage,
but living signs of your coming Kingdom;
fire us with passion for justice and peace between all people;
fill us with that faith, hope and love which embody the Gospel;
and through the power of the Holy Spirit make us one.
That the world may believe, that your name may be enthroned in our nation,
that your church may more effectively be your body,
we commit ourselves to love you, serve you,
and follow you as pilgrims not strangers.

(ACTS commitment. Taken from the Inaugural Service of Action of Churches Together in Scotland)

Blessing

L: The Lord who conquered darkness with light, give peace to you.
The Lord who conquered death with life, give peace to you.
The Lord who conquered loneliness with love, give peace to you.
A: And also with you.

Sending forth

L: Today the risen Christ says to us, "As the Father sent me, so I send you".

A: Amen.

L: We have been told the Good News of the resurrection of Jesus, "We are the witnesses of these things". Go then in the peace of Christ. Alleluia!

A: Thanks be to God. Amen, Alleluia!

Final hymn

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Ecumenical Worship Service

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2010

Opening hymn

"L" refers to leader(s) of worship and "A" to the whole assembly.

Words of welcome

L: Dear friends in Christ, as we gather here in this place we acknowledge the traditional owners of this land and pay respect to them for their care of it over thousands of years. We give thanks to God for the creation of this great southland of the Holy Spirit and for the work of grace throughout the ages.

We remember today the journey which we and our churches have made towards the unity for which Jesus prayed. We give thanks for the steps which our churches in Australia have taken to share in prayer together, to covenant together nationally and locally, and to share in caring for our world. As members of the one body, we recognise that we are called to be the one church and need to travel on.

Opening responses

L: "There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling..."

A: "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all."

L: "It is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem..."

A: "We are the witnesses of these things."

Opening prayer

O risen Christ,

On the road to Emmaus you were the disciples' companion.

Be at our side on the journey of faith on life's pathways and at every encounter, engender our compassion so that we may welcome others and listen to their stories. Kindle anew the desire to proclaim your Word.

May it illumine us and may our hearts burn to bear witness to it.

May your Holy Spirit teach us the art of explaining scripture and open our eyes to recognize you.

Grant us the courage to become vulnerable

so that our sisters and brothers may know you through us and that we may know you through them.

Amen.

Sung acclamation of the gospel

Reading of the Gospel of Luke ch.24:54 –end of ch 24

Sermon

Hymn

The peace

L: Jesus said to his disciples, “Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.” Do not look upon our sin but on the faith of your church. To fulfil your will, grant this peace to your church and lead it to perfect unity, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever.

A: Amen

L: Christ is risen.

A: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia.

The Nicene-Constantinople creed (without the filioque)

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

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered, died, and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in fulfillment of the Scriptures; he ascended into 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Offering and hymn

Intercessions

Creator and saviour God, we praise you for all our different communities who together want to confess, through word and deed, their faith in the risen Christ, who brings us life.

May we so progress in our ecumenical commitment that we become more united both in our thanksgiving for creation and in our concerted action to uphold life.
Kyrie eleison (or Lord in your prayer, have mercy on us, or alternative response)

God, you have made yourself known to us in our story, we give you thanks for being with us and for having given us your Son to reveal your love and share your glory.

Guide the steps of all who bear witness to the gospel towards perfect unity, in careful and patient listening to cultures and people’s history.

Kyrie eleison

God, you who never abandon us, we give you thanks for the experience of the two disciples on the road to Emmaus with the risen Christ.

Grant that we may feel Christ’s presence with us on our journey. Warm our hearts and open our understanding, that we may bear witness to your active presence in the power of his resurrection.

Kyrie eleison

God, from whom every perfect gift comes, we give you thanks that from the dawn of time from generation to generation you have never ceased to awaken that cloud of witnesses which transmitted the faith of the apostles.

(particular saints, evangelists and martyrs can be mentioned at this point)

We pray that we may be faithful to this faith we have been entrusted with, and creative, so as together to open up new paths of the gospel.

Kyrie eleison

God, of compassion, we give you thanks because you have reconciled the world through the cross of your Son.

Increase our faith, that it may give our churches and each of us, with Christ and following his example, the strength always to stand more effectively alongside people in their lives, suffering and death.

Kyrie eleison