

'You are witnesses of these things'

(Luke 24:48)

DAILY SCRIPTURE & PRAYER RESOURCE for the WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 16 MAY—23 MAY 2010



In the 2010 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity we are encouraged to reflect each day on chapter 24 of Luke's gospel stopping at the questions Jesus' asks to his disciples and those they ask of Jesus. Each of these questions highlights a particular way of witnessing to the Risen One, and invites us to think about church division and about how, concretely, we can remedy that. The materials were produced jointly by the WCC & the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, drawing on Scottish churches' experience. Adapted here for Australia, they seek to deepen our unity in Christ.

DAY 1—SUNDAY 16 MAY

Celebrating Life

Why do you look for the living among the dead?
(Luke 24:5)

Genesis 1:1. 26-31 *God saw all that he had made, and indeed, it was very good*
Psalm 104:1-24 *O Lord, how manifold are your works.*
1 Corinthians 15:12-20 *If the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised*
Luke 24:1-5 *Why look for the living among the dead?*

Reflection

Our journey of Christian unity is firmly grounded in our common belief that in the resurrection of Jesus Christ - we celebrate not only the life God has given us but the offer of new life through Jesus' conquering death once and for all. As we meet together during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, we witness to our shared faith by our concern for the life of all. Life is God's gift to us, and the more we support and celebrate life, the more we give witness to the one whose generous love brought us to life initially. Our way of living on our planet often seems far away from this!

The reading from the book of Genesis reminds us of the creative power and energy of God. It is this that St Paul encounters in experiencing Jesus' resurrection. He challenges the people of Corinth to put their total trust in the Risen Lord and his offer of new life. Similarly, our gospel passage challenges us to look for new life in the face of a culture of death that our world frequently presents to us. It encourages us to trust in Jesus, and so to experience life and healing.

Reflection questions

1. *To what extent do your own witness and the witness of your church celebrate life?*
2. *Will others know from our witness that Christ has been raised from the dead?*
3. *What do you understand by the resurrection and see as the areas of growth in your life?*
4. *What things of the past which churches cling to ought to be laid to rest because of a new ecumenical consciousness?*

Prayer points

- * Give thanks for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and for the Churches in Scotland
- * Give thanks for all those who witness to the resurrection in the midst of destruction and pray for those who bring life out of death
- * Pray for the national & state ecumenical bodies in Australia, the World Council of Churches and other global networks
- * Pray for the unity of all Christians and the healing of life on Earth

Prayer for the Day

God our Creator,
we praise you for all who give witness to their faith by their words and actions. In living life to the full we encounter your loving presence in the many experiences you offer us. May our common witness of celebrating life unite us in blessing you, the author of all life. Amen.



National Council of
Churches in Australia
Faith and Unity Commission