

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

DAY 7—SATURDAY 22 MAY

Witness through Hope and Trust

Job 19:23-27 *God whom I shall see on my side*
Psalm 63 *My soul thirsts for You*
Acts 3:1-10 *What I have, I give you*
Luke 24: 36-40 *The disciples were startled and terrified*

Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?
(Luke 24:38)

Reflection

During the journey in life and faith, all Christians experience moments of doubt. When Christians cannot recognise the presence of the risen Christ, being together sometimes makes doubts even heavier, rather than lighter. The challenge faced by Christians is to continue to believe that even when we do not see or feel God, God remains with us. The virtues of faith, hope and trust allow us to give witness that our faith goes beyond our own possibilities. Perhaps it is this hope that it is most needed in our world of climate change and its effects.



The character Job gives us an example of someone who faced difficult trials and tribulations and even argued with God. In faith and hope however, he believed that God would remain on his side. This reliance and conviction is also shown by the actions of Peter and John in the account with the lame man as told in Acts. Their belief in the Name of Jesus allows them to witness powerfully to all who were present. Today's psalm is a prayer reflecting our deep desire for God's steadfast love.

Meeting during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity allows our communities to grow in shared faith, hope and love. We bear witness to God's steadfast love to all people, and God's faithfulness to the one church we are called to be. The more we witness together, the stronger our message will be.

Reflection questions

1. How do you deal with your own fears and doubts and how might you be a cause of anxiety for others?
2. What are the ways of talking about and understanding God which lead to dispelling fear and anxiety?
3. When have you faced up to your own fears and doubts
and so given witness to your faith in Christ by overcoming these difficulties?
4. How may Christian communities encourage one another in faith and hope?

Prayer points

- * Give thanks for the love of God which holds us fast in the midst of the doubts and darkness of the world
- * Pray for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; for the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Ecumenical Commission and Indigenous Christian ministries; and for fresh hope, healing and trust in national, community and personal journeys of healing and Reconciliation
- * Pray for elected leaders within Australian Governments, leaders within all spheres of community life, and all public servants.
- * Pray for those who find their home in the Pentecostal tradition and for churches who are observers or friends of the NCCA

Prayer for the Day

God of hope, share your vision of the one church with us, and overcome our doubts. Increase our faith in your presence, that all who profess belief in you may worship together in spirit and in truth. We especially pray for all who are in doubt right now, or whose lives are spent in the shadow of danger and fear. Be with them and give them your consoling presence. Amen.

