

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2019

WHITSTABLE BAPTIST CHURCH – SUNDAY 20th JANUARY

Welcome & Call to Worship (Paul)

As Christians from different churches, we gather here to pray for unity. This year, we pray with the churches of Indonesia, whose chosen theme is "Justice" based on Deuteronomy 16v20: 'Follow justice and justice alone, so that you may live and possess the land the Lord your God is giving you'

PPT – 1: Call to Worship

Paul Let us worship the Triune God.
God, our Father, you crown your creation with justice and mercy.

Congregation We come to worship you.

Paul Jesus Christ, your cross brings new life and justice,

Congregation We come to worship you.

Paul Holy Spirit, you inspire our hearts to act justly,

Congregation We come to worship you.

Paul May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Congregation And also with you.

Hymn introduced by Paul: [CMP 428] Lord for the years

Simon & Alan: Prayer of Repentance

Simon Beloved sisters and brothers, let us confess before God that we have sinned. We ask for forgiveness.

Alan Compassionate God,
Jesus ate with outcasts and sinners. We confess that we can prioritize those of higher social status, ignore strangers, the poor and the least in society and fail to defend the oppressed.
Lord, have mercy.

Simon Righteous God,
You call us, the Church in every place, to act justly. We confess that we can misuse Church resources and power. This causes some people to turn away.
Lord, have mercy.

Alan Loving God,
Jesus challenged us to love one another. We confess that we can view other churches as rivals and disregard those who do not share our point of view.
Lord, have mercy.

Simon Gracious God,

You call us all to love without discrimination. We confess that we can disrespect our neighbours, spread falsehood and gossip, and participate in the disruption of social harmony.

Alan May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and lead us to eternal life.

Songs introduced by Paul: [CMP 1087] **Lord, I come before Your throne of grace**

[CMP 1116] **There is a higher throne**

Proclamation of the Word of God –

PPT – 2: Proclamation

Simon: First reading: Micah 6 vs6-8

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

Alan: Second Reading: Luke 4:14-21

This is the Gospel of Christ

Praise to Christ our Lord

Alan: Prayer

Paul: ADDRESS

PPT – 3: Commitment

Alan & Simon: Commitment to Justice, Mercy and Unity –

Alan Jesus Christ prayed for the unity of his disciples.

The gift of his life is justice for the world.

As members of the body of Christ, we are called to walk humbly and act justly.

Let justice roll down like waters.

Congregation Holy Spirit, unite us in our prayers.

Simon As members of the body of Christ, we are called to speak out against injustice.

Let our word be ‘Yes, Yes’ or ‘No, No’.

Congregation Holy Spirit, unite us in our words.

Alan As members of the body of Christ, we are called to lavish God’s grace and mercy on all.

Let us break through barriers of ethnicity, religion and culture.

Congregation Holy Spirit, unite us in our humanity.

Simon As members of the body of Christ, we are called to keep our lives free from the love of money, and be content with what we have.

Let us break the cycle of greed and live in simplicity.

Congregation Holy Spirit, unite us in our weakness.

Alan As members of the body of Christ, we are called to bring good news to the poor. Let us condemn exploitation and the systems that perpetuate it.

Congregation Holy Spirit, unite us in anger towards injustice.

Simon As members of the body of Christ, we are called to care for the whole of creation. Let us protect the life and beauty of all that God has made.

Congregation Holy Spirit, heal us and restore us.

Alan As members of the body of Christ, we are called to treat all with dignity. Let us seek to counter discrimination, oppression and abuse.

Congregation Holy Spirit, open our ears to the cries for justice.

Simon As members of the body of Christ, we are called to bring hope to others. Let us be salt and light.

Congregation Holy Spirit, unite us in hope for justice.

Alan: Offering

Alan Gracious God,
you have shown us your compassion and care for all creation.

Congregation Your love inspires us to offer commitments to act justly by loving others wholeheartedly regardless of their cultural, ethnic, and religious backgrounds. Accept now our offerings and transform them into action for the unity of your church.

Alan We ask this through your Son Jesus Christ, in the power of the Holy Spirit, who live with you as one God forever and ever.

Congregation Amen.

Paul: Prayers of intercession

Hymn introduced by Paul: [CMP 806] Beauty for brokenness

Simon: Sharing the peace & Final Blessing

PPT – 4: Blessing

May God embrace you with love
and make kindness flow out from you.
May God ignite courage within you
and transform you into agents of justice and peace.
May God grant you humility
and give you perseverance to nurture unity.

Congregation Amen!