

FINAL January 24, 2021 PEOPLE'S COPY

<Note the Service will be broadcast via Facebook Live @ the Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church, 3080 Birchmount Rd., with 4 people permitted on site. 4 Agincourt Staff. The attendees will be on the Facebook Live Platform>

Order of the Celebration
Sunday January 24, 4:00 pm

Abide in my love
and you shall bear much fruit

(cf. Jn 15:5-9)

L: *Leader* - Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

Prelude (pre-recorded - Salvation Army band and the Songsters)

Acknowledgement of Territory

Rhonda Johns (Six Nations)

As we gather for worship, we honour and thank the Huron-Wendat Nation, Metis Nation of Ontario, Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation, Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation and Six Nations of the Grand River as our community partners and traditional inhabitants of the lands of the City of Toronto, York Region, Durham Region and surrounding areas. May we be connected to the heartbeat of the Holy Spirit as one.

Words of Welcome - Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

Welcome to the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Ecumenical Service. The theme for this year is “Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit”, based on John 15:5-9. The international theme and worship service this year were prepared by the Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, a group of religious sisters from different church traditions brought together by a common vocation of prayer, community life, and hospitality and by their commitment to Christian unity. This

online worship service has been organized by the Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of Churches.

Invitation to prayer

Entrance Hymn - Holy Holy Holy, Lord God Almighty

<L: Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church>

<C: Lieutenant Scott Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church>

L May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you always!

C And also with you.

<Readers: Pastor Tuula Van Gaasbeek, St. Philip's Lutheran Church and Lay Person, St. Philip's Lutheran Church>

R1 Brothers and sisters in Christ, this year the theme of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, chosen by the sisters of the Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, is: "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit".

R2 It is the great desire of God, expressed by Jesus, that we might come to him and abide in him. He waits for us tirelessly, hoping that, united to him in love, we will bear fruit that will bring life to all. Faced with the difference of 'the other', we risk withdrawing into ourselves and seeing only that which separates us. But let us listen to how Christ calls us to abide in his love, and so bear much fruit.

R1 In the three moments of prayer that follow, we remember the call of Christ, we turn to his love, to him who is the centre of our life. For the path of unity begins in our intimate relationship with God. Abiding in his love strengthens the desire to seek unity and reconciliation with others. God opens us up to those who are different from us. This is an important fruit, a gift of healing for the divisions within us, between us, and in the world.

< L: Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church>

L In peace let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, you are the vinedresser who cares for us with love.

You call on us to see the beauty of each branch united to the vine,
the beauty of each person.

And yet, too often the differences in others make us afraid.

We withdraw into ourselves.

Our trust in you is forsaken.

Enmity develops between us.

Come and direct our hearts toward you once again.

Grant us to live from your forgiveness

so that we may be together and praise your name.

Litany of praise

**Coordinator: The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea,
(Chair, Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of Churches)**

<Readers:

**R1: Rev. Ann Stainton, Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),
Associate Minister of Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

R2: Hubert Reece, Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

C: The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, Manor Road United Church>

**C You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth:
glory to you!**

R1 We sing your praise in the midst of the world and among all peoples,

R2 We sing your praise in the midst of creation and among all creatures.

**C You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth:
glory to you!**

R1 We sing your praise among suffering and tears,

R2 We sing your praise among promises and achievements.

**C You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth:
glory to you!**

R1 We sing your praise in the places of conflict and misunderstanding;

R2 We sing your praise in the places of encounter and reconciliation.

**C You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth:
glory to you!**

R1 We sing your praise in the midst of rifts and divisions,

R2 We sing your praise in the midst of life and death,
the birth of a new heaven and a new earth.

**C You who call us to be praise in the midst of the earth:
glory to you!**

Candle

First Vigil

**Abiding in Christ:
The unity of the whole person**

Coordinator: Fr Philip Hobson Anglican Church of St. Martin in
the Fields

Psalm 103: Very Rev. Fr. Geoffrey Ready, Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox
Mission, The Orthodox Church in America

Reading: John 15:1-17 **Pastor Maureen Walter**, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Moderator East Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Response: Salvation Army hymn - **What a Friend we have in Jesus.**

Reflection- **Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas SSJD** Sister of St. John Anglican Convent
Short silence

Intercessions

Sisters of St. John (Anglican)

R: Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas SSJD

C: Sister Florence SSJD

R God of love, through Christ you said to us: "You did not choose me but I chose you". You seek us, you invite us to receive your friendship and abide in it. Teach us to respond more deeply to this invitation, and grow in a life that is ever more complete.

C The joy of our heart is in God.

R God of life, you call us to be praise in the midst of the world and to welcome one another as a gift of your grace. May your loving gaze, which rests upon each person, open us to receive each other just as we are.

C The joy of our heart is in God.

R God who gathers, you knit us together as one vine in your Son Jesus. May your loving Spirit abide in us at parish meetings and local ecumenical gatherings. Grant that together we might celebrate you with joy.

C The joy of our heart is in God.

R God of the one vineyard, you call us to abide in your love in all we do and say. Touched by your goodness, grant us to be a reflection of that love in our homes and workplaces. May we pave the way for bridging rivalries and overcoming tensions.

C The joy of our heart is in God.

Action: A time of silence

Sister Elizabeth Rolfe-Thomas (*Sister of St. John*)

R Very often we think of prayer as something we do, an activity of our own. In this short time we are invited to an interior silence, and to turn aside from all the noise and concerns of our lives and thoughts. In this silence the action belongs to God. We are simply called to abide in God's love, to rest in him.

Silence (*approximately 1 minute*)

Hymn: Lumière de Dieu (Light of God) - The Monastic Community of Grandchamp (pre-recorded)

Candle

Second Vigil | The visible unity of Christians

Coordinator Fr. Luis Melo Director, Office for Promoting Christian Unity & Religious Relations with Judaism Archdiocese of Toronto

Psalm 85: Rev. Archpriest Fr. Zareh Zargarian, Vicar, Armenian Holy Apostolic Church, Canadian Diocese

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13a - **Pastor Peter Noteboom**, General Secretary of The Canadian Council of Churches, Christian Reformed Church in North America

Reflection - His Eminence Cardinal Thomas Christopher Collins, Bishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Moment of silence

Response: Now Thank We All Our God - Salvation Army hymn (pre-recorded)

Intercessions Sisters of Life (Catholic)

Reader:

Sister Antoniana Maria Macapagal, S.V.

C:

Sr. Marita dela Fuente S.V.

Sr. Maria Kateri Frazier S.V.

Sr. Mary Grace Langrell S.V. ,

Sr. Catherine Joy Marie Janik, S.V.

R Holy Spirit, you create and re-create the church in all places. Come and whisper in our hearts the prayer which Jesus addressed to his Father on the eve of his passion: “that they may all be one ... so that the world may believe”.

C **Kyrie eleison**

R Lord Jesus, Prince of Peace, light the fire of your love in us so that suspicions, contempt and misunderstanding cease in the church. May the walls that separate us fall.

C Kyrie eleison

R Holy Spirit, Consoler of all, open our hearts to forgiveness and reconciliation and bring us back from our wanderings.

C Kyrie eleison

R Lord Jesus, gentle and humble of heart, give us poverty of spirit so that we may welcome the unexpectedness of your grace.

C Kyrie eleison (Lord have mercy)

R Holy Spirit, you never abandon the men, women and children who are persecuted for their fidelity to the gospel. Give them strength and courage, and support those who help them.

C Kyrie eleison

Action: Sharing a Sign of Peace

<L: Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church>

L: The Lord calls us to be united among ourselves. He gives us his peace and invites us to share it. Let us exchange a sign of his peace with our neighbours.

Hymn: Lumière de Dieu (Light of God) - The Monastic Community of Grandchamp (pre-recorded)

Candle

Third Vigil | **The Unity of all peoples and all creation**

Coordinator: Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

**Psalm 96: Lieutenant Scott Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt
Community Church**

**Reading: Revelation 7:9-12 Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army
Agincourt Community Church**

**Response: Salvation Army hymn - “I Stand Amazed in the Presence
of Jesus the Nazarene”**

**Homily Pastor David Wells, General Superintendent of the
Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada (10 minute)**

Short silence

Intercessions

<Reader:

Pastor Rob Schellenberg, High Park Meeting House

C: The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, Manor Road United Church

R God of life, you have created every human being in your image and likeness. We sing your praise for the gift of our many cultures, expressions of faith, traditions and ethnicities. Grant us the courage always to stand against injustice and hatred based on race, class, gender, religion, and fear of those not like ourselves.

C God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

R Merciful God, you have shown us in Christ that we are one in you. Teach us to use this gift in the world so that believers of all faiths in every country may be able to listen to each other and live in peace.

C God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

R O Jesus, you came into the world and shared fully in our humanity. You know the hardships of life for people who suffer in so many different ways. May the Spirit of compassion move us to share our time, life and goods with all those in need.

C God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

R Holy Spirit, you hear the fury of your wounded creation and the cries of those already suffering from climate change. Guide us toward new behaviours. May we learn to live in harmony as part of your creation.

C God of peace, God of love, in you is our hope!

Action: Moving to the centre ... and out to the world

inspired by a text of Dorotheus of Gaza

<Readers: Lieutenant Cathy Allen and Lieutenant Scott Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church>

The readers stand around a table on which a large candle is lit. After each petition, the readers take a step towards the central candle.

R1 We are called to be ministers of God's healing and reconciling love. This work can only be fruitful when we abide in God, as branches of the true vine which is Jesus Christ. As we come closer to God we draw closer to one another.

Imagine a circle drawn on the ground. Imagine that this circle is the world.

R2 The centre represents God, and the paths to the centre are different ways people live. When people living in this world, desiring to draw closer to God, walk toward the centre of the circle ...

R ... to the extent that they move closer to the centre, to God, they move closer to one another. And the closer they come to one another ...

R ... the closer they come to God.

When the candle-bearers reach the centre they each light their candle. As they stand together at the centre, all keep a time of prayer in silence.

L We invite those praying at home to light a candle now, if you wish, as we keep a time of silence together.

Short Silence (*approximately 1 minute*)

Candle

The Lord's Prayer Cathy Allen

L With the words that Jesus taught us, let us now pray together:

Scott Allen

C Our Father...

Call for offering

Offering hymn - My Hope is Built on Nothing Less - The Salvation Army Band

Your donations will support the ministry of The Canadian Council of Churches

The Canadian Council of Churches is a broad and inclusive ecumenical body, representing 26 member churches including Anglican; Eastern and Roman

Catholic; Evangelical; Free Church; Eastern and Oriental Orthodox; and Historic Protestant traditions. Together we respond to Christ's call for unity and peace, seek Christ's truth with an affection for diversity, and act in love through prayer, dialogue and witness to the gospel. The Canadian Council of Churches was founded in 1944.

One of the most significant developments in the 20th century in the experience of Christian churches has been the rise of an ecumenical movement, in which churches seek reconciliation, reunion and restoration of oneness; the hope is to reverse centuries of history marked by separation and withdrawal of churches from one another, a sad history of confronting, competing, and criticizing each other in a bitter rivalry that descended to name-calling, insult and even to internecine warfare. The ecumenical movement sought to change the goals and methods for churches to relate with each other, to seek an appropriate form of unity which would enable both an immediate common Christian work and an eschatological hope for the restoration of the broken unity of Christian believers, "that they may all be one" (John 17:21).

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-canadian-council-of-churches/>

Cathy Allen

L Spirituality and solidarity are inseparably linked. Prayer and action belong together. When we abide in Christ, we receive the Spirit of courage and wisdom to act against all injustice and oppression. We say together:

Scott Allen

**C Pray and work that God may reign.
Throughout your day
let the Word of God breathe life into work and rest.
Maintain inner silence in all things
so as to dwell in Christ.
Be filled with the spirit of the Beatitudes:
joy, simplicity, mercy.**

These words are recited daily by the Sisters of the Grandchamp Community.

Blessing

<Cathy Allen>

L Be one, so that the world may believe!
Abide in his love, go into the world and bear the fruits of this love.

<Scott Allen>

C May the God of hope fill us with all joy and all peace in faith,
so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

**Final hymn - Onward Christian Soldiers - The Salvation Army
Band**

Postlude - The Salvation Army Band

**Thanksgiving for the Leadership Team for the Week of Prayer
for Christian Unity 2021**

**Organized by the Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of
Churches**

Hosted by the Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

Maria Simakova, Canadian Council of Churches

**Fr. Luis Melo, Director, Office for Promoting Christian Unity & Religious Relations
with Judaism Archdiocese of Toronto**

Pastor David Wells, General Superintendent Pentecost Assemblies of Canada

Fr. Philip Hobson Ecumenical Office Anglican Diocese of Toronto

Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

Lieutenant Scott Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

**Russel Dolan AV Director of Programming The Salvation Army Agincourt
Community Church**

**The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea Chairperson the Greater Toronto Area
Christian Council of Churches, Minister of the Congregation, Manor Road United
Church**

Salvation Army Band and Songsters

Rhonda Johns (Six Nations)

**Pastor Tuula Van Gaasbeek, St. Philip's Lutheran Church and Lay Person, St.
Philip's Lutheran Church**

**Rev. Ann Stainton, Moderator of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ),
Associate Minister of Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

Hubert Reece , Hillcrest Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**The Very Rev. Fr. Geoffrey Ready, Holy Myrrhbearers Orthodox Mission, The
Orthodox Church in America**

**Pastor Maureen Walter, St. John's Presbyterian Church, Moderator East
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Sr. Mary Grace Langrell S.V. ,

2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Order of the Ecumenical Celebration

Sr. Catherine Joy Marie Janik, S.V

Pastor Rob Schellenberg, High Park Meeting House