

Pastor Brian Keller (Lutheran)

For all the Spirit wants to bring us, for where the Spirit wants to send us, Thanks be to God! **All: Thanks be to God.**

Ministers (jointly):

Take the Light of Christ
and carry it into the dark places of our world!
Be ministers of reconciliation!

Be ambassadors for Christ!

And may the blessing of Almighty God, (+)

the Father, and the Son,

and the Holy Spirit

come upon you

and remain with you forever.

A: Amen.

Deacon Gary Stokes (Catholic)

L: Go in God's Peace and glorify the Lord by your lives.

A: Thanks be to God.

HYMN/SONG: *Now Thank We All Our God*



Acknowledgment: This Prayer Service is based on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. 2017. http://www.geii.org/week_of_prayer_for_christian_unity/prayer_worship/ecumenical_celebration.html
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RECONCILIATION: BUILDING BRIDGES OF PEACE

An Ecumenical Celebration of the Word of God



[Stand]

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: *Praise to the Lord*

All ministers will join the processional towards the sanctuary. Liturgical attire or worship garb will be required. If ministers wear stoles, white will be the preferred colour.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Bishop Greg:

Dear Friends,

enter into this space together to worship the Holy One.

Let us light the Christ-Candle, as we pray:

All:

All powerful and ever-living God,
splendour of true light, and never ending day,
let the radiance of your coming

banish from our minds

the darkness of sin.

Bishop Greg:

Let us rejoice, for God, the Father of all offers us freedom through his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ and gives us the Spirit to be children of God and to live free from fear and of insignificance.

May the grace and peace from God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Christ, be with us all.

A: Amen.

WORDS OF WELCOME: **Bishop Greg**

L: Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, welcome! Let us bring before the heart of God our yearnings for unity and peace. Saint Paul reminds us that God has reconciled us through Jesus Christ and that the love of Christ compels us to be ministers of reconciliation and builders of bridges of peace. Let us worship and praise God together in the unity of the Holy Spirit!



DIVIDED BY OUR SINS - CONFESSION

INVITATION TO CONFESSION:

Pastor Brian Keller (Lutheran)

L: In the course of history, there have been many renewal movements in the Church, which are always in need of deeper conversion. Sometimes these movements have led to unintended divisions. Let us confess our sins and pray for forgiveness and healing for the wounds which have resulted from our divisions. We bring before you now the stones with which we erect our walls and pray for your forgiveness and healing.

Rev Ernest Sorensen (Uniting Church)

L: One stone in our wall is “lack of love.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for whenever we have failed to love. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Baptist

L: Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, awaken in each of us your compassion and love. Give us strength and courage to work for justice in our neighbourhoods, to create peace within our families, to comfort the sick and the dying, and to share all we have with those who are in need. For the transformation of every human heart, let us pray to the Lord:

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Bishop Greg: As the Saviour’s command and formed by his divine teaching, we dare to say:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE PEACE – Bishop Greg

L: Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you are called to peace. May the peace of Christ be with you always!

Let us offer each a sign of reconciliation and peace

**AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST-
MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION**

CHRIST’S COMMISSION: **Rev Mary Lewis – President of the PPMA**

L: A lighted candle symbolizes Christ, the light of the world. As ambassadors for Christ we will carry this light into the world, into the dark places where fighting, discord and division impede our united witness. May Christ’s light effect reconciliation in our present thoughts, words and deeds.

BLESSING AND SENDING

Rev Ernest Sorensen (Uniting Church)

For all that God can do within us, for all that God can do without us, Thanks be to God! **All: Thanks be to God.**

Pastor Roger Kleinig (Baptist)

For all in whom Christ lived before us, for all in whom Christ lives beside us, Thanks be to God! **All: Thanks be to God.**

RESPOND IN FAITH – LIVE RECONCILED

[Stand]

Pastor Jenny Pryor (Baptist)

L: Let us pray: Gracious God and Father in Heaven, we have heard your word that you have reconciled us to yourself through your Son Jesus Christ, our Lord. By the power of the Holy Spirit transform our hearts of stone. Help us to become ministers of reconciliation and heal our churches' divisions so that we may better serve the works of your peace in the world.

A: Amen.

HYMN: *Tell Out My Soul*

RESPOND IN FAITH -PROCLAIM RECONCILIATION

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

(A representative from each church lights a candle from a central source of light and remain standing in front facing the people.)

New Life Church

L: Almighty God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. May your Spirit awaken in every community a hunger and thirst for unity in you. Let us pray to the Lord:

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

Uniting Church

L: Gracious God, where faith is corrupted, purify it; where people go astray, redirect them; where they fail to proclaim your Gospel, reform them; where they witness to what is right, strengthen them; where they are in need, provide for them; and where they are divided, reunite them. Let us pray to the Lord:

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

Lutheran Church

L: Creator God, look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; breakdown the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love so that every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Let us pray to the Lord:

A: Lord, hear our prayer.

L: One stone in our wall is “discrimination.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for all forms of prejudice and discrimination against one another. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Rev Mary Lewis (Anglican)

L: One stone in our wall is “persecution.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for persecuting and torturing one another. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

L: One stone in our wall is “broken communion.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for perpetuating broken communion among our churches. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Pastor Roger Kleinig (Baptist)

L: One stone in our wall is “intolerance.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for banishing our brothers and sisters from our common homeland in the past and for acts of religious intolerance today. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

L: One stone in our wall is “division.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for living our Christian lives divided from one another and astray from our common calling for the healing of all creation. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Pastor Mark Broadbridge (New Life)

L: One stone in our wall is “isolation.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for the times when we have isolated ourselves from our Christian sisters and brothers and from the communities in which we live. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

L: One stone in our wall is “pride.”

Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for our pride. We humbly pray:

A: Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Pastor Brian Keller (Lutheran)

L: Let us pray: Lord, our God, look upon this wall that we have built, which separates us from you and from one another. Forgive us our sins. Heal us. Help us to overcome all walls of division and make us one in you.

A: Amen.

SUNG RESPONSE: *Be Thou My Vision*



[Sit]

BE RECONCILED TO GOD– HEAR GOD'S WORD

FIRST READING: Pastor Mark Broadbridge (New Life Church)

ISAIAH 2: 2-4

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Isaiah:

In days to come

the mountain of the Lord's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
and shall be raised above the hills;
all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,
"Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
to the house of the God of Jacob;
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths."

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
they shall beat their swords into plowshares,
and their spears into pruning hooks;
nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
neither shall they learn war any more.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

[Pause for silent reflection.]

SECOND READING: Rev Mary Lewis (Anglican)

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14-20

A Reading from the Second Letter of Paul to the Corinthians/

For the love of Christ urges us on, because we are convinced that one has died for all; therefore all have died. And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

[Stand]

GOSPEL: Pastor Brian Keller

JOHN 15:5-9

A proclamation from the Holy Gospel according to John.

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I have loved you; abide in my love.

The Good News of our Salvation.

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

[Sit]

REFLECTION: Bishop Gregory O'Kelly, SJ