

Praying for Unity

Oct 1-Oct 31

Our world is fractured, and even the church has experienced the pain of division. But Jesus prayed for us to be ONE, and he gave his life so that we might be the united body of Christ. This month, we join Jesus in praying for unity during an especially divisive time in our country.

Prayer & Scripture

*Have one person read the regular type and everyone respond with the words in bold.
Prepare to read one or more of the scriptures below.*

Creator, who made skies and seas and earth different from each other yet one creation that you called good;
Savior, who saves different and diverse disciples: fishermen, government workers, women set free from their past;
Spirit, who blesses each believer with different gifts;
God, three in one, you are the model, our model for unity.

ALL: Lord, open our minds in understanding and our hearts in craving unity from these words you have given us. *(Read aloud or silently one or more)*

- Psalm 133:1-3
- Isaiah 49:22-23
- Micah 4:1-5
- John 17:15-23
- Acts 4:32-35
- Romans 12:9-18
- 1 Corinthians 12:3-7
- Ephesians 2:11-18
- Ephesians 4:1-5
- Philippians 2:1-18
- Revelation 5:9-1

Prayer continues...

LEADER: Creator, as those made in your image, we long to be united with you.

Jesus, may we find communion with you in following your example when you prayed to the Father "not my will but yours be done."

Spirit, hold us together as one body.

Though our world is fractured, and even your church suffers the pain of division, we pray as you did Jesus, for your people to be ONE.

ALL: God help us to be one united church, just as you who are Father and Savior and Spirit are one.

LEADER: God, your unity is a mystery beyond our limited human understanding.

Holy Spirit, the fracturing of our churches, our families, and so many of our relationships is no mystery because so often it comes from our own human brokenness.

We acknowledge our wounds and hurts, our broken habits, and our own hang-ups.

We repent of our hostility, quarreling, jealousy, selfish ambition, and envy that lead to disunity.

ALL: God help us to be one united church, just as you who are Father and Savior and Spirit are one.

LEADER: Jesus, because you live in us through your Holy Spirit, help us to be more like you in peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, and self-control that leads to unity.

Jesus, help us to walk our spiritual journey in ways that those who are not yet Christians will come to know and believe in you.

Spirit, inhabit our worship as times to bring us together in unity as we praise and honor and celebrate you.

Spirit, unite us in generous love that leads us to serve others through compassionate actions.

ALL: God help us to be one united church, just as you who are Father and Savior and Spirit are one.

Moments of silence

Think of someone with whom you have unity, praying with thanksgiving, and committing to remain united.

LEADER: God help us to be one united people, just as you who are Father and Savior and Spirit are one.

Moments of silence

Think of someone with whom you desire unity. Pray for the Holy Spirit to shape you in ways that will lead to unity, and ask for patience even if unity does not come this season.

LEADER: God help us to be one united people,

ALL: We pray in the name of our one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.