

MEADOWBANK

Church of Scotland

UPDATE
14th January
2021



www.meadowbank.church

Due to Covid restrictions we can no longer have service in the church on Sunday mornings in January but we are meeting on Zoom at 11am!



also

11.30am Sunday on BBC1 Scotland TV

Reflections at the Quay



Presented by the Reverend Jane Denniston, Campsie Parish Church, and Father John Deighan, St Machan's, Lennoxton. Music is from archives of hymns and carols recorded in earlier years with congregations across Scotland. Live music in the studio is by Rachel Hair and Ron Jappy.
(Available on iPlayer soon after the broadcast)



Folks

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Over the next 3 weeks in our Sunday morning Zoom services we will be following prayers and readings for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. The close friendship we have with folks in the local Baptist and Episcopal congregations is a real blessing.

CALL TO LIFT BAN ON CHURCH SERVICES

While I read in the paper that over 200 Scottish church ministers have written to the First Minister saying that the church closure is unlawful, I reckon that the situation is serious enough to merit the restrictions placed on us. The same newspaper also tells me that more people died in Britain last year than in any year in the past century, and the toll has surpassed even that of the 1918 flu pandemic. We are warned by government advisers that the worst is yet to come, as a recent explosion in new coronavirus infections translates into more hospitalizations and more deaths. An estimated one in 30 people in London is currently infected, and hospitals are on the verge of being overwhelmed, even as the authorities struggle to convince the public of the moment's urgency. While we may not attend church services we can continue to pray and join in worship with television, radio and internet—all of which we can be truly thankful for.

With grace and
peace in Jesus

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The 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity prayers are written by the **Community of Grandchamp** in Switzerland. This is a monastic community that brings together sisters from different churches and countries. The Community was established in the first half of the twentieth century. Today there are about fifty sisters in the community, committed to seeking the path of reconciliation between Christians, across the human family, and with respect to the whole of creation. The theme chosen by the sisters was ***Abide in my love ... and you shall bear much fruit— from John 15***

This allowed the sisters to share the experience and wisdom of their contemplative life abiding in the love of God, and to speak about the fruit of this prayer



The sisters share experience from their shared life with all its challenges

God our Father, you reveal to us your love through Christ and through our brothers and sisters. Open our hearts so that we can welcome each other with our differences and live in forgiveness. Grant us to live united in one body, so that the gift that is each person comes to light. May all of us together be a reflection of the living Christ. AMEN

on our unity

From the 2021 material provided for the Week of Prayer for Christian unity

Abiding in Christ, the source of all love, the fruit of communion grows. Communion with Christ demands communion with others. **Dorotheus of Gaza**, a monk in Palestine in the 6th century, expressed this in the following way:

Imagine a circle drawn on the ground, that is, a line drawn in a circle with a compass, and a centre. Imagine that the circle is the world, the centre is God, and the radii are the different paths or ways people live. When the saints, desiring to draw near to God, walk toward the middle of the circle, to the extent that they penetrate its interior, they draw closer to each other; and the closer they draw to each other, the closer they come to God. Understand that the same thing applies conversely, when we turn away from God and withdraw toward the outside. It then becomes obvious that the more we move away from God, the more we move away from each other, and the more we move away from each other, the more we also move away from God. Moving closer to others, living together in community with others, sometimes people very different from ourselves, can be challenging.



Divisions among Christians, moving away from one another, are a scandal because it is also moving further away from God. Many Christians, moved to sorrow by this situation, pray fervently to God for the restoration of that unity for which Jesus prayed. Christ's prayer for unity is an invitation to turn back to him and so come closer to one another, rejoicing in the richness of our diversity.

As we learn from community life, efforts at reconciliation are costly and demand sacrifice.

We are sustained by the prayer of Christ, who desires that we might be one, as he is one with the Father so that the world may believe John 17:21).