

All: Lay your hands on us, O Lord, that we may live.

Reader 6 God, One in Three Persons, in Christ
you have made us one with you and with one another.
Be with us now and by the power and consolation
of the Holy Spirit, free us from the self-centredness, arro-
gance and fear that prevent us from striving
towards the full visible unity of your Church.

All: Lay your hands on us, O Lord, that we may live.

Leader: Let us join our hands, bound not by chains
but by the love of Christ that has been poured into our
hearts, and pray to the Father in the words that Jesus taught
us.

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom
come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our
daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who tres-
pass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Leader: Redeemed by the Right Hand of God,
and united in the One Body of Christ,
let us go forth in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: The Spirit of the Lord is upon us
because the Lord has anointed us
to bring good news to the poor,
to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.
Amen! Alleluia!

Closing song

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

JANUARY 18-25, 2018

WEEKOFPRAYER.CA | SEMAINEDEPRIERE.CA



Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power (Ex 15:6)

Welcome:

Opening Song:

During the singing of the opening song, those leading the celebration enter, led by a participant carrying a Bible. This Bible is placed in a place of honour in the centre of the worship space. The Scripture readings during the service should be proclaimed from it.

Grace:

Enjoy Breakfast:

Leader:

Dear friends in Christ, as we gather for this service of prayer for unity, we thank God for our Christian heritage, and for his liberating and saving action in human history.

The resources for this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the churches of the Caribbean. The history of Christianity in that region contains a paradox. On the one hand, the Bible was used by colonizers as justification for the subjugation of the original inhabitants of these lands, along with others who were transported from Africa, India and China. Many people suffered extermination, were put in chains and enslaved, and were subjected to unjust labour conditions. On the other hand, the Bible became a source of consolation and liberation for many who suffered at the hands of the colonizers.

Today, the Bible continues to be a source of consolation and liberation, inspiring the Christians of the Caribbean to address the conditions that currently undermine human dignity and quality of life. As the iron chains of enslavement fall from our hands, a new human bond of love and communion emerges in the human family, expressing the unity prayed for by our Christian communities.

Leader:

With the Christians of the Caribbean, let us call upon the Holy Spirit to set our hearts on fire as we pray for the unity of the Church. Unite your servants in the bond of unity.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader: With thanks for our liberation from slavery to sin,
let us place our needs before the Lord,
asking him to shatter the chains that enslave us
and to join us instead with bonds of love and communion.

Each intercession is read by a different reader. As they finish, the readers each join hands or link arms with members of the assembly, thus creating a human chain.

Reader 1 God of the Exodus, you led your people
through the waters of the Red Sea and redeemed them.
Be with us now and free us from all forms of slavery
and from everything that obscures human dignity.

***All:* Lay your hands on us, O Lord, that we may live.**

Reader 2 God of abundance,
in your goodness you provide for all our needs.
Be with us now, help us to rise above selfishness and greed and
give us the courage to be agents of justice in the world.

***All:* Lay your hands on us, O Lord, that we may live.**

Reader 3 God of love, you created us in your image
and have redeemed us in Christ.
Be with us now, empower us to love our neighbour
and to welcome the stranger.

***All:* Lay your hands on us, O Lord, that we may live.**

Reader 4 God of peace, you remain faithful to your covenant with us even
when we wander from you,
and in Christ you have reconciled us to yourself.
Be with us now and put a new spirit and a new heart within us
that we may reject violence
and instead be servants of your peace.

***All:* Lay your hands on us, O Lord, that we may live.**

Reader 5 God of glory, you are all-powerful,
yet in Jesus you chose to make your home in a human family, and in
the waters of baptism have adopted us as your children.

Be with us now and help us to remain faithful
to our family commitments and our communal responsibilities,
and to strengthen the bonds of communion with our brothers
and sisters in Christ.

Song: The right hand of God

The right hand of God

Patrick Prescott

Noel Dexter: Jamaica

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal ensemble (Soprano, Alto, Tenor 1, Tenor 2) and piano accompaniment. It is in 4/4 time and B-flat major. The score consists of four systems of music. The first system contains the first four lines of the lyrics. The second system contains the next four lines. The third system contains the next four lines. The fourth system contains the final four lines. The piano accompaniment is simple, using chords and single notes to support the vocal lines.

1. The right hand of God is writ-ing in our land,
2. The right hand of God is point-ing in our land,
3. The right hand of God is strik-ing in our land,
4. The right hand of God is lift-ing in our land,
writ-ing with pow-er and with love; Our
point-ing the way we must go; so
strik-ing out at en-vy, hate and greed; Our
lift-ing the fal-len one by one; Each

con-flicts and our fears, our tri-umphs and our
cloud-ed is the way, so eas-i-ly we
self-ish-ness and lust, our pride and deeds un-
one is known by name, and res-cued now from

tears are re-cord-ed by the right hand of God.
stray, but we're guid-ed by the right hand of God.
just are de-stroyed by the right hand of God.
shame by the lift-ing of the right hand of God.

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5. The right hand of God is healing in our land,
healing broken bodies, minds and souls;
so wondrous is its touch,
with love that means so much,
when we're healed by the right hand of God.
6. The right hand of God is planting in our land,
planting seeds of freedom, hope and love;
in these many-peopled lands,
let his children all join hands,
and be one with the right hand of God.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Leader: Teach us to pray.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Leader: Liberate us from the slavery of sin.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Leader: Help us in our weakness.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Leader: Restore us as your children.

All: Come, Holy Spirit!

Song of praise

Leader: We have not received a spirit of slavery
to fall back into fear.
Let us call upon the mercy of God,
confident in the saving power of God's Right Hand.

*Three members of the assembly come forward, each carrying a chain.
After each petition and response, one of the chains is allowed to fall to
the ground.*

Leader: From structures that undermine human dignity
and enforce new forms of enslavement, deliver us, O God.

All: Lord, answer prayer.

Leader: From decisions and deeds that impose poverty, marginalisa-
tion or discrimination
on our brothers and sisters, deliver us, O God.

All: Lord, answer prayer.

Leader: From the fear and suspicion
that separate us from each other
and place limits on hope and healing,
deliver us, O God.

All: Lord, answer prayer.

Leader: The Lord is our strength and our might,
and has become our salvation.
May God, who has redeemed us,
lead us into the abode of holiness.

All: Amen.

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD

Leader: Redeem us, O God, from human oppression,
All: **that we may keep your precepts.**

Leader: Make your face shine upon your servants,
All: **and teach us your statutes.** (*cf. Ps 119: 134-135*)

Reading: *Exodus 15:1-21*

At the conclusion of the reading:

Reader: Listen and you will be set free.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 118: 5-7, 13-24

All: **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!**

Reader: Out of my distress I called on the Lord;
the Lord answered me and set me in a broad place.
With the Lord on my side I do not fear.
What can mortals do to me?

The Lord is on my side to help me;
I shall look in triumph on those who hate me.
All: **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!**

Reader: I was pushed hard, so that I was falling,
but the Lord helped me.
The Lord is my strength and my might;
he has become my salvation.
There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous.

All: **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!**

Reader: The right hand of the Lord does valiantly;
the right hand of the Lord is exalted;
the right hand of the Lord does valiantly.
I shall not die, but I shall live,
and recount the deeds of the Lord.

All: **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!**

Reader: Open to me the gates of righteousness,
that I may enter through them
and give thanks to the Lord.
This is the gate of the Lord;
the righteous shall enter through it.

All: **O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures for ever!**

Reader: I thank you that you have answered me
and have become my salvation.
This is the Lord's doing;
it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it. ***Refrain***

Reading: *Romans 8:12-27*

At the conclusion of the reading:

Reader: Listen and you will be set free.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reading: *Mark 5:21-43*

At the conclusion of the reading:

Reader: Listen and you will be set free.
All: **Thanks be to God.**

Reflection: