

League Prayer

We humbly pray you, O God our Father,
To bless The Catholic Women's League of Canada.

Bless our beloved country,
our homes and families.
Send your Holy Spirit upon us
to give light to our minds
and strength to our wills
that we may know and fulfill
your great law of charity.

Teach us to share with others
at home and abroad,
the good things you have given us.

This we ask through Our Lord Jesus Christ
and the intercession of our patroness,
Our Lady of Good Counsel.

AMEN



**The Catholic Women's League of Canada
Archdiocese of Edmonton**

Mid Winter Meeting

Our Lady Of Perpetual Help Parish, Sherwood Park

January 21, 2017



**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
ORDER OF SERVICE**

*Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us
(cf. 2 Corinthians 5.14-20)*

Opening Hymn: *One Spirit One Church (page 10)*

Opening

L In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

ALL Amen.

L Grace and peace from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ, be with you all. *(8 Corinthians 1.74)*

ALL And also with you.

Introductory Words

N Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, this year many Christians and churches will be commemorating the anniversary of the Reformation. 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. Let us worship and praise God together in the unity of the Holy Spirit!

DIVIDED BY OUR SINS – CONFESSION

Invitation to confession

N In the course of history, there have been many renewal movements in the Church, which is always in need of deeper conversion. Sometimes these movements have led to unintended divisions. This fact contradicts what Jesus asks in John 17.23: “that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.” Let us confess our sins and pray for forgiveness and healing for the wounds which have resulted from our divisions. As we name these sins we will see how they become a wall which divides us.

Silence

L Let us pray: God in heaven, we come to you in Jesus’ name. We experience renewal through your Holy Spirit, and yet we still construct walls that divide us, walls which hinder community and unity. We bring before you now the stones with which we erect our walls and pray for your forgiveness and healing.

Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone.

Refrain

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain

CLOSING PRAYER

ALL

Lord, you call us to share your table
and also your cross of anguish
with our sisters who are suffering.

We pray for all who are being abused, violated, oppressed,
and in situations that deprive them of their dignity.

We pray for mothers
yearning for adequate, clean drinking water
and proper sanitation, sufficient food and health care
for their families.

We pray for those struggling for survival,
those broken and alienated, refugees
and visible minorities experiencing repeated discrimination,
bearing the brunt of indifference and oppression.

We pray for the day when women who are equal in ability
have equal rights and can live in peace, joy and harmony.
We ask all this with the hope that only You provide.

AMEN

(WUCWO Prayer 2017- Suffering Women)

ONE SPIRIT, ONE CHURCH

Refrain

We are a pilgrim people,
we are the Church of God.
A fam'ly of believers,
disciples of the Lord.
United in one spirit,
ignited by the fire.
Still burning through the ages,
still present in our lives.

1. Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
and in our hearts take up thy rest;
come with thy grace and heav'nly aid
to fill the hearts which thou hast made.
2. O Comforter, to thee we cry,
thou gift of God sent from on high.
Thou font of life and fire of love,
the soul's anointing from above.

Christ Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Refrain

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Refrain

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.

All Amen.

As each sin is named, the corresponding stone is brought forward to build the wall. Following a moment of silence, the stone bearer [R] makes a plea for forgiveness, and the congregation responds, "Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us."

L We confess our failure to love.

R1 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for whenever we have failed to love. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess our hatred and contempt.

R2 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for our hatred and contempt for one another. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess that we make false accusations.

R3 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for denouncing and falsely accusing one another. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess our prejudice.

R4 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for all forms of prejudice and discrimination against one another. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Sung response: "Lord, forgive us".

L We confess that we persecute others.

R5 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for persecuting and torturing one another. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess our broken communion.

R6 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for perpetuating broken communion among our churches. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess our intolerance.

R7 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for banishing our brothers and sisters from shared homelands in the past, and for acts of religious intolerance today. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess our waging of religious wars.

R8 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for all wars that we have waged against one another in his name. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Sung response: "Lord, forgive us".

L We confess our divisions.

R9 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for living our Christian lives divided from one another and from our common calling for the healing of all creation. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess our abuse of power.

R10 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for our abuse of power and for our acts of exploitation. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

L We confess our isolation.

R11 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 wider communities in which we live. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Blessing and Sending

L We call out to you, most merciful God:

Give your help to all who seek reconciliation so they may proclaim your mighty deeds of Love! We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ.

ALL **Amen.**

L May the blessing of Almighty God, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit come upon you and remain with you forever.

ALL **Amen.**

L Go in God's Peace.

ALL **Thanks be to God.**

Hymn: Christ Be Our Light (page 10)

Let us all recite the LEAGUE PRAYER (page 12)



N Holy Spirit, Giver of Life, we are created to become whole in you and to share this life on earth with our brothers and sisters. 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:

Response Giver of Life, hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

L **Our Father in heaven,**
ALL **Hallowed be your name.**
Your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST – MINISTERS OF RECONCILIATION

Christ's Commission

The twelve assistants pass the candlelight throughout the congregation until each person has a lighted candle.

N A lighted candle is a deeply human symbol: it enlightens the darkness, creates warmth, security and community. It 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 thoughts, words, and deeds.

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

L We confess our pride.

R12 Gracious God, the love of Christ compels us to ask forgiveness for our pride. We humbly pray:

ALL **Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Sung response: "Lord, forgive us".

L Let us pray:

Gracious God, look upon this wall that we have built, which separates us from you and from one another. Forgive our sins. Heal us. Help us to overcome all the walls that keep us apart. Teach us to turn from our divisive ways. Make us one in you.

ALL **Amen.**

BE RECONCILED TO GOD – HEAR GOD'S WORD

First Reading: Ezekiel 36.25-27

Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 18.25-32)

Response: I love you, O Lord, my strength.

With the loyal you show yourself loyal;
with the blameless you show yourself blameless;
with the pure you show yourself pure;
and with the crooked you show yourself perverse.
For you deliver a humble people,
but the haughty eyes you bring down.

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

It is you who light my lamp;
the Lord, my God, lights up my darkness.
By you I can crush a troop, and by my God
I can leap over a wall.
This God – his way is perfect;
the promise of the Lord proves true;
he is a shield for all who take refuge in him.
For who is God except the Lord?
And who is a rock besides our God?
The God who girded me with strength, and made
my way safe.

I love you, O Lord, my strength.

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5.14-20

Alleluia

Gospel Reading: Luke 15.11-24

Alleluia

RESPOND IN FAITH – LIVE RECONCILED

As the wall is dismantled the stones are laid in the form a cross.

L Let us pray: Gracious God, we have heard your word that you have reconciled us to yourself through your Son Jesus Christ. 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 as instruments of your peace in the world.

ALL Amen.

The Peace

L The peace of Christ be with you always.
Let us give one another a sign of peace.

RESPOND IN FAITH – PROCLAIM RECONCILIATION

Intercessory Prayers

After each petition, three people light their candles from a central light-source and remain standing around the cross until the section headed "Christ's commission."

N Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labours, and that in every place your servants call upon your name. May your Spirit awaken in every community a hunger and thirst for unity in you.
Let us pray:

Response Loving God, hear our prayer.

N Gracious God, we pray for our churches. Fill them with all truth and peace. 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:

Response Gracious God, hear our prayer.

N Creator God, you made us in your own image and re-deemed us through Jesus Christ your Son. Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love. And even in our weaknesses, work to accomplish your purposes on earth, so that every people and nation may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne. Let us pray:

Response Creator God, hear our prayer.