

Reconciliation



Prayer

Reconciling God,
as we feel the pain of past mistakes,
shy away
and retreat to individual strongholds;
help us surrender
a false sense of who we are,
all that tethers us,
and all that we hold precious.
Bind us to humility and compassion,
as we learn together,
to receive from You,
abide in You and Your love. Amen.

Questions

- What are the important things we need to carry with us as we journey together towards unity?
- What things might we need to let go of as we journey together towards unity? What challenges does that bring?
- What are our shared hopes for our community? What might our common prayers for our community be?

Go and Do

(see www.ctbi.org.uk/goanddo)

Global: Be inspired to unity by the churches of South Sudan and their work for reconciliation.

Local: How might the churches in your area dialogue around the issues affecting your wider community?

Personal: Seek reconciliation for a broken relationship in your life.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

Acts 27:18-19,21

"We were being pounded by the storm so violently that on the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard and on the third day with their own hands they threw the ship's tackle overboard... Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul then stood up among them and said, "Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and thereby avoided this damage and loss."

Psalms 85

Luke 18:9-14

Reflection

To live an untethered life
means that we may well find
ourselves
at the mercy of wind and wave.
Besieged by storm and circumstance,
carried by the tide,
thrown off course,
we can find ourselves run aground,
clinging to the hope –
that we might loosen our grip of
individual claim and right,
and hold to a shared ownership
of this rock of truth.



Fissure cracks unearthed by
seismic change,
fresh and raw –
now open to the elements –
make it easy for fracture and
the heartbreak of division
and disunity
to split our truth apart.
But as we find each precious piece,
like flotsam and jetsam
washed up on distant shore and held
safe in the hands of someone else,
might we come together
and re-form?
As a new picture emerges
a re-seeing
re-imagining
reconciling of ourselves and
each other.
We are all at the mercy of the storm
regardless of where we stand.
Port or starboard,
aft or stern
it's the same boat,
traversing the same waters.
Whether we sink or swim
might well depend
upon who
or what
we cling to
or let go of.