

This is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Please use the resources on these two pages as best suits your cell group

'If we could always remember that Christ is communion.....

He did not come to earth to start one more religion, but to offer to all a communion in God.. His disciples are called to be a humble leaven of trust and peace within humanity'

'In the long history of Christians, multitudes discovered one day that they were divided, sometimes without even knowing why. Today it is essential to do everything in our power so that as many Christians as possible – who are often innocent of the divisions - may discover that they are in communion.'

'Could the church give signs of greater openness, so wide as to let it become clear that those who used to be divided in the past are no longer separated, but are already living in communion.'

Br Roger of Taizé, A Path of Hope. Pub. 2006 Continuum

Other Taizé resources can be found at : <http://www.taize.fr/>

- **Discussion starter: 'What has this got to do with me? With us?'**

]

YOU ARE WITNESSES (of the Resurrection)

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2010

Other WPCU resources can be found at: <http://www.ctbi.org.uk/415/>

The resurrection stories in the Gospel have immense power that touch upon so many different aspects of human experience - dashed hopes, disappointments, grief and loss. But they also speak of a difficulty to accept change and recognise new realities.

This year, the host nation for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is my own, Scotland, and they have chosen the vivid account of Jesus' Resurrection as the focus for our thought and prayers about Christian unity.

The unity in Christ that we seek and pray for implies that we are called to embrace something new, something that will change us and the church – from something disunited to a Church that is one in Christ.

At the present time, some commentators have observed that the ecumenical movement is 'becalmed'. Recently, CTBI has been pondering that metaphor and have related it to another - the desert. In Christian spirituality the desert is not only a lonely, sometimes hostile place, but also a place of spiritual renewal and growth, a place where faith is strengthened and deepened. So if there is a sense that we are 'becalmed' in our ecumenical journey we might see this not as a cause for mourning but an opportunity for renewal and rekindled hope.

During this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity I hope you will join with us to pray for that renewed passion for Christian Unity and see in particular the risen Christ in our midst.

Revd Bob Fyffe

General Secretary

Churches Together in Britain and Ireland

continued ...

Day 7

Theme: Witness through hope and trust

YOU

1. *How do you cope with your own fears and doubts?*
2. *How might you be a cause of fear and anxiety for others?*
3. *How may Christian communities encourage one another in faith and hope?*

THE WORD

READ: *Job 19:23-27; Psalm 63; Acts 3:1-10; Luke 24: 36-40 - The disciples were startled and terrified*

FOCUS: **Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? (Luke 24:36-40)**

REFLECTION

We shrink life to fit,
and hope is drained
and trust is strained,
and doubt dominates.

It is not that we don't see,
it is precisely that we do:
that death does not lay to rest
the troublesome truth of faith.

And in the chaos Christ's rising brings,
terror is not ghostly discomfort,
but worldly disquiet,
that now it all changes:
hope is healing
but a heartache too,
and trust costs lives.

THE WORLD

God our comfort and guide,
when our doubts are deepest
and our fears are darkest,
you are there,
though our clouded perception may
miss your presence.
Make us each secure and supportive,
atune to the sensitivities of others,
that we may be encouraged in faith and hope
on our journey to you.

Day 8

Theme: Witness through hospitality

YOU

1. *What hinders your own hospitality?*
2. *Is the place where you live hospitable to strangers?*
3. *What difference does the church make?*
4. *Whose hospitality has touched you deeply?*

THE WORD

READ: *Gen 18:1-8; Psalm 146; Romans 14:17-19; Luke 24:41-48 – Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures*

FOCUS: **Have you anything here to eat? (Luke 24:41)**

REFLECTION

Fasting is fine,
focusing minds;
feasting is great,
sharing the meat.

Fasting is personal,
quite self-referral;
feasting is communal
where spirits meet.

Loving in giving,
donating approval,
needs of the body
attended with grace.

Each one important,
the first and the least,
all must be welcome
and all have a place.

THE WORLD

God of the open hand,
in whom all find a welcome:
help us to

feed the hungry,
give refreshment to the thirsty,
provide covering for the naked,
care for the sick,
extend a hand of friendship to
the isolated,
as fellow pilgrims of Love's embrace.