



Listen, Read, Pray — Guided Reflections on Unity

The attempt to know what words to say in order to adequately encapsulate the rolling waves of grief and discord that have rocked our nation can, at times, feel like trying to catch the wind in a mason jar. No matter what you say or think, it seems like there is always more that needs to be said or considered, an impossible task. But the inscripturated Word of God speaks to the very heart of moments such as these, speaks to the reality of the brokenness that is so tangible, speaks to us as Christ-followers to give intelligible voice to our cries and griefs, and to offer words of promise when hope seems distant. Into a world that is tired and torn asunder, we want to cry out to the Lord for unity. This is not a plea for a cheap facade of unity that ignores the injustices of racism, the grief of sickness and death, or the disorienting morass of a politicized and weaponized news cycle. The unity for which we plea is born of the Spirit of God amongst the people of God as we embody the heart of God which knows fully and loves perfectly.

Would you join us in prayer this week? We have offered, each day, a passage of Scripture we would like you to read, a song to help facilitate the posturing of your heart in worship, and a prompt for a time of prayer based on the text that you've read that day. We would also invite you to consider joining us in fasting from one meal each day this week, or perhaps fasting for one entire day, and as you do so spend that time before the Lord pleading that his kingdom would come on earth as it is in heaven.

DAY 1

Listen: “So Will I” by Hillsong Worship

Read: Genesis 1:26-31

Pray: All humans possess value and dignity as image bearers of the Triune God. Let us thank the Lord for that, together, and remind our hearts that the value of each human life knows no qualification.

DAY 2

Listen: “The Church” by Elevation Worship

Read: 1 Corinthians 12

Pray: We, the church, exist at the intersection of unity and diversity. Let us pray together that we might embody this Spirit-borne reality with faithful humility.

DAY 3

Listen: “Give Me a Love” by HeartSong

Read: 1 John 4:7-21

Pray: To live as Christ’s ambassadors in the world is to live a life defined by love for our brothers and sisters. Let us ask the Spirit to examine us, let us repent of ways in which we have neglected to love others selflessly, and let us ask for the gospel-defined grace to live with an others-honoring, Christ-exalting love.

DAY 4

Listen: “Beautiful Things” by The Worship Initiative

Read: Colossians 3:1-17

Pray: Christ both embodies and empowers the life he invites us to live as new creations. Let us ask the Spirit to continue the work of transformation in us so that we are concerned both with our moral formation *and* our intentional care for others.

DAY 5

Listen: “Perfect Wisdom of God” by Keith and Kristyn Getty

Read: Proverbs 24:1-22

Pray: Wisdom is like honey, sweet and nourishing to our souls. Let us pray together for the wisdom of the Lord in our own hearts and amongst our brothers and sisters.

DAY 6

Listen: “Look What God Has Done” by Ghost Ship

Read: Ephesians 4:17-5:2

Pray: The way of Christ leads us in a divinely appointed responsibility to care for our neighbors. Let us pray for those men and women in our circles of accountability by name, both those within the family of God and those without. Let us ask the Lord for opportunities to love them well and to point them toward Jesus.

DAY 7

Listen: “You’re Beautiful” by Phil Wickham

Read: Revelation 5

Pray: The Lamb will be victorious and the people of God, a gloriously diverse multitude, will celebrate together with him for eternity. Let us pray in hopeful anticipation, asking the Lord that we might experience a foretaste of this in our church family now.