

We Are One Family

There IS Room at the Table for Us All

Words of Welcome and Unity from the Book of Common Prayer

From the Order for Holy Baptism

There is one Body and one Spirit:

There is one hope in God's Call to us;
One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;
One God and Father of all. (BCP , p. 299)

From the Book of Common Prayer translation of the Psalms

Psalm 122 . . .

6. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem:*
"May they prosper who love you.
7. Peace be within your walls*
and quietness within your towers.
8. For my brethren and companions' sake,*
I pray for your prosperity.
9. Because of the house of the Lord our God,*
I will seek to do you good." (BCP, p. 780)

From An Outline of the Faith, Commonly Called the Catechism

Q. How is the Church described in the Bible?

A. The church is described as the Body of which Jesus Christ is the Head and of which all baptized persons are members. It is called the People of God, the New Israel, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, and the pillar and ground of truth.

Q. Why is the Church described as one?

A. The church is one, because it is one Body, under one Head, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Q. What is the mission of the Church?

A. The mission of the Church is to restore all people to unity with God and each other in Christ.

Q. What is the communion of saints?

A. The communion of saints is the whole family of God, the living and the dead, those whom we love and those whom we hurt, bound together in Christ by sacrament, prayer, and praise.
(BCP, pp. 854, 855, 862)

From Historical Documents of the Church

Chicago-Lambeth Quadrilateral . . .

1. Our earnest desire that the Saviour's prayer, "That we all may be one," may in its deepest and truest sense be speedily fulfilled;
2. That we believe that all who have been duly baptized with water, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Ghost, are members of the holy Catholic church; . . . (BCP pp. 876-877)

From the Collects

14. For the Unity of the Church

Almighty Father, whose blessed Son before his passion prayed for his disciples that they might be one, as you and he are one: Grant that thy Church, being bound together in love and obedience to you, may be united in one body by the one Spirit, that the world may believe in him whom you have sent, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.* (BCP, p. 255)

Proper 9

O God, you have taught us to keep all your commandments by loving you and our neighbor: Grant us the grace of your Holy Spirit, that we may be devoted to you with our whole heart, and united to one another with pure affection; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen* (BCP, pp. 230-231)

From the Prayers and Thanksgivings

For the Human Family

O God, you made us in your own image and redeemed us through Jesus your Son: Look with compassion on the whole human family; take away the arrogance and hatred which infect our hearts; break down the walls that separate us; unite us in bonds of love; and work through our struggle and confusion to accomplish your purposes on earth; that, in your good time, all nations and races may serve you in harmony around your heavenly throne; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, Prayers, p. 815)

For the Unity of the Church

O God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, our only Savior, the Prince of Peace: Give us grace seriously to lay to heart the great dangers we are in by our unhappy divisions; take away all hatred and prejudice, and whatever else may hinder us from godly union and concord; that, as there is by one Body and one Spirit, one hope of our calling, one Lord, one Faith, one Baptism, one God and Father of us all, so we may be all of one heart and of one soul, united in one holy bond of truth and peace, or faith and charity, and may with one mind and one mouth glorify *thee*; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.* (BCP, Prayers, p. 818)