



Whilst it was lovely to see that the VE Day celebrations were able to still go ahead in a modified fashion, and it was certainly uplifting to hear some of those stories of resilience and courage, our hope does not rely on a national anniversary or the weather but in what we know of our faithful God – and that’s why it’s good to still set aside time for reflection and worship together.

I know there’s been a real spirit of encouragement and staying in touch by our church family during this time – keep it up!

Song

Come, people of the Risen King
Who delight to bring Him praise
Come all and tune your hearts to sing
To the Morning Star of grace
From the shifting shadows of the earth
We will lift our eyes to Him
Where steady arms of mercy reach
To gather children in

Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ,
rejoice!

Come, those whose joy is morning sun
And those weeping through the night
Come, those who tell of battles won
And those struggling in the fight
For His perfect love will never change
And His mercies never cease
But follow us through all our days
With the certain hope of peace

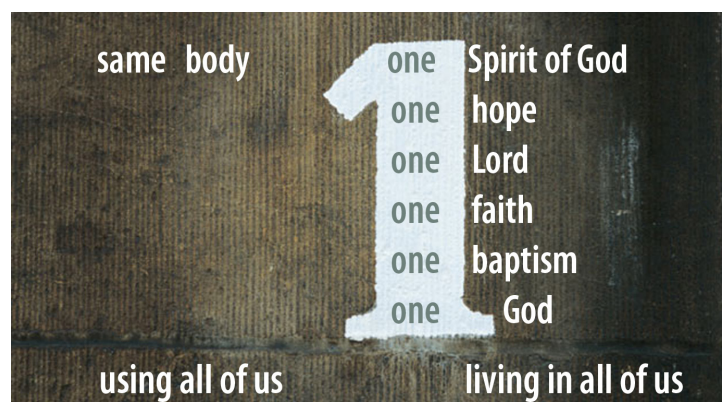
Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ,
rejoice!

Come, young and old from every land
Men and women of the faith
Come, those with full or empty hands
Find the riches of His grace
Over all the world, His people sing
Shore to shore we hear them call
The Truth that cries through every age:
“Our God is all in all”!

Rejoice, rejoice! Let every tongue rejoice!
One heart, one voice; O Church of Christ,
rejoice!

Keith Getty | Kristyn Getty | Stuart Townend
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Read Ephesians 4:1-6



Teaching John 17:6-26

Jesus didn't save everybody, didn't heal everybody, didn't meet every need, didn't solve every problem, yet prays "I did everything You told me". What things might you be doing that God didn't ask you to do? And the converse?

What might you be able to do to pursue unity? More than just being less disagreeable, what does it mean for you?



Communion

It might seem strange taking communion in our own homes – communion speaks so powerfully about that which binds us together – yet we are all separated. What joins us together is so much stronger than our separation:

We are united by Jesus

We are united by the hope he brings

We are united by his death and his resurrection

We have a life that extends outside of this life and knows no end.

Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, 'Take this and eat; this is my body.'

Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it. 'This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many,' he said to them.

How deep the Father's love for us
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure

How great the pain of searing loss
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
Bring many sons to glory

Behold the man upon a cross
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed, I hear my mocking voice
Call out among the scoffers

It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished

I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection

Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom

Stuart Townend

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Prayers

Pray for peace and reconciliation in our world

Corona virus has dominated our news but there are many areas of the world where conflicts are still ongoing or unresolved – Yemen, Afghanistan, Middle East – to name but a few. Choose one to pray for – ask God to raise up wise leaders, to change the hearts of those who seek revenge and to give peace to those caught up in these war-zones.

Resolve to pray particularly for that area this week

Pray for unity of purpose in our nation

As politicians and their advisors struggle to balance health and economic considerations pray for wisdom, clarity and a sense of unity for our leaders. Pray that the media will be wise in their reporting so as not to create unnecessary fear or tension. Continue to pray for key workers as they serve us in so many areas including health and social care, education and essential services

Choose one leader in particular to pray for this week

Pray for peace and unity in our homes and within our church family

The current crisis has caused anxiety for many – worry about job security, health of themselves or loved ones, fear of what the future holds. Home-working, schooling or just spending longer with family members may have created tensions within households. Pray for yourself and any you know who are feeling the strain – pray for the “peace which passes understanding” (Philippians 4:7) to fill each of us afresh

Choose one person (maybe from our fellowship) – let them know you’re praying for them this week

Heavenly Father

We thank you that you have not asked us to be alone as believers but have made us part of your world-wide church. We’re called to share joys and suffering; to acknowledge doubts and fears; to support and build each other up both practically and in prayer; to forgive and be forgiven; and to work for the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Amen

Song

O spread Your wings of mercy over me
And guard my heart with true humility
No shadow of the darkness pressing in
Only the holy overshadowing

Pre-Chorus

Underneath Your wings
Overshadowing

No refuge will I seek but God alone
No hiding place save only at Your throne
Only the cross the blood to wash my sin
Only the holy overshadowing

Chorus

You are my shield and my glory
You are the lifter of my head

And though the storms may rage around me
I’ll be safe within
Beneath the holy overshadowing

No burden on my back too hard to bear
Only the easy load You bid me wear
Until these troubles pass my heart will sing
Praise for the holy overshadowing

Underneath Your wings
Overshadowing overshadowing
Underneath Your wings
Overshadowing overshadowing

Ben Trigg | Graham Kendrick

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Ben Trigg

If there is righteousness in the heart, there will be beauty in the character.
If there is beauty in the character, there will be harmony in the home.
If there is harmony in the home, there will be order in the nation.
If there is order in the nation, there will be peace in the world.
So let it be.