

Discussion & Reflection Questions

7th Sunday of Easter (29th of May 2022)

Read: John 17.20-26

²⁰ 'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, ²¹ that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. ²² The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, ²³ I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. ²⁴ Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. ²⁵ 'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. ²⁶ I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. This is part of a much longer prayer (whole of chapter 17). Jesus starts by praying for himself, then for those closest to him (the disciples) & in this part he prays for those who will become believers. Would this be a helpful pattern of prayer for us to follow? Do you have a pattern of prayer that helps you?
2. By praying for those who will believe through the words of the 11 disciples, Jesus is effectively praying for you. What does it make you feel that Jesus prayed for you?
3. Jesus prays that we might be "completely one" (verse 23). What do you think that means? What needs to change in us & our communities for us to be completely one?
4. We live in a very divided world which many call "polarised". What are some of the divisions in the world in which we now live?
5. How might Christians deal with those divisions within & outside the church?
6. Jesus is praying also for those who will yet to believe through our words & actions. How does that make you feel to know that someone could believe or be influenced to believe because of something you say or do?
7. Colossians 1:27 says that it is Christ in you that is the hope of glory. Do you believe this?

Prayer for the week

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of heaven that he might rule over all things as Lord: keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit and in the bond of peace; and bring all creation to worship at his feet, who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.