

"The WORD on the Streets" ...
an ecumenical sermon series
during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 20-22, 2026



sponsored by the
Catholic Preaching Institute
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PRAYER SERVICE

*order of worship adapted from the international version
of the text for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2026
from the Vatican Dicastery for Promoting Christian Unity*

INVOCATION

Presider: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Presider: May the name of the Lord be blessed ...

People: **Now and always and unto the ages of ages.**

HYMN

to be determined by the host church

PRAYER

Presider: *Let us pray, along with Christians worldwide, in words adapted for this year's ecumenical worship service from the Armenian mystic and monk, Greogry of Narek:*

O Jesus Christ, Light from the Light, dwell within us, who have come together to worship your holy and precious name. Let your life-giving radiance kindle within us a deeper love for one another. May your brilliant light stir us to ever more flourishing unity. Like diverse flowers in the garden of your Kingdom, may your divine brilliance cause us to bloom in harmony. And so, all as one, may we always joyfully praise and glorify you, and the Father and the Holy Spirit, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

People: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE

from the Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-13

(New Revised Standard Version)

I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift. Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a captive; he gave gifts to his people."

(When it says, "He ascended," what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower parts of the earth? He who descended is the same one who ascended far above all the heavens, so that he might fill all things.) He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

RESPONSORIAL (from Psalm 19) *may be replaced with a human selected by the host church*

Leader: Let your Word go out to all the earth.

People: ***Let your Word go out to all the earth.***

Leader: The heavens are telling the glory of God,
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.
Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

People: ***Let your Word go out to all the earth.***


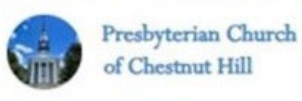

Leader: There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth
and their words to the end of the world.

People: ***Let your Word go out to all the earth.***

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;
the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

People: ***Let your Word go out to all the earth.***

SERMON

Tuesday, January 20	Wednesday, January 21	Thursday, January 22
		
<i>guest preacher:</i> REV. ELLEN WILLIAMS HENSLE Senior Minister and Head of Staff Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Hill	<i>guest preacher:</i> REV. JOHN FISHER, O.S.F.S. Pastor Our Mother of Consolation Catholic Church	<i>guest preacher:</i> VERY REV. ERIC HUNGERFORD Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church Dean, Wissahickon Deanery

PROFESSION OF FAITH:

Leader: Bathed in the light of the Wisdom of Christ, together, let us confess our common faith.

People:

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made;
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us all, and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
and was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered and was buried.
On the third day he rose from the dead in accordance with the scriptures.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father.
Who, with the Father and the Son, is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the Prophets.**

**We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
We confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look forward to the resurrection of the dead,
and to life in the age to come.**

Amen.

INTERCESSORY PRAYER:

Presider: Gracious and almighty Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, you are the true Light, who cast out the darkness of sin, and shined into our hearts the joy and hope of your eternal Kingdom.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Loving Lord, accept the prayers of all your faithful children throughout the world, who call out to you with one mind, one voice, and one heart. Through your beloved disciple John, you promised that if we walk in your light, then we will have communion with one another, and your precious blood will cleanse us of all sin. Bring us that blessed communion, O Savior!

People: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Grant us peace, O Loving Lord, and remove the scourge of civil unrest and violence from the face of the earth. Change the hearts of all who make war and touch the wounds of all who are afflicted by war. Comfort all prisoners of war and speedily bring them home. Let the light of your love shine in all the dark places of our world and hasten the day when all peoples may dwell in peace with justice.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: O Lord Jesus Christ, look with compassion on refugees throughout the world, who suffer the agony of displacement and the loss of their homes. Move us to manifest our communion with you, with them and with each other through gestures of hospitality and loving help.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: Shine the light of your righteousness and wisdom on all your creatures. Make us children of light and children of the day, so that we may always live our lives reverently, and become for all the world, worthy lampstands for your life-giving light.

People: Lord, have mercy.

Presider: For you are our Savior, and to you be glory, dominion and honor, now and always and unto the ages of ages.

People: AMEN.

SIGN OF PEACE

Presider: Peace to all.

People: And with your spirit.

Presider: Let us exchange with one another a suitable greeting of peace.

LORD'S PRAYER

Presider: Blessed is our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: ***Amen.***

Presider: Together we pray as the Lord has taught us.

People: **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

BLESSING

Presider: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

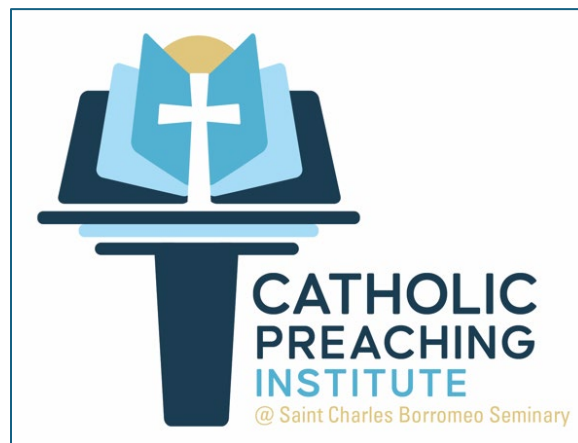
People: ***Amen.***

Presider: Renewed in our Christian faith, let us go in peace.

People: ***Thanks be to God.***

HYMN *to be determined by the host church*

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