

“We saw the star in the East, and we came to worship him.”
(Mt. 2:2)

«Վասն զի մենք արևելքի մէջ անոր աստղը տեսանք
ու եկանք անոր երկրպագութիւն ընելու» (Մատթ. 2:2)



Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Prayer Service 2022

Sunday, January 23

Jointly organized by
The Office for Promoting Christian Unity
and
The Greater Toronto Area Council of Christian Churches

Hosted by
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church
920 Progress Ave., Scarborough, ON M1G 3T5

The homilist is
Rev. Archpriest Fr. Zareh Zargarian
Vicar of the Armenian Diocese of Canada,
Parish Priest of Holy Trinity Armenian Church of Toronto

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**Office for Promoting Christian Unity
& Religious Relations with Judaism**
Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Holy Trinity Armenian Church



 **THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES**
LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES

 **Prairie Centre for
Ecumenism**

 **Centre canadien
d'œcuménisme**  **Canadian Centre
for Ecumenism**
INFORMATION • DIALOGUE • RECONCILIATION

ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE (Pre-recorded)

The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church Music Ministry

Please stand

PROCESSIONAL ARMENIAN HYMN:

God of Miraculous Glory - Great Entrance, Mode 7

God of miraculous glory and incessant benevolent care,

Who, with prior knowledge commenced the salvation of the Armenian Nation,

Bestowed upon us an Illuminator from the sinful nation of the Parthians,

With his intercession, O Saviour, save us now and on the day of Your coming.

Hrashapar Asdvadz - Entrance Procession

Hrashapar Asdvadz yev meeshd parekhnamogh,

Vor haratchkeedootyamp zprgootyun hayasdanyayts sgzpnavoroyal,

Ee Parthevakan meghabard azken Loosavoreetch mez shnorhetser,

Vasn oro parekhosootyamp sora Prgeetch, getsho zmez ayzhm yev ee ko hahavor ko kalsdyann.

Յրաշափառ Աստուած, Մանկունք ԴԶ

Յրաշափառ Աստուած եւ միշտ բարեխնամող.

Որ յառաջգիտութեամբ զբրկութիւն հայաստանեայց սկզբնատրեալ,

Ի Պարթեական մեղապարտ ազգէն Լուսատրիչ մեզ շնորհեցեր.

Վասն որոյ բարեխօսութեամբ սորա Փրկիչ, կեցո՛ղ զմեզ այժմ եւ ի քո յահատր գալստեանն:

Please be seated

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Vivian Kwok, St. Basil's Roman Catholic Church

We acknowledge the land we are meeting on is the traditional territory of many nations including the Mississaugas of the Credit, the Anishnabeg, the Chippewa, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat peoples and is now home to many diverse First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. We also acknowledge that Toronto is covered by Treaty 13 with the Mississaugas of the Credit.

WELCOME

Fr. Zareh Zargarian, The Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

(Video presentation about the Armenian Orthodox Church)

Welcome to the 2022 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Ecumenical Service.

This year's theme is **"We Saw the Star in the East"** prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches in Lebanon, organized by the Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of Churches, and Hosted by Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church.

Please stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Rev. Peter Holmes: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Leader: Brothers and sisters, we are united today with fellow believers in the four corners of the world as we gather to pray for the visible unity of the Church. We do this with worship resources prepared by the Middle East Council of Churches. Our texts are inspired by the visit of the Magi to the new-born King, as described in the Gospel according to Saint Matthew: *"We observed his star in*

the East, and have come to pay him homage.” Let us fix our eyes on the star that was seen in the East and allow it to lead us too. Let us come into God’s presence with thanksgiving and joy, bringing all the sick, the suffering, the marginalized, the refugees, and the uprooted before him, knowing that God can dispel our darkness with his light. As we pray today for the unity of the Church, may we and our communities also be lights that guide others to Jesus the Saviour.

Leader: Glory be to you Father Almighty, for you have revealed yourself through your creation and invited all people to stand in your presence. We have seen the star of Jesus in our lives and have come to worship him just as the Magi did. We offer him ourselves today and we ask for the presence of the Holy Spirit among us.

All: Unite us with one another as we come from the North and from the South, from the East and from the West, old and young, men and women to bow down before you and offer you homage, our heavenly king. Amen.

Please be seated

ANTHEMS

Holy Name African Catholic Music Ministry

Please stand

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND CONFESSION

Fr. Ammonius Guirguis, Subdeacon Pierre Fanous & St. Mark’s Coptic Orthodox Church

Subdeacon Pierre Fanous: We glorify you, O Lord, creator of heaven and earth, for you have set the lights in the vault of the sky. You separated light from darkness and arranged signs to mark sacred times, and days and years. You studded the firmament with stars. How majestic are your works, the heavens declare your glory and the skies proclaim the work of your hands!

All: We glorify you, O Lord.

Subdeacon Pierre Fanous: We praise you for you did not abandon us despite our rebellion but sent your Son to brighten our darkness

and be our light and our salvation. In him was life, and that life was the light of all humanity. And the light shines in the darkness.

All: We praise you, O Lord.

Subdeacon Pierre Fanous: We worship you, O Lord, for you accompany us in the chaos of our life through the power of your Holy Spirit. You light up our paths and give us wisdom and faith in a world of untruth and doubt.

All: We worship you, O Lord.

Subdeacon Pierre Fanous: We thank you, O Lord, for you send us into the world to reflect this light around us, in our various churches and diverse cultures and to witness to Jesus, the one true King, offering ourselves to him.

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Subdeacon Pierre Fanous: May all the peoples bow before you and worship you. We have often preferred darkness, but you have given us light. Therefore, we come to you confessing our sins and saying:

All: We confess before you that we have turned away from your ways and disobeyed your ordinances. We have disfigured your good creation and squandered its resources through our consumerist practices. We have polluted your rivers and seas and poisoned your air and soil and contributed to the extinction of many species. *(Silence)*

All: We have acted selfishly towards our brothers and sisters. We have allowed our own needs and desires to prevail over our commitment to justice. We have built walls between us and planted the seeds of distrust towards the other. *(Silence)*

All: We have separated people based on ethnicity, religion and gender and we have claimed Jesus on our side in any war we waged. Forgive all these thoughts and deeds, O Lord, as we come before you in repentance. *(Silence)*

Fr. Ammonius Guirguis: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, whom you have sent in the fullness of time to redeem all the people, we ask you to have mercy on us, forgive us our sins and transform us into his glorious image so we can shine as a beacon of hope in our troubled world. *(Silence)*

Fr. Ammonius Guirguis: Almighty God hears our prayers, has mercy on us and forgives our sins.

All: Thanks be to God, whom we praise with all our voices.

CHANT Trisagion

Fr. Walid E. Khoury & Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Music Ministry

You are Holy O God;
You are Holy O Strong One;
You are Holy O Immortal One.
Have mercy on us
Qadishat Aloho,
Qadishat Hayeltono,
Qadishat Lo Moyooto
EtraHam 'laynn
(x3)

Please be seated

PSALM 8

The Rev. Maureen Walter, St. John's Presbyterian Church

Reader: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.

All: Out of the mouths of babes and infants you have founded a bulwark because of your foes, to silence the enemy and the avenger.

Reader: When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars that you have established;

All: What are human beings that you are mindful of them, mortals that you care for them?

Reader: Yet you have made them a little lower than God, and crowned them with glory and honour.

All: You have given them dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under their feet,

Reader: all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

All: O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

CHANT Song of Light

Fr. Walid E. Khoury & Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Music Ministry

FIRST PART

Halleluia: O Light, begotten of the Father from eternity,
you came and gave light to the creatures that were in the darkness,
enlighten us with your splendid light,
and make us rejoice on the day of your coming.

*Halleluia, nuhro deelid men abo dadlo shuroyo,
weto wanhar beryoto dabHeshukho way,
anhar lan bnuhrokh gayo
wabmetitokh Hado lan.*

Halleluia: Shine your light on the heavens, O Lord of light, for your appearance brightens the Cherubims and illuminates the Seraphims. And all the peoples will worship you when your light appears.

*Halleluia, dnaH nuhrokh 'al beryoto moreh dnuhro,
dDenHokh mafsaH lakroobeh wat'en lassrofeh,
w'ho soghdin lokh kul 'ameen
b'edoneh dDonaH nuhro.*

FIRST READING Isaiah 9:2-7

Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

CHANT Song of Light

Fr. Walid E. Khoury & Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Music Ministry

SECOND PART

Halleluia: With your light we see light, O Jesus, full of light.
You are true light that enlightens all creation.
O heavenly Father's radiance,
light us with Your glorious light.

*Halleluia, bnuhrokh hozeynan nuhro yeshu` mlé nuhro
datu nuhro shareero dmanhar beryoto
anhar lan bnuhrokh gayo
wHado lan bdinhe dsafrokh.*

Halleluia: Holy One, who dwells in habitations of light,
forbid from us evil passions and hateful thoughts.
Grant us that we may do works of righteousness with pure hearts.

*Halleluia, ḥasyo wqadeesho d`omar bmedyoray nuhro
klee menan ḥashé beeshé whooshobé snayo
whab lan dabdakhyoot lebo
ne`bed `bodé dkheenooto.*

SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Andrew Asbil, Anglican Diocese of Toronto

Please stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Music Ministry

TRISAGION

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
Who was born and revealed,
Have mercy on us. (Repeat three times)

Soorp Asdvadz

Soorp Asdvadz, soorp yev hzor, soorp yev anmah,
Vor dznar yev haydnytsar,
Voghormya mez. (Repeat three times)

Սուրբ Աստուած

*Սուրբ Աստուած, սուրբ եւ հօր, սուրբ եւ անմահ,
Որ ծնար եւ յայտնեցար,
Ողորմեա մեզ: (Երիցս կրկնեցեն)*

GOSPEL READING Matthew 2:1-12

***Most Rev. Thomas Cardinal Collins,
Archbishop, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto***

Please be seated

SERMON

***Rev. Archpriest Fr. Zareh Zagarian,
Vicar and Pastor, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox
Church***

Please stand

NICENE CREED (according to the tradition of the Eastern Churches)

Maria Simakova, Canadian Council of Churches

All: 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,
God from God, 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 and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
He suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into 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 worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Please be seated

SONG A Star Shone in the East

***Fr. Ammonius Guirguis & St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Music
Ministry***

A star shone in the East
and the Magi followed it
until it brought them to Bethlehem
where they worshipped the King of Ages.

Alleluia (x4)

Jesus Christ the Son of God
who was born in Bethlehem.

This He to whom is due glory
with His Good Father
and the Holy Spirit
both now and forever.

SHARING CHRIST'S LIGHT

Rev. Canon Philip Hobson, OGS

Leader: The light of a star led the Magi to Christ. As we light the candle on the altar today, the light of this candle points to the presence of Christ, who has been revealed to us and whose light shines on us. As the Magi followed the star to Bethlehem, we gather under this star today, adding our own stars to the sky, uniting our own gifts and prayers for the visible unity of Church. As we journey towards that goal, may our lives together give a luminous witness that leads others to know Christ.

Please stand

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Maple Community Church, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Pastor Jason Cleigh: With faith and confidence, we come in prayer, before God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

Youth Pastor Jade Pitts: The Magi came from the East to pay homage and offer special gifts from their cultures and countries.

We pray today for all Christian communities around the world in all of their diversity of worship and tradition:

Lord, we ask you to preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of Christians is threatened by violence and oppression.

All: O, Lord hear our prayer.

Emalee Alguram: The early years of the Lord's life were marked by violence and massacres at the orders of the despot Herod.

We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where its results are tangible:

Strengthen, O Lord, the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to your holy Name. Inspire us to work without ceasing in order to defend the oppressed and include the marginalized. Encourage us to stand together in the face of tyranny and oppressive regimes as we seek your Kingdom among us.

All: O, Lord, hear our prayer.

Emalee Alguram: After the visit of the Magi, the holy family experienced migration through the wilderness and became refugees in the land of Egypt.

We pray for all the refugees and uprooted people in this world:
Equip us, Lord, to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven.

All: O, Lord, hear our prayer.

Samuel Raspa: The birth of Jesus was good news for all, gathering people from different nations and religions in worship of the holy child.

We pray for our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions: Lord, give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey.

All: O, Lord, hear our prayer.

Samuel Raspa: The Magi returned to their home by a different way.

We pray for our churches in this changing world:
Lord, help us to find new and creative ways to follow you and to witness to you so that the world may believe.

All: O, Lord, hear our prayer.

Pastor Jason Cleigh: When the Magi saw the holy child, they rejoiced with great joy. Heavenly Father, fix our eyes on him so we do not lose our way. Unite us in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life.

All: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Rev. Dr. Luis Melo - Director, Office for Promoting Christian Unity and Religious Relations with Judaism, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

At the Saviour's command and formed by divine teaching, we pray in the words He gave us, in the language of our choice.

All:

Our Father who are in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us today 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 the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever. Amen.

HYMN Trisagion

Fr. Ammonius Guirguis & St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Music Ministry

SENDING AND BLESSING

Fr. Zareh Zagarian, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church

Psalm 34:1

I will bless the Lord at all times; His praise shall continually be in my mouth.

Orhnetseets

Orhnetseets zDer hamenayn zham, hamenayn zham orhnootyun
nora ee peran eem.

Օրհնեցից (Psalm 34:1)

Օրհնեցից զՏէր յամենայն ժամ, յամենայն ժամ օրհնութիւն նորա ի բերան իմ:

Fr. Zareh Zagarian: Go now and live as children of light.

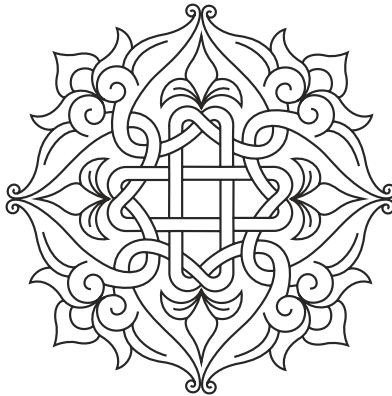
All: For the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

Fr. Zareh Zagarian: Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness.

All: Let us wake from sleep and Christ will shine upon us.

Fr. Zareh Zagarian: Peace be to the whole community, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.Thanks be to God.



RECESSIONAL

Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Music Ministry

WONDROUS MYSTERY - BLESSING, MODE 8

A great and wondrous mystery is revealed today;
Shepherds with angels sing, bringing good news to the world.
A new King is born in the city of Bethlehem;
Praise him all humans for our sake He took flesh.
Though greater than heaven and earth, yet he was wrapped in
swaddling clothes;
Though never separated from the Father, yet he lay in the Holy
Manger.

Խորհուրդ Մեծ - Օրհնութիւն ԴԿ

*Խորհուրդ մեծ եւ սքանչելի որ յայսմ ատուր յայտնեցաւ:
Յովիթն երգեն ընդ հրեշտակս, տան անտիս աշխարհի:
Ծնաւ նոր Արքայ ի Բեթղեհէմ քաղաքի.
Որդիք մարդկան օրհնեցէք, զի վասն մեր մարմնացաւ:
Անբաւելին երկնի եւ երկրի ի խանձարուրս պատեցաւ.
Ոչ մեկնելով ի Յօրէ, ի սուրբ այրին բազմեցաւ:*

Khorhoort medz

*Khorhoort medz yev skanchelee vor haysm avoor haydnetsav,
Hoveevkn yerken unt hreshdags, dan avedeles ashkharhee.
Dznav nor arka ee Betghehem kaghakee,
Vorteeek martgan orhnetsek, zee vasn mer marmnatsav.
Anpaveleen yergnee yev yergree ee khantsaroorus badetsav,
Votch megnelov ee Horeh, Ee soorp ayreen pazmetsav.*

POSTLUDE (pre-recorded)

The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church Music Ministry

PARTICIPANTS

Most Rev. Thomas Cardinal Collins, Archbishop of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

The Rt. Rev. Bishop Andrew Asbil, Anglican Diocese of Toronto

The Rev. Dr. John Joseph Mastandrea, Chairperson of The Greater Toronto Area Christian Council of Churches

Maria Simakova, Canadian Council of Churches

Rev. Dr. Luis Melo - Director, Office for Promoting Christian Unity and Religious Relations with Judaism, Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Rev. Canon Philip Hobson, OGS, Ecumenical Office, Anglican Diocese of Toronto

Vivian Kwok, St Basil's Roman Catholic Church

Pastor Jason Cleugh, Maple Community Church, Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

Lieutenant Cathy Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

Lieutenant Scott Allen, The Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church

Pastor Maureen Walter, St. John's Presbyterian Church

Rev. Archpriest Fr. Zareh Zagarian, Vicar of the Diocese of Canada, Parish Priest of the Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church of Toronto

Fr. Ammonius Guirguis, St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church

Fr. Walid E. Khoury, Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church (Antonine Maronite Order)

Russel Dolan, AV Director of Programming, The Salvation Army
Agincourt Community Church

The Rev. Dr. Peter Holmes, Yorkminster Park Baptist Church

Very Rev. Fr. Vartan Tashjian, St. Mary Armenian Apostolic
Orthodox Church

Very Rev. Fr. Elias Kiredjian, St. Gregory Armenian Catholic Church

Rev. Fr. Hayari Tanashian, Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic
Orthodox Church

Fr. Martin Dicuangco, Pontifical Master of Ceremonies, Roman
Catholic Archdiocese of Toronto

Pastor Jade Pitts – Maple Community Church (Youth Pastor)

Emalee Alguram – Maple Community Church (Student)

Samuel Raspa – Maple Community Church (Student)

Rev. David Wells – General Superintendent, Pentecostal Assemblies
of Canada

Rev. Frank Patrick – Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada

HONOURED GUESTS

The Hon. John McKay, P.C. - M.P. - Scarborough-Guildwood

The Hon. Ms. Mitzie Hunter, M.P.P - Scarborough-Guildwood

The Hon. Aris Babikian, MPP - Scarborough-Agincourt

Councillor Nick Mantas - Scarborough-Agincourt

Mr. Hagop Janbazian - Chair, Armenian Interdenominational
Committee of Toronto

Mr. Mihran Jizmedjian, Armenian Evangelical Church

Mr. Raffi Bedrossian - Chair, Holy Trinity Armenian Church Parish
Council

MUSIC MINISTRIES

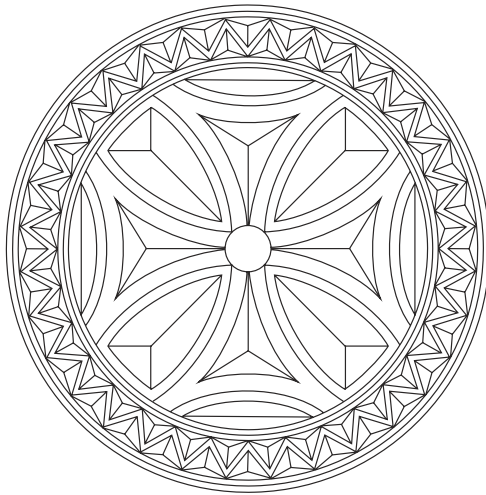
Holy Trinity Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Church Choir

Holy Name Catholic Church African Choir

Salvation Army Agincourt Community Church Choir

St. Mark's Coptic Orthodox Church Choir

Our Lady of Lebanon Maronite Church Choir



DONATIONS

Please drop off your donations in the plate at the door of the church or donate online at:

<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-canadian-council-of-churches/>

Please choose '5. Week of Prayer for Christian Unity' in the CanadaHelps drop-down menu to ensure that your tax-deductible donation supports The Canadian Council of Churches' Week of Prayer for Christian Unity work!

Your donations will support the ministry of the Canadian Council of Churches. Thank you!

The Canadian Council of Churches is a broad and inclusive ecumenical body, representing 26 member churches including Anglican; Eastern and Roman Catholic; Evangelical; Freed Church; Eastern and Oriental Orthodox; and Historic Protestant traditions. Together we respond to Christ's call for unity and peace, seek Christ's tury with an affection for diversity, and act in love through prayer, dialogue and witness to the gospel. The Canadian Council of Churches was founded in 1944.

One of the most significant developments in the 20th century in the experience of Christian churches has been the rise of an ecumenical movement, in which churches seek reconciliation, reunion and restoration of oneness, the hope is to reverse centuries of history marked by separation and withdrawal of churches from one another, a sad history of confronting, competing, and criticizing each other in a bitter rivalry that descended to name-calling, insult and even internecine warfare. The ecumenical movement sought to change the goals and methods for churches to relate with each other, to seek an appropriate form of unity which would enable both an immediate common Christian work and an eschatological hope for the restoration of the broken unity of Christian believers, "that they may all be one." (John 17:21)

