

## Growing in unity: John 17.2-23

*Day 7 of our meditations from the Grandchamp Community in Switzerland. If you enjoyed the beautiful singing from the sisters on Sunday evening, you might like to hear more of their music on this site:*

<https://www.grandchamp.org/en/materiel-pour-la-celebration/>

*You can actually join the nuns for prayers four times a day at the following site ... but it is all in Swiss French:*

<https://www.grandchamp.org/en/life-of-prayer/>

“I am the vine, you are the branches” (John 15:5a)

• **1 Corinthians 1:10-13; 3:21-23**

**Is Christ divided?**

• **John 17:20-23**

**As you and I are one**

### **Meditation**

On the eve of his death, Jesus prayed for the unity of those the Father gave him: “that they may all be one ... so that the world may believe”. Joined to him, as a branch is to the vine, we share the same sap that circulates among us and vitalizes us.

Each tradition seeks to lead us to the heart of our faith: communion with God, through Christ, in the Spirit. The more we live this communion, the more we are connected to other Christians and to all of humanity. Paul warns us against an attitude that had already threatened the unity of the first Christians: absolutizing one’s own tradition to the detriment of the unity of the body of Christ. Differences then become divisive instead of mutually enriching. Paul had a very broad vision: “All are yours, and you are of Christ, and Christ is of God” (1 Cor 3:22-23).

Christ’s will commits us to a path of unity and reconciliation. It also commits us to unite our prayer to his: “that they may all be one. . .so that the world may believe” (Jn 17:21).

“Never resign yourself to the scandal of the separation of Christians who so readily profess love for their neighbour, and yet remain divided. Make the unity of the body of Christ your passionate concern.”

[The Rule of Taizé in French and English (2012) p. 13]

## **Prayer**

Holy Spirit,  
vivifying fire and gentle breath, come and abide in us.  
Renew in us the passion for unity  
so that we may live in awareness of the bond that unites us in you.  
May all who have put on Christ at their Baptism  
unite and bear witness together to the hope that sustains them.

## **Questions**

- Are you resigned to the scandal of separation of Christians?
- What part of your tradition is vital and life giving and what can you learn from what is vital and life giving within other Christian traditions?
- What could be the impact on the world of greater unity between the churches?