



MTAL
Movimiento de Mujeres Anabautistas
HACIENDO TEOLOGÍA DESDE AMÉRICA LATINA

Prayer Liturgy 2022 for Latin America and the world

Topic:

“Disciples in unity, a bond to know the true God”

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you 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.” (John 17:20-21)

To take care of the environment, we recommend printing only the necessary parts.

General objective:

Reflect on the priestly prayer that Jesus made in the Gospel of John 17 and to strengthen the sense of unity and love in our communities, in order to carry out our missionary task in the world.

Specific objectives:

- Express gratitude in prayer to Jesus because his intercession before the Father manifests love and interest to be kept from evil in all circumstances.
- Reflect on the implications of being his disciples and being kept from evil today.

- Assume the commitment of unity that God the Father and Jesus Christ model for us to develop the mission.
- Pray for each other and for the Anabaptist faith communities, with the same sentiment that Jesus prayed to the Father to motivate us to carry out concrete actions.

For those involved in the development of the liturgy, please see the annex with general suggestions

Introduction:

"So that they may be one"...

2022 has surprised us with the emergence of a war that seems not to end soon. In addition, we come out of the COVID-19 confinement, waiting for other realities. However, we realize that the virus has not finished mutating and unfortunately continues to claim lives.

All this reality could lead us to develop pictures of despair, discouragement and loss of faith. And we could be tempted to adapt to anti-values (naturalization of violence, post-truth, religious corruption, exclusion, etc.) that the world promotes within this "new reality", gradually diluting the ethic of the kingdom and loyalty to Jesus Christ; and incidentally, assuming an identity that does not reflect the commitment to follow the Lord Jesus.

The night that Jesus intercedes for his own, he does this aware that he is God made flesh. And since his incarnation, he gave his life to save us and grant us the privilege of being his daughters. He intercedes for us before the Father to be kept from evil, to assume the mission and continue his work of salvation in the world.

FIRST MOMENT:

1. Welcome

2. Prayer of invocation to the Spirit and of preparation for the liturgy.
(We suggest having the Bible and dove symbol visible, or an image of praying hands)

3. Song: "Give us a Heart" (Danos un Corazón)"

<https://youtu.be/ZtN2eaNP4qk>

SECOND MOMENT:

The context:

The gospels tell us how important prayer was for Jesus during his life; he began the day conversing with the Father, he retired to pray at the end of the day, it was an essential motive to teach his disciples to pray; at the time of performing miracles, he was grateful for the presence of the Father and the power of God was invoked on many occasions. He prayed alone (Mr. 1:35), in company (Jn. 11: 41-42), before eating (Lk. 24:30) and after healing (Lk. 15: 12-16).

In chapter 17 of the Gospel of John we find the longest prayer made by Jesus. It is a prayer pronounced in front of his disciples before his eminent departure.

The objective of this priestly prayer is the unity and communion of the disciples with Jesus and with the Father.

Let us keep a few minutes of silence to appreciate and thank our Savior for this intercessory prayer that gives us confidence in the face of the challenges that current times represent for us.

THIRD MOMENT

Symbol: The candle

3.1 By lighting this candle, we do so with the hope that the word will illuminate us with the light of the Spirit of Christ; and that, by carrying out the community reading, our understanding and commitment to the missionary task in the world be renewed.

First Prayerful Reading (John 17:1-5)

Jesus prays for himself at a time when the next encounter with the Father is near.

Jesus raises his eyes to heaven and begins the prayer interceding first for himself and for his unity with the Father. He was sent to give eternal life to those whom God, in his sovereignty, gave to his Son. Jesus knows that eternal life is within everyone's reach; and he is the bridge to restore the relationship between God and humanity.

Jesus decides to focus on the joy that it gave him to have fulfilled the task that the Father entrusted him with his disciples. Joyfully he instructed them in obedience and in the importance of their permanence in the faith, as well as in the fact that, once the time of his work in the world was over, he would go again with the Father to be one with Him "with that glory that I had with you before the world was" (17:4).

➤ Group reflection: 15 minutes

What is the teaching that allows us to reflect on the glory of God, the unity and communion between the Father and Jesus and the Holy Spirit?

➤ We leave a time to pray for ourselves, expressing all those actions with which we have glorified the Father and the Son through our lives and ministries.

➤ Make a list of actions that we can do to promote unity and at the end moment, we place our contributions on a poster with the image of our church represented through different actors (children, youth, men, women, etc.) we place the items around it.

3.2 What is the relevance of the priestly prayer that Jesus made for his disciples, and for which we would later believe in him?

Second Prayerful Reading (John 17:6-19)

Jesus intercedes for his disciples, and entrusts them with their new mission

The gospel shows us Jesus praying for his disciples, grateful to have shared his life and teaching with them. Jesus asks the Father to give them His care and protection; keeping them from evil and keeping them united in love because they have truly believed that he is the Messiah sent by God to the world.

This prayer addressed to the Father, allows us to live consecrated in the midst of difficulties, preserving love and unity, as Jesus and the Father are one; therefore, we follow Jesus' example of praying for each other.

How transcendent it is to be certain that this prayer is a reality in the current times, Jesus intercedes for the present and future ministry of his followers, because many will hear the message and know the love of the Father and will be disciples of Jesus.

Jesus invites us, his disciples, to consecrate ourselves and love one another, contributing to unity. This unity of the followers of Jesus must be similar to the unity between the Father and the Son.

➤ Community reflection

¿ What are the visible elements among us that contribute to the unity for which Jesus prays?

Why is it essential to keep unity in love?

- List of actions that we can do together to promote unity. We can make the contributions in another color and place them on the same poster in which we share our contributions.

Because we wrote our contributions on Post-its; we can stick them around the symbol, one by one, while we sing..

- Song 'La Bendición' (The Blessing):

<https://youtu.be/pVb8rGuIkag>

3.3 How can we reflect this love and unity so that the world believes?

Third Prayerful Reading (John 17:20-26)

Jesus intercedes for those who will come to believe in him through the testimony of his disciples and followers.

Finally, Jesus includes in his intercessory prayer every person who will believe in him because of the testimony and faithfulness of his disciples. Jesus prays not for the world, but for those who are to live in the world.

Unity is the first wish of Jesus towards his disciples and later believers. Unity as a result of love and expressed in the permanence of Jesus in our lives (v. 26). He asks that his children work to build that unity and that will be a way in which they will be identified in the world. It is we, these

generations of believers loyal to Jesus, who have the responsibility to strive to achieve unity and fulfill the mission entrusted by the Father

We are happy once again to recognize that the mission in the world is supported by this intercession that Jesus makes for the present and future ministry of his followers; because many will listen to the message and will know the love of the Father and will be disciples of Jesus. The work of Jesus has been completed. We are invited to be his disciples by loving one another, contributing to unity.

- Community reflection

Can we live the reality of this prayer? How?

What meaning do we give nowadays to the priestly prayer of Jesus?

What are the key values by which we can make Jesus known?

- List of actions that reflect the glory of the Father to the world and the permanence in Jesus. It is suggested that these contributions go with another color and be placed on the poster that represents our faith communities.

IV. PLENARY:

Presentation of each group. A brief summary is made with the contributions made by each of the groups during the reflection time

V. CANTO: 'La Unidad' (The Unity)

VI. CLOSING:

Standing in a circle around the table of symbols and the poster, we ask two sisters to pray for *renewal and unity to bear witness in the midst of adversity in the world.*

In pairs, we say goodbye expressing a commitment to keep unity in love, tying the ribbon to the sister's wrist and receiving ours from her.

We celebrate the community reflection on the Word and prayer.

We conclude with a time of gratitude and intercession for the unity of the Anabaptist churches in Latin America and the world.

**The liturgy is prepared by the Prayer and Action Commission Team
From the Anabaptist Women's Movement doing theology in Latin
America**

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ANNEXES:

**General Suggestions for the Facilitation Team Preparing the
Liturgy**

- Review of proposal for liturgy; have it ready in PowerPoint
- Promotional flyer and welcome sign
- Prior to the event, involve a team of volunteers who can do the readings and, you choose or suggest some questions for community reflection.
- Have ready:
A candle for the third moment.

That each sister wears a colored ribbon or ribbon with a written word that illustrates the concept of unity (love, patience, trust, etc.) This will be tied around the wrist of another sister of her choice, and at closing time.

A poster with a world in the background, a church and various actors, children, women, the elderly, etc.

Two or three illustrations of Jesus praying to illustrate the table of interest -online you can choose to print some

It is suggested to have the reading in PowerPoint if possible or to previously choose three people to do it.

Important

For community reflection and group work, choose people in advance who may be ready to make some general notes and who later can help in praying for each other.

Pre-prepare the table of interest with the suggested elements or with what is available and it's consistent with the theme

If you wish, you can play instrumental music in the background while the readings and moments of reflection and/or prayer are happening.

SUGGESTIONS TO WORK IN GROUPS:

- Form three groups of no more than 10 participants in each of the groups
- A moderator and a speaker that speaks in the plenary will be needed.
- The ideal time for group work will be no more than 15 minutes
- In the plenary, the speakers by groups will have 3 minutes

SUGGESTED SONGS

'DANOS UN CORAZÓN' (*Give Us A Heart*)

<https://youtu.be/ZtN2eaNP4gk>

//DANOS UN CORAZÓN, GRANDE PARA AMAR
// Give us a heart, big to love

DANOS UN CORAZÓN, FUERTE PARA LUCHAR//
Give us a strong heart to fight//

MUJERES NUEVAS CREADORAS DE LA HISTORIA,
Women new creators of history,

CONSTRUCTORAS DE NUEVA HUMANIDAD.
Builders of new humanity.

MUJERES NUEVAS QUE VIVEN LA EXISTENCIA,
New women that live the existence,

COMO RIESGO DE UN LARGO CAMINAR.
As risk of a long walk.

//DANOS UN CORAZÓN, GRANDE PARA AMAR
// Give us a heart, big to love

DANOS UN CORAZÓN, FUERTE PARA LUCHAR//
Give us a strong heart to fight//

MUJERES NUEVAS LUCHANDO EN ESPERANZA,
New women fighting in hope,

CAMINANTES SEDIENTAS DE VERDAD.
Walkers, thirsty for truth.

MUJERES NUEVAS, SIN FRENOS NI CADENAS,
New women, without brakes or chains,

MUJERES LIBRES QUE EXIGEN LIBERTAD.
Free women demanding freedom.

//DANOS UN CORAZÓN, GRANDE PARA AMAR
// Give us a heart, big to love

DANOS UN CORAZÓN, FUERTE PARA LUCHAR//
Give us a strong heart to fight//

MUJERES NUEVAS AMANDO SIN FRONTERAS,
New women loving without borders,

POR ENCIMA DE RAZAS Y LUGAR.
Above race and place.

MUJERES NUEVAS AL LADO DE LOS POBRES,
New women at the side of the poor,

COMPARTIENDO CON ELLOS TECHO Y PAN.
Sharing with them roof and bread.

//DANOS UN CORAZÓN, GRANDE PARA AMAR
//Give us a heart, big to love

DANOS UN CORAZÓN, FUERTE PARA LUCHAR//
Give us a strong heart to fight//

'LA BENDICIÓN' (The Blessing)
<https://youtu.be/pVb8rGuIkaq>

LA UNIDAD (The Unity)

//YO SÉ QUE FUÉ PAGADO UN ALTO PRECIO,
//I know that a high price was paid,

PARA QUE SEAMOS UNO TÚ Y YO.
So that we be one, you and me.

CUANDO JESÚS DERRAMABA SU VIDA,
When Jesus poured out his life from him,

ÉL PENSABA EN TI, ÉL PENSABA EN MÍ,
He thought of you, he thought of me,

EN NUESTRA UNIDAD//
in our unity//

NOS VEÍA REDIMIDOS POR SU SANGRE,
He saw us redeemed by his blood,

COMBATIENDO LA BATALLA DE LA FE,
Fighting the battle of faith,

CODO A CODO TRABAJANDO,
Side by side working,

SU IGLESIA EDIFICANDO
His church building

Y ROMPIENDO LAS CADENAS POR AMOR.
And breaking the chains for love.

//Y MEDIANTE EL ESPÍRITU SANTO
//And through the Holy Spirit

PROCLAMAMOS HOY AQUÍ

We proclaim here today

QUE PAGAREMOS EL PRECIO DE SER
That we will pay the price of being

TODOS, UN CORAZÓN EN JESÚS
All, one heart in Jesus

Y SI LAS TINIEBLAS MILITAN
And if the darkness are militant

Y NOS QUIEREN SEPARAR
And they want to separate us

PUESTOS LOS OJOS EN CRISTO
We put our eyes on Christ

MARCHAMOS EN...UNIDAD//
We march in...unity//

'MIL GRACIAS' (Thousand Thank-You's)
<https://youtu.be/b7KjTT4vNck>

//MIL GRACIAS YO TE DOY SEÑOR
//A thousand thank yous I give you, Lord

MIL GRACIAS, DE MI CORAZÓN
Thank you from my heart

MIL GRACIAS, PORQUE HAS ENVIADO A JESÚS POR MÍ//
Thank you because you have sent Jesus for me//

//Y HOY EL DÉBIL DIGA, FUERTE SOY
//And today the weak say, I am strong

EL POBRE DIGA, RICO SOY
The poor say, I am rich

POR LO QUE DIOS HA HECHO POR TI Y EN MÍ//
For what God has done for you and in me//

(FINAL) MIL GRACIAS
(Final) Thank You