

## Week of Prayer for Christian Unity; 18-25 January 2022

“We Saw His Star in the East...”



### Prayers of Intercession

**Leader** With faith and confidence, we come in prayer, before God, who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit:

**Reader** 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 their diversity of worship and tradition: that the Lord will preserve these treasures, particularly in areas of the world where the presence and survival of the Church is threatened by violence and oppression. *We pray to the Lord ...*

#### **Congregation O, Lord, hear our prayer**

**Reader** The early years of Our Lord’s life were marked by violence and massacres. We pray for children living in places in the world where violence continues and where its results are tangible: that the Lord will strengthen the bonds of unity and mutual love among our churches and help us to cooperate and witness to His 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. *We pray to the Lord ...*

#### **Congregation O, Lord, hear our prayer**

**Reader** 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: that the Lord will equip us to show hospitality to those driven from their homes, and will grant us the spirit of welcome to those looking for a safe haven. *We pray to the Lord ...*

#### **Congregation O, Lord, hear our prayer**

**Reader** 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 guidance in our efforts to seek harmony and dialogue with other religions: that the Lord will give us humility and patience to walk with others with respect on their journey. *We pray to the Lord ...*

#### **Congregation O, Lord, hear our prayer**

**Reader** The Magi returned to their home by a different way.  
We pray for our churches in this changing world: that the Lord will help us to find new and creative ways to follow Him and to witness to Jesus Christ so that the world may believe. *We pray to the Lord ...*

#### **Congregation O, Lord, hear our prayer**

**Reader** When the Magi saw the holy child, they rejoiced with great joy.  
We pray to our Heavenly Father to fix our eyes on Jesus Christ so we do not lose our way: that we be united in the Lord Jesus, who is the way, the truth, and the life, and who has taught us to pray. *We pray to the Lord ...*

#### **Congregation O, Lord, hear our prayer [or: “Our Father ...”]**