

Day 1

Reconciliation: Throwing the Cargo Overboard

Scripture

- **Acts 27: 18-19, 21**, They began to throw the cargo overboard.

“We were being pounded by the storm so violently that on the next day they began to throw the cargo overboard and on the third day with their own hands they threw the ship’s tackle overboard... Since they had been without food for a long time, Paul then stood up among them and said, ‘Men, you should have listened to me and not have set sail from Crete and thereby avoided this damage and loss’.”

- **Psalm 85**, You, Lord, sowed favor to your land.
- **Luke 18: 9-14**, All those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

Meditation

As Christians from different Churches and Traditions, we have unfortunately, over the centuries, accumulated plenty of baggage consisting of mutual distrust, bitterness and suspicion. We thank the Lord for the birth and the growth of the ecumenical movement over the past century. Our encounter with Christians from other traditions and our common prayer for Christian Unity encourage us to seek mutual forgiveness, reconciliation and acceptance. We must not allow the baggage of our past to hinder us from drawing closer to one another. It is the Lord’s will that we let go, in order to let God!

Prayer

Forgiving God, set us free from the painful memories of the past, that wound our shared Christian life. Lead us to reconciliation so that, through the Holy Spirit we may overcome hatred with love, anger with gentleness, and suspicion with trust. We ask this in the name of your beloved Son, our brother Jesus. Amen.

Prayer Intention: For all Christian Churches and Faith Communities, that they may continue to show one another extraordinary kindness in guiding them towards reconciliation and unity in Christ... We pray to the Lord.

Questions:

- What are the important things we need to carry with us as we journey together towards unity?
- What things might we need to let go of as we journey together towards unity? What challenges does that bring?
- What are our shared hopes for our community? What might our common prayers for our community be?

Action: Seek reconciliation for a broken relationship in your life.