

Day 3

Hope: Paul's message

Scripture

- **Acts 27.22, 34**, I urge you now to keep up your courage.

“I urge you now to keep up your courage, for there will be no loss of life among you, but only of the ship... none of you will lose a hair from your heads....”

- **Psalm 27**, The Lord is my light and my salvation, whom should I fear.
- **Mathew 11:28-30**, My yoke is easy and my burden light.

Meditation

As Christians belonging to churches and traditions that are not fully reconciled to one another, we are often discouraged by the lack of progress towards visible unity. Indeed, some have given up all hope and see this unity as an unattainable ideal. Others don't even see unity as a necessary part of their Christian faith. As we pray for this gift of visible unity, let us do so with steadfast faith, enduring patience and expectant hope, trusting in God's loving providence. Unity is the Lord's prayer for the Church and he is accompanying us on this journey. We will not be lost.

Prayer

God of mercy, lost and disheartened, we turn to you. Instill in us your gift of hope. May our churches hope and strive for the unity for which your Son prayed on the eve of his passion. We ask this through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

Prayer Intention: For church leaders everywhere during this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, that they may work together and promote unity among Christians ... We pray to the Lord.

Questions:

- What are the practices that you can use to keep up your courage?
- What are your hopes and fears for the churches in your area?
- How might you keep up your courage together to chart a course into the future?

Action: Reflecting on your own journey, how might you assist others on journeying today?