

*Nurturing Faith...  
Every Day in Every Way*



May 8, 2016

Seventh Sunday of Easter

**Acts 16:16-34**

**Psalm 97**

**Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20-21**

**John 17:20-26**



**We Are One.** Object: A jigsaw puzzle

Do you enjoy working jigsaw puzzles? Jigsaw puzzles can be a lot of fun. (Open the box to reveal the pieces of the puzzle.) Wow! Look at all the pieces of this puzzle. The pieces of this puzzle are in many different sizes, shapes, colors. If you look at one piece of this puzzle, you don't get very much of the picture, do you? No, the pieces are not very important by themselves, but when they are all joined together and become one, they show the total picture.

This jigsaw puzzle can teach us an important lesson about the church. The church is made up of many individual members. Like the pieces of this puzzle, the members of a church come in different sizes, shapes, and colors. Jesus himself prayed that the church would be one so that the world would see God's love in us. You and I are part of the picture. Jesus wants us to love one another, help one another, and serve one another. When we do that, we become one, just as Jesus prayed we would be, and when we are one, the world can see God's love in us.

Unfortunately, just as it is sometimes difficult to put all of the pieces of a jigsaw puzzle together, the individual members of the church sometimes have a hard time being one with each other. We are like the individual pieces of the puzzle. The world cannot see God's love in us. They don't get the whole picture.

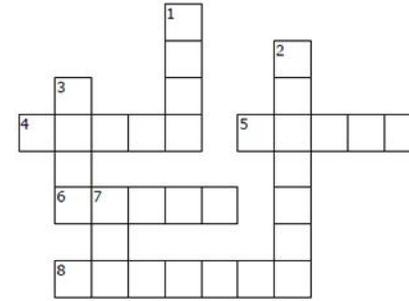
Remember that Jesus prayed that we would be one. When we are one, bound together by Christ's love, the world will see God's love through us.

Dear Father, help us to be one so that the world may see your love in us. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

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**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia. I will not leave you orphaned, says the Lord. I am coming to you. Alleluia (John 14:18)

*Crossword Puzzle*



**ACROSS**

- 4. Joined together as a group; the state of being in agreement
- 5. Great admiration, honor and praise
- 6. The earth and its inhabitants
- 8. A written or spoken statement

**DOWN**

- 1. To speak to God
- 2. To think that something is true or correct
- 3. To be acquainted with someone or something
- 7. A single thing; to be undivided

pray	message	glory	know
believe	world	unity	one

**UNITY WORLD:** Print a picture of a world globe for each child. Give each child a wide ribbon or a strip of paper. Write UNITY - SHOW GOD'S LOVE TO THE WORLD and tape it onto the world globe.

**UNITY BRACELET:** Provide various sizes and colors of beads for the child to string together to make a bracelet. Discuss that people come in many different sizes and colors, but they are ONE in God's sight!





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.  
John 17:20-21 (NIV)