

Ecumenical Service

THE Reverend J. S. Miller, Minister of Mortlach Parish reports on an Ecumenical Service which took place in his church in January, 1970 during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Presbyterians, Episcopalians and Roman Catholics shared in the service for which a full liturgical order was devised for the occasion. We note one or two points.

Scripture Sentences :

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity !
There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all.

Acclamation said between the Epistle (I Cor. 1, 10-13) and the Gospel (St. John 17, 20-26)

Let us stand and say the acclamation,

Alleluia, Alleluia !

May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,

As you are in me and I am in you.

So that the world may believe it was you who sent me,

Says the Lord.

Alleluia !

The intercessions following the Creed included bidding prayers for each communion and congregation in turn, mention being made of general and local officials in each case on the following pattern :

Let us pray for the communions and congregations to which we belong.
Let us pray for the Church of Scotland, for the Presbytery of N and for A,
Minister at X and Y, and B, Associate Minister at X and Y,

— in each case naming officials and ministers and concluding with the words

and those who worship and serve the Lord with them, that they may grow in the knowledge and love of Christ and in obedience to Him.

Silence followed and thereafter

V/ Lord, hear our prayer

R/ And let our cry come to thee.

Further prayers on the same pattern for unity of the church in the world and in Scotland led to the conclusion with the Prayer of St. John Chrysostom and then the Lord's Prayer.

(We are grateful for details of this Service and are sure that Mr Miller will be glad to share his experiences with any members planning similar services. We shall also be glad to have details from members of special services devised for such occasions as Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Christmas Eve or other important days in the church calendar. Ed.)