

2019-06-02 ... 10am Worship Together ... Revd Canon Judy Hunt
John 17: 20 – 26
Being “One”

Prayer

I wonder what illustration would come to your mind when thinking about people working together?

Have a look on the pew sheet ...

Boat Race



Surgical team



Orchestra



Relay Team



What's your favourite example – and why ... would you suggest a different one?

Maybe it would be the Boat race – watching either boat and the co-ordinated rhythm and effort of all the rowers – and the cox's role too ...

Maybe it would be a Surgical team in an operating theatre for a complex procedure ... the team absolutely focused and working together – but with very different roles ... and a lead surgeon ...

Maybe it would be an orchestra performing a great symphony – such different personalities, such different instruments – blending together to create wonderful music ...

Maybe it would be a relay team – dependent on one another for a win ... or even just for getting round successfully!

PTO

Maybe it be the work needed on a building site to create a new home or a great public building .. so many different skills and with a number of leaders: architect, engineer, foreman

Or perhaps there's another ...

Have a look, have a chat – which are you drawn to as an illustration of great team work – and why?

Boat Race



Surgical team



Orchestra



Relay Team



Building site



Your own example



Any of those – and many more – could help us to reflect on Jesus' words about being or becoming 'one' ... but we'd need to change the lead or co-ordinating role in each to being the work of Jesus. **(see next page)**

Christian Unity is not just about getting on without arguing with each other ... it's about unity of purpose, it's about sharing the same goals as Jesus and subordinating our own preferences and egos to his leadership.

Some of you will know the things we can learn from a flock of geese, the flock acts as one:

1. Those in front rotate their leadership. When one lead goose gets tired, it changes places with one in the wing of the V-formation and another flies point.
2. By flying as they do, the members of the flock create an upward air current for one another. Each flap of the wings literally creates an uplift for the bird immediately following. One author states that by flying in a V-formation, the whole flock gets 71 percent greater flying range than if each goose flew on its own.
3. When one goose gets sick or wounded, two fall out of formation with it and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with the struggler until it's able to fly again.
4. The geese in the rear of the formation are the ones who do the honking. I suppose it's their way of announcing that they're following and that all is well. The repeated honks appear to encourage those in front to stay at it.

As I think about all this, one lesson stands out above all others: it is the natural instinct of geese to work together. Whether it's rotating, flapping, helping, or simply honking, the flock is in it together...which enables them to accomplish what they set out to do.

So maybe – as we respond to this desire of Jesus for us to be 'one' – we need to become more 'goose-like'. If each of us has these attitudes – Jesus will draw us into unity – almost without us noticing!