

Celebrating 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Canada

Every year, Christians around the world are invited to celebrate a Week of Prayer for the unity of all Christians, to reflect on scripture together, to participate in jointly-organized ecumenical services, and to share fellowship.

The international resources for 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by the **Monastic Community of Grandchamp in Switzerland**, a group of religious sisters from different church traditions brought together by a common vocation of prayer, community life and hospitality and by their commitment to Christian unity.

The 2021 theme – *Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit (John 15:5-9)* – calls us to pray and to work for reconciliation and unity in the church, with our human family, and with all of creation. Drawing on the Gospel image of vine and branches, it invites us to nourish unity with God and with one another through contemplative silence, prayer, and common action. Grafted into Christ the vine as many diverse branches, may we bear rich fruit and create new ways of living, with respect for and communion with all of creation.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity (WPCU) was first proposed in 1908 as an observance within the Roman Catholic Church by Fr Paul Wattson, founder of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement in Graymoor, New York. Since the founding of the World Council of Churches in 1948, many other Christian denominations around the world have come to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

In Canada, The Canadian Council of Churches and its ecumenical partners, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, work for 'unity in diversity' by supporting WPCU celebrations across Canada. For over 40 years, our Canadian ecumenical writing team has adapted WPCU materials developed by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity for the Canadian context. We create additional English and French resources for the use of Canadian communities and share them, as well as information about WPCU celebrations across Canada, on weekofprayer.ca / semainedepriere.ca, and via social media: #WPCU2021 / #SPUC2021

The Canadian Council of Churches and its ecumenical partners, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, invite you to support and participate in our work. You can learn more at councilofchurches.ca, oikoumene.ca or pccumenism.ca.

WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY 2021



"Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" (Jn 15:5-9)

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