

## Celebrating 2020 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 the 2020 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by colleagues in Malta. The 2020 theme, *“They showed us unusual kindness”* (Acts 28:2), remembers the historic shipwreck of Paul on the island of Malta and calls us to a greater generosity to those in need. As an island nation, boats are an important part of Maltese life. The Scripture reading in this service describes a perilous sea voyage by the Apostle Paul. A boat is also symbolic of the sometimes tempestuous journey Christians make together towards unity.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 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 the celebrations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity across Canada. For over 40 years, our Canadian ecumenical writing team has adapted the Week of Prayer materials developed by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity for the Canadian context. We also create additional English and French resources for the use of Canadian communities and share them, as well as information about the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity celebrations across Canada, on [weekofprayer.ca](http://weekofprayer.ca) / [semainedepriere.ca](http://semainedepriere.ca), and via social media. #WeekofPrayer #SemainedePrière #WPCU2020

**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](http://councilofchurches.ca), [oikoumene.ca](http://oikoumene.ca) or [pcecumenism.ca](http://pcecumenism.ca).**

# WEEK of PRAYER for CHRISTIAN UNITY 2020



*“They showed us unusual kindness.”* (Acts 28:2)

[weekofprayer.ca](http://weekofprayer.ca)