**2027 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**

# "Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom." *(Luke 12:32)*

## INTRODUCTORY LETTER

The 2027 international and Canadian WPCU resources are available to download at:
www.weekofprayer.ca (English)
www.semainedepriere.ca (French)

Greetings, and welcome to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2027! We are grateful to receive resources from the Irish Council of Churches and the Council for Ecumenism and Dialogue of the Irish Catholic Bishops' Conference for our WPCU celebrations. The 2027 theme of following Jesus as the Good Shepherd is an exemplary one for us to embrace, as his flock.

The Canadian WPCU Writing and Animation Team has taken these ecumenical worship materials and adapted them to our context. I would like to thank our team for annotating and adapting the worship service, Bible study, children's activities, and all of our materials for Canadian church communities. We also have alternative services tips based off of the original Irish liturgy (including an abbreviated chapel service), and a guide for planning your own WPCU ecumenical services in your own area.

It was a pleasure and honour to work with the 2027 materials as a committee. We spent much of our time reflecting on how the WPCU has changed over the years. Within a decade we have moved from almost exclusively paper-based packages mailed to churches to online offerings and live-streaming along with in-person services. We have reached more churches than ever and have seen faith communities take the same leaps of faith that our Irish committee has encouraged us to do, including working with more ecumenical partners such as the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism, and the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada. None of that would be possible without your enthusiasm and support. Hope over fear means open dialogue and collaboration instead of isolationism. Together we can see our Shepherd guiding us towards love for all.

While the details may change, the core of WPCU stays the same. May we greet our Christian neighbours with love and hope, so that we can always see God's love in action.

*Le gach dea-ghuí!* (With every good wish!)

Rev. Roberta Howey
Chair of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Writing and Animation Team
The Canadian Council of Churches