

## Celebrating 2017 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 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 (CCC) works for 'unity in diversity' by supporting the celebrations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity across Canada with its ecumenical partners, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism. For over 40 years, the CCC's Commission on Faith and Witness has assembled an ecumenical writing team to adapt Week of Prayer materials developed by the World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) 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.

This year's WCC/PCPCU resources for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity have been prepared by an ecumenical team in Germany, whose members represent various churches and religious organizations. They have chosen as their theme "Reconciliation – The Love of Christ Compels Us," inspired by 2 Corinthians 5:14-20. They invite Christians around the world to celebrate God's reconciling grace, call us to recognize the pain of the deep divisions which afflict the Church, and urge us to become ambassadors of Christ's message of reconciliation.

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

# WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2017

*Reconciliation – The love of Christ compels us*  
(cf. 2 Corinthians 5:14-20)

