

COMMUNIQUÉ

Toronto, Ontario (23 June 2017) - Greetings in the Name and Peace of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ!

I write to invite you to join Christians around the world during **January 18-25, 2018, Week of Prayer for Christian Unity**, and to let you know how you can access the worship and study materials for this ecumenical celebration.

What is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?

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. This special celebration reminds us of Christ's prayer for his disciples: that they may be one, so that the world may believe (cf. John 17:21).

The yearly Week of Prayer for Christian Unity materials are jointly produced by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. For over 40 years, the Canadian Council of Churches has assembled an ecumenical writing team to adapt these international materials for the Canadian context, and to create additional resources for the use of Canadian communities.

2018 Week of Prayer: Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power (Ex 15:6)

This year, we rejoice in the opportunity to pray with the Christians of the Caribbean region, whose ecumenical team has prepared 2018 international Week of Prayer resources. The theme – **“Your Right Hand, O Lord, Glorious in Power” (Ex 15:6)** – is inspired by the Exodus narrative of crossing the Red Sea and the song of Miriam and Moses (cf. Exodus 15:1-21).

The 2018 theme reflects the Caribbean experience of **slavery, colonialism, and liberation**. The ecumenical worship service and 8 Days of Prayer cycle include themes of human dignity, economic justice and the modern-day slavery of human trafficking, among others. The Caribbean authors link the theme of God's deliverance from oppression, and the call and commitment of Christians to work for liberation and justice, with the overarching WPCU focus on the common prayer and work for the unity of all Christians.

How can your communities join this ecumenical celebration?

I ask that you encourage your priests and pastors to celebrate the Week of Prayer in their communities. The format for this celebration can be very flexible. Traditionally, the Week of Prayer services are held January 18-25. However, you may choose to celebrate at another time, or your communities can use 2018 Week of Prayer

materials throughout the year as a special feature of your liturgical cycle, in Bible studies, or in small groups. For suggestions on how to organize an ecumenical Week of Prayer event in a local community, visit our website, weekofprayer.ca / semainedepriere.ca.

How to obtain 2018 Week of Prayer resources

2018 Week of Prayer resources (in English and French) will be available for download on weekofprayer.ca / semainedepriere.ca on September 1, 2017.

You may also purchase print resources by contacting Maria Simakova, Coordinator, Commission on Faith and Witness: simakova@councilofchurches.ca; 416-972-9494 x 23.

With blessings in Christ,



The Rev. Dr. Karen Hamilton
General Secretary
The Canadian Council of Churches