



WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2016

Called to proclaim the mighty acts of God

Thank you for your interest in these resources for the 2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. This year we rejoice in the opportunity to pray with the Christians of Latvia.

For 70 years, the Canadian Council of Churches (CCC) has been witnessing to God's unity in diversity in Canada. Today, with 25 member denominations representing over 85% of Christians in Canada, the CCC is the most inclusive church council in the world.

For over 40 of those years, the Commission on Faith and Witness of the CCC has assembled an ecumenical writing team to take the prayers developed by the World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, adapt them for the Canadian context, create additional resources, and support celebrations of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity across Canada. We are delighted to do this work in cooperation with our ecumenical partners, the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism and the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism.

For 2016, we have created a flexible set of printed resources which can be ordered separately as needed. You can also download these materials and find additional information and resources on our website, [weekofprayer.ca / semainedepriere.ca](http://weekofprayer.ca/semainedepriere.ca).

The materials you have received are a *starter kit*, which includes:

- A poster, with a blank space for the details of your celebration
- A bulletin cover
- A photocopiable, formatted text of the prayer service
- 8 Days of Prayer biblical reflections booklet (which you can share with the participants in your Week of Prayer celebration, or use for bible study and private devotion)
- A bookmark
- A comments / feedback form
- "Organizing the Service and Planning for Worship" booklet, which includes:
 - ✓ "What is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity?" page, which you can photocopy and use for promoting your celebration (along with the poster)
 - ✓ An introduction to this year's theme
 - ✓ Information on the ecumenical background and situation in Latvia
 - ✓ Tips for organizing a Week of Prayer service and planning for worship
 - ✓ A preaching resource based on this year's text
 - ✓ Hymn suggestions
- An order form (so you can order more of the above, if you wish)

The artwork (displayed on the poster, the bulletin cover, and the bookmark) was designed by Sebastiano Stabile, as part of a competition held by the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism. Sebastiano submitted the following description of his work:

The four hands coming together from four directions are a sign of unity despite sometimes opposing differences. The circle reinforces the idea of unity. The act of Christians coming together is a sign of the times, evidence of Christ in action in the World. Therefore we see the cross between the hands. The different coloured hands, without gender, remind us that in Christ there is neither slave nor free, neither man nor woman, for we are all in Jesus Christ (Gal. 3:28).

We are very interested in receiving your feedback on the format as well as on the materials in general, and ask that you take the time to complete the comments form (included in this kit or available online at weekofprayer.ca / semainedepriere.ca) after this year's Week of Prayer is over. You are most welcome to contact us at any time with your comments or questions.

In addition, we are creating an online database which will include all information we are able to collect about local services marking the 2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in Canada. If you would like to share details of your local celebration so we can help you promote it, please fill out a contact form on our website, weekofprayer.ca / semainedepriere.ca.

We trust that this resource will be of use to you as you join millions of other Christians around the world in praying for the unity of Christ's Church.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Susan Climo

Chair of the CCC Week of Prayer Writing Team

Members of the CCC 2016 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Writing Team

Rev. Andrea Budgey, Anglican Church of Canada

Rev. Susan Climo, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

Rev. Dr. Nancy Hardy, United Church of Canada

Rev. Damian MacPherson, S.A., Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops

Rev. Geoffrey Ready, Orthodox Church in America

Ann Stainton, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Janiece Van Oosterom, Christian Reformed Church – North America

Maria Simakova, Coordinator, Commission on Faith and Witness (CCC)