



Plan now to celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity coming in January

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity is an international Christian ecumenical observance kept annually around Pentecost in the Southern Hemisphere and between January 18-25 in the Northern Hemisphere.

Each year ecumenical partners in a different region are asked to prepare the materials. With roots going back over 100 years, the dedicated octave of prayers has been jointly commissioned and prepared since 1966, after the Second Vatican Council, by the Roman Catholic Church and the WCC.

Communities across Indiana are invited to observe the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity with an ecumenical service of several Christian congregations coming together in a special worship service.

For 2024 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 resources, visit:

www.oikoumene.org/sites/default/files/2023-06/WPCU%202024%20ENG.pdf

Here is a story about Christian Unity that can be used in the future.



Photo: Paul Jeffrey/Life on Earth pictures

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024: “You shall love the Lord your God ...and your neighbour as yourself...”

An ecumenical team from Burkina Faso facilitated by the local Chemin Neuf Community has been the convener for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 2024 drafting group. The World Council of Churches (WCC) and the Vatican have now published the material in several languages.

The reflections explore how we find our common identity in the experience of God’s love. The specific context of Burkina Faso reflects the need to place love at the center of the quest for peace and reconciliation.

The introduction to the materials notes that this quest has often been undermined by the loss of values and of a shared sense of humanity and by a diminished concern for the common good, probity, integrity, and patriotism. “The search for reconciliation has also been weakened by spiritual impoverishment and by the pursuit of easy gains,” reads the introduction. “Faced with these realities, the imperative to witness to the love of God is all the more pressing.”

Christians from Burkina Faso developed the local draft for the resources. As is the tradition, it was finalized by an international group representing the Roman Catholic Church’s Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity and the WCC’s Faith and Order Commission. The resources include an ecumenical opening prayer service, biblical reflections and prayers for eight days, and other elements of worship. The introduction also notes that Christian communities in Burkina Faso try to live the call to love through mutual hospitality.

“We have been invited to live the divine call to love God and our neighbor as ourselves,” reads one prayer of intercession. “As we renew our commitment to this call, may this love strengthen our unity as Christians.”

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