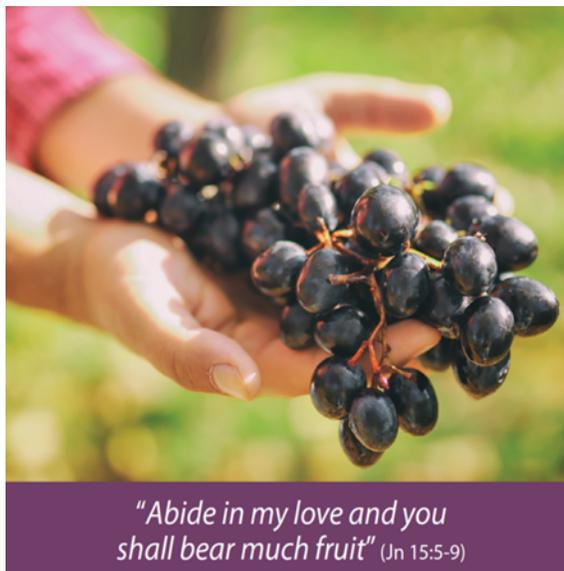


Week of Prayer for Christian Unity January 18 – 25, 2021

Every year, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Christian communities and churches join together to pray for the visible unity of the Church, according to the will of Christ who prayed on the eve of his suffering and death “that they may all be one... so that the world may believe” (John 17:21). Prayer for Christian unity is a sharing in the prayer of Jesus who desires his disciples to share the Good News of God’s love in every time and place.

Our customary way of marking the Week of Prayer here in Winnipeg with a City-Wide Ecumenical Service and other services throughout the week has been curtailed this year due to the current COVID-19 pandemic. Nevertheless, we are still invited to practice a heightened “spiritual ecumenism” during this annual weeklong observance, even if the form of our public and private praying for unity must be adapted to the circumstances in which we find ourselves.



As we pray for the unity of Christians this year, we celebrate the theme given to us from the ecumenical monastic community of Grandchamp in Switzerland, ***"Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit"*** (cf. John 15:1-17). The very voice of Jesus Christ reminds us that he is the vine and we are the branches. The sap that nourishes a grapevine can be seen as a metaphor of the Holy Spirit nourishing the whole vine of the one Church, no matter what our branch. Each branch can produce abundant good fruit to nourish in turn the whole world. But Christ himself is the vine who holds us all together.

After all the challenges and anguish of 2020, let us join together spiritually and look to the future with faith and hope. **Whether privately, online virtually, or in our domestic churches with the members of our families, let us find appropriate ways to participate in this year’s Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.**

Let us all abide in Christ’s love to bear the good fruit that can make the year 2021 a blessing for all. May our prayers bring us into closer communion with all our brothers and sisters in Christ and in greater solidarity with the whole of creation.

Winnipeg Livestream Celebration for the Week of Prayer 2021

uploaded from Saint John XXIII Church, Winnipeg, MB

Monday, January 18, 2021 at 7:30 p.m. CST

Livestreaming and music to begin at approximately 7:20 p.m.

For more information and for the YouTube livestream link go to www.johnxxiii.ca

Join us for the prayer celebration in real time or access it anytime thereafter on our YouTube Channel

WPCU BIBLE STUDY 2021: A daily Bible study on the theme of the 2021 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held Monday, January 18 to Monday, January 25 from 12:15 - 1:00 pm CST (except Sunday, January 24 at 1:00 pm CST). Register at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/wpcu-bible-study-2021-tickets-135920448721> Hosted by the Prairie Centre for Ecumenism and the Regina Council of Churches, this study is free and open to all. A different Christian leader will guide us each day as we explore the theme "Abide in my love and you shall bear much fruit" (John 15:5-9).

WPCU ONLINE ECUMENICAL SERVICE: You might also want to register for the WPCU Online Ecumenical Service planned by the Canadian Centre for Ecumenism (Montréal) on Sunday, January 24 at 3:00 pm (EST). The service is bilingual. Register to receive the Zoom or YouTube links at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdvWflnQX5_1870OoiXcWKWgmDkwGJXY5mYZHSNJXq9Njp-GA/viewform

FURTHER WEEK OF PRAYER RESOURCES available online at www.weekofprayer.ca