**Week of prayer for Christian Unity 2018**

At least once a year, Christians are reminded of Jesus’ prayer for his disciples that “they may be one so that the world may believe” (see John 17.21). Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. Congregations and parishes all over the world exchange preachers or arrange special ecumenical celebrations and prayer services. The event that touches off this special experience is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

Traditionally the week of prayer is celebrated between 18-25 January, between the feasts of St Peter and St Paul. In the southern hemisphere, where January is a vacation time, churches often find other days to celebrate it, for example around Pentecost, which is also a symbolic date for unity.

In order to prepare for the annual celebration, ecumenical partners in a particular region are invited to produce a basic liturgical text on a biblical theme. Then an international editorial team of WCC and Roman Catholic representatives refines this text to ensure that it can be prayed throughout the world, and to link it with the search for the visible unity of the church.

The [**text**](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/resources/documents/wcc-commissions/faith-and-order-commission/xi-week-of-prayer-for-christian-unity) is jointly published by the [**Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity**](http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/index.htm) and the WCC, through the **WCC's** [**Commission on Faith and Order**](https://www.oikoumene.org/en/what-we-do/faith-and-order), which also accompanies the entire production process of the text. The final material is sent to WCC member churches and Roman Catholic episcopal conferences, and they are invited to translate the text and contextualize or adapt it for their own use.

**Theme for 2018:
"Your right hand, O Lord, glorious in power"**

**Week of Prayer 2018 resources edited in the Caribbean**

September 8, 2016 By [Editor](https://ctbi.org.uk/author/web-editor/)

Caribbean Christians from the membership of the Caribbean Conference of Churches presented the draft of prayers for the 2018 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in a meeting with an international editorial Committee at Emmaus Centre in Nassau, Bahamas.

Since 1968 the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has been jointly sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity (PCPCU) of the Roman Catholic Church and the Commmission on Faith and Order of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Each year a different Region in the world prepares the material which will be prayed around the world during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

The Caribbean was selected to draft the 2018 resources, and under the leadership of the Antilles Episcopal Conference representative Archbishop of Kingston, His Grace Kenneth Richards, and with the participation of Caribbean Conference of Churches General Secretary Gerard Granado, an ecumenical team of women and men were invited to draft the material.

The Caribbean draft group based its theme on the Song of Moses and Miriam in Exodus 15 and related the text to the Caribbean experience of slavery, colonialism and liberation. The 8 day prayer cycle will include themes of human dignity, the modern day slavery of human trafficking, economic, justice, and family life, among others.

In choosing the theme of God’s glorious deliverance from oppression the Caribbean authors sought to link action for liberation and justice by Christians with the purpose of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity which focuses on the commitment of Christians to work and pray for unity, as Jesus prayed this intention for the Church, recorded in John 17.

The meeting at the Emmaus Centre included detailed editing of the material drafted by the Caribbean ecumenical group and a visit to the Pompei Museum with the history of enslavement, to help the international editorial team honour the struggles for freedom of the Bahamian and wider Caribbean people. The visit to the museum and the shared prayer surrounding the work of editing and redrafting help the team to complete the series of biblical reflections and worship which will be prayed by Christians around the world in 2018, and promoted by the PCPCU and the WCC