

**INFORMATION FOR CHURCH BULLETINS
AND PRAYERS FOR CONGREGATIONAL USE
ON SUNDAY 16 and/or 23 MAY 2010**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY
16 MAY – 23 MAY 2010**

**“You are witnesses of these things”
(Luke 24:48)**

In 2010 the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity takes place in the context of the 100th anniversary of the landmark 1910 World Mission Conference. Over 8 days - **May 16 to May 23** - including the great feast of Pentecost on May 23 - we therefore have a wonderful opportunity to renew and deepen our relationships in the one God in whom we share together through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. This year's theme appropriately is *You are witnesses of these things*' (Luke 24:48) and we are invited to join purposely in that great wave of prayer begun by Jesus himself when he prayed *'that they may all be one... so that the world may believe'* (John 17:21).



The 2010 resources, adapted for use in Australia, are grounded in the experience of the churches in Scotland. As we join in prayer this week, we offer fresh encouragement to our churches in Australia to witness to their unity in Christ, and to pray and act for the greater visible expression of that unity, not least in the context of our shared witness to the love of God in Christ Jesus. Daily prayer and reflections and other materials and further information can be found at www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au

Collect/ Prayer for the Day

Living Lord Jesus,

On the road to Emmaus you were the disciples' companion.

Be at our side on the journey of faith, and help us to listen to the stories of others.

On the road to Emmaus you opened their hearts to understand the scriptures.

Illumine our minds to see wonderful things in your Word, and help us bear witness to your truth.

On the road to Emmaus you made yourself known in the breaking of the bread.

Open our hearts to feel your heart-warming presence within us,

and help us live out your compassion.

We make our prayer in your name, Lord Jesus. Amen.

Some simple Prayer points

* Give thanks for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and for our unity in prayer with Christians all across the world

* Give thanks for the witness of the Church and especially for the Churches in Scotland

* Give thanks for all those who work for reconciliation between peoples and the healing of the earth and pray for those who remain at enmity

* Pray for the national & state ecumenical bodies in Australia, for the World Council of Churches, the Global Christian Forum and other global networks

* Pray for the unity of all Christians, in our local community and further afield

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www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au

fuller Prayers of Intercession for May 16 and/or May 23

Let us pray for a deeper appreciation of our common calling to mission in the one body of Christ: Creator and saviour God, we praise you for all our different communities who together want to confess, through word and deed, their faith in the risen Christ, who brings us life.

May we so progress in our ecumenical commitment that we become more united both in our thanksgiving for creation and in our concerted action to uphold life.

Kyrie eleison (or an alternative sung response)

Or Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

God, you have made yourself known to us in our story,

we give you thanks for being with us

and for having given us your Son to reveal your love and share your glory.

Guide the steps of all who bear witness to the gospel towards perfect unity,

in careful and patient listening to cultures and people's history.

Hear us especially as we pray for the continued journey of healing and reconciliation for Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in our land.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

God, you who never abandon us,

we give you thanks for the experience of the two disciples

on the road to Emmaus with the risen Christ.

Grant that we may feel Christ's presence with us on our journey. Warm our hearts and open our understanding, that we may bear witness to your active presence in the power of his resurrection.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

God, from whom every perfect gift comes,

we give you thanks that from generation to generation you have never ceased to awaken that cloud of witnesses which transmitted the faith of the apostles.

(at this point each congregation can mention local evangelists, saints and martyrs important to them).

We pray that we may be faithful to this faith we have been entrusted with, and creative, so as to together to open up new paths of the gospel.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

God of compassion,

we give you thanks because you have reconciled the world through the cross of your Son.

Increase our faith, that it may give our churches and each of us, with Christ and following his example, the strength to always to stand more effectively alongside people in their lives, suffering and death.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer

God, we put our hope in you and praise you for Jesus' promise, "See, I am with you always even unto the end of time."

You see the doubts which beset our hearts on the path to Christian unity.

Following the example of the ecumenical pioneers of the Edinburgh conference of 1910, give us courage to denounce together our current fears and clarity to regain trust in 2010 on the path to the fulfilment of your will. Let us pray for our local Christian communities, our churches and ecumenical groups and activities:

Gracious God, forgive us when we are indifferent to each other,

and bring your healing to the wounds and divisions that keep us apart.

Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer