

**INFORMATION FOR CHURCH BULLETINS  
AND PRAYERS FOR CONGREGATIONAL USE  
ON SUNDAY 24 and/or 31 MAY**

**WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY & RECONCILIATION  
24 MAY - 31 MAY 2009**

**"That they may become one in your hand"  
(Ezekiel 37:17)**

In 2009 (which is also the UN Year of Reconciliation), the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity overlaps with the Week of Prayer for Reconciliation. Over 11 days - **May 24 to June 3** - including the great feast of Pentecost on May 31 - 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 *'That they may become one in your hand'* (Ezekiel 37:17) and we are invited to joining 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 2009 resources, adapted for use in Australia, are grounded in the experience of the churches in Korea. In their context of national division the churches have turned for inspiration to the prophet Ezekiel, who also lived in a tragically divided nation and longed for the unity of his people.

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 journey towards national Reconciliation.

Daily prayer and reflections and other materials and further information can be found at [www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au](http://www.churchestogetherinprayer.org.au)

**Collect/ Prayer for the Day**

God of compassion,  
you have loved and forgiven us in Christ,  
and you have sought to reconcile the entire human race in that redeeming love.  
Look with favour upon us, who work and pray for the unity of divided communities.  
Grant us the experience of being brothers and sisters in your love,  
May we be one, one in your hand. 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 Korea
- \* Give thanks for all those who work for reconciliation between peoples 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

***fuller Prayers of Intercession overleaf....***

***Prayers of Intercession for May 24 and/or May 31***

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*

Let us pray for a deeper appreciation of our common baptism into the one body of Christ:  
Loving God, sustain each of us and our communities as we continue on the  
path towards the unity you desire for all your disciples.  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

Let us pray for our spiritual leaders and church authorities:  
May the Spirit continue to enlighten them  
and grant them the grace to work in harmony, joy and love.  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

Let us pray for all civil authorities.  
Compassionate God, grant that they may work towards justice and peace,  
and give them the wisdom to attend to the needs of all, especially the most vulnerable.  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

Let us pray for all the nations and communities who live with deep divisions  
and internal conflicts, remembering especially the people of Korea, north and south:  
Despite political divisions and separation, may their search for unity bear fruit,  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

Let us pray for our own nation, as we look towards a future of peace and unity.  
God of new creation, heal our divisions, and make us a sign of hope for all  
who seek reconciliation.  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

Let us pray in thanksgiving for those who, inspired by God have held an  
important place in our lives of faith, and for all who have reflected Christ's  
forgiveness, compassion and love.  
God of all times and places, may their gifts and generosity inspire our own  
desire to give and to serve with our lives.  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

Let us pray for all those who bring the gospel to bear on the great ethical  
challenges of our times.  
God of new life, may we each learn to play our part in mitigating the global  
and ecological disasters which bring human suffering and threaten your creation.  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*

Let us pray for all Christian churches and ask for your help:  
Lord, one day may we all be able to gather around the table and share the  
fellowship of holy communion.  
*Lord in your mercy, Hear our Prayer*