

WEEK of
PRAYER
for CHRISTIAN UNITY
January 18 - 25 **2026**



"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the hope of your calling." (Ephesians 4:4)

Week of Christian Prayer for Christian Unity Service | January 18 | 4pm

Prelude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Once by an Inland Water -Bevan

Welcome

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards

If joining on Facebook Live or YouTube we invite you to say hello to everyone by posting a comment to the live stream.

Ringing of the Trinity

We Gather in the presence of God - Creator, Christ, and Spirit

Call to Worship:

Rev. Dr. Kimberlynn McNabb

From sunrise to sunset,
across neighbourhoods and nations,
wherever people turn toward love, justice, and mercy,
God is already present.

We gather in that presence.

On this winter evening,
as night settles early over our city,
we come with our prayers and our hopes,
with our longing for healing,
with our desire for peace in our world and within ourselves.

We open our hearts to the work of God among us.

May this time of worship be shaped by compassion.
May forgiveness find room to breathe.
May courage rise where fear has lingered.
May light be kindled where the nights have felt long,
and may we be guided into ways of life that lead toward wholeness.

Raise us to life, O God.

We entrust ourselves to love,
to unity without uniformity,
and to peace that is lived, not only spoken.
Amen.

***Processional Hymn (next page)**

744 Arise, Your Light Is Come!

1 A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey;
 2 A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door;
 3 A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born,
 4 A - rise, your light is come! The moun - tains burst in song!

show forth the glo - ry of your God, which shines on you to - day.
 pro - claim the cap - tives' lib - er - ty, good ti - dings to the poor.
 bind up the bro - ken - heart - ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 Rise up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Echoing imagery from Isaiah 61:1–2 and other passages, this text was created as an inclusive-language alternative to an older hymn using this late 19th-century tune. Because it is a song of encouragement rather than a song of praise, it is not directed to God but to people.

TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1974
 MUSIC: William H. Walter, 1894
 Text © 1992 GIA Publications, Inc.

FESTAL SONG
 SM
 (this tune in a lower key, 815)

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Prophetic Reading: Isaiah 58:6-11

Rev'd Canon David Greenwood

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{58:6}Is not this the fast that I choose:

to loose the bonds of injustice,
 to undo the straps of the yoke,
 to let the oppressed go free,
 and to break every yoke?

⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry
 and bring the homeless poor into your house;
 when you see the naked, to cover them
 and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
 and your healing shall spring up quickly;
 your vindicator shall go before you;
 the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

⁹Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer;
 you shall cry for help, and the LORD will say, "Here I am."
 If you remove the yoke from among you,
 the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry
 and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness
 and your gloom be like the noonday.
¹¹The LORD will guide you continually
 and satisfy your needs in parched places
 and make your bones strong,
 and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water
 whose waters never fail.

Responsive Psalm 97:1-2, 10-12

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards

The Inclusive Bible Translation

Hal H. Hopson



© 1988 Hope Publishing Company

The LORD reigns! Let the earth rejoice; let the many coastlands be glad!

**Clouds and thick darkness surround you, O LORD,
 righteousness and justice are the foundations of your judgment
 seat. *R***

O LORD, you love those who hate evil; preserve the lives of your faithful ones and deliver them from the hands of the wicked.

**Light dawns for the just, and joy for the upright in heart. Rejoice
 in the LORD, you just, and give praise to God's holy Name! *R***

Epistle Reading: Ephesians 4:1-8, 11-13

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{4:1}I, therefore, the prisoner in the Lord, beg you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ²with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace: ⁴there is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, ⁵one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶one God and Creator of all, who is above all and through all and in all.

⁷But each of us was given grace according to the measure of Christ's gift.

⁸Therefore it is said, "When he ascended on high, he made captivity itself a

captive; he gave gifts to his people"... ¹¹He himself granted that some are apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers ¹²to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, ¹³until all of us come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to maturity, to the measure of the full stature of Christ.

***Doxology - OLD HUNDREDTH**

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Christ, all people here below, Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.**

Gospel Reading: John 12:31-36

New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition

^{12:31} [Jesus said to the crowd:] "Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die. ³⁴The crowd answered him, "We have heard from the law that the Messiah remains forever. How can you say that the Son of Humanity must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Humanity?" ³⁵Jesus said to them, "The light is in you for a little longer. Walk while you have the light, so that the darkness may not overtake you. If you walk in the darkness, you do not know where you are going. ³⁶While you have the light, believe in the light, so that you may become children of light."

Reader For the Word of God in Scripture,
for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us.

All **Thanks be to God.**

Spoken Reflection

Archbishop Brian Dunn

Life Worthy of Your Calling

Anthem

Sr. Choir

If Ye Love Me -Tallis

Prayers of the People

Rev. Hugh Kirkegaard

Lord's Prayer

**Our Creator, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.
Amen.**

*Recessional Hymn

CHRIST'S RETURN AND JUDGMENT

O Christ, the Great Foundation 361

1 O Christ, the great foun - da - tion on which your peo - ple stand
2 Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, one church in all the earth,
3 Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, where strong de - vour the weak,
4 This is the mo - ment glo - rious when he who once was dead

to preach your true sal - va - tion in ev - ery age and land:
we bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, the sign of sec - ond birth:
where in - no - cents are fright - ened, the righ - teous fear to speak,
shall lead his church vic - to - rious, their cham - pion and their head.

pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it to make us strong and pure,
one ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered in love be - yond our own,
there let your church a - wak - ing at - tack the powers of sin
The Lord of all cre - a - tion his heaven - ly king - dom brings:

to keep the faith un - bro - ken as long as worlds en - dure.
by grace we were in - vit - ed; by grace we make you known.
and, all their ram - parts break - ing, with you the vic - tory win.
the fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, the glo - ry of all things.

The text was written by a leading Chinese educator, author, and editor who chaired the commission that prepared an important ecumenical Chinese hymnal, *Hymns of Universal Praise* (1936). This familiar tune invites comparison of these words with its usual text (see no. 321).

TEXT: Timothy T'ingfang Lew, 1933, alt.; trans. Mildred A. Wiant, 1966
MUSIC: Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864
Text © 1977 Chinese Christian Literature Council Ltd.

AURELIA
7.6.7.6.D

Benediction

Rev. Dr. Rusty Edwards

Amen

Postlude

Lynette Wahlstrom, Organ

Toccata in E minor - Pachelbel

THIS AFTERNOON'S SPEAKER ARCHBISHOP BRIAN JOSEPH DUNN

On April 13, 2019, Pope Francis appointed Most Rev. Brian Dunn as the Coadjutor Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth and he was installed in that office on July 5, 2019. After being installed as the Coadjutor Archbishop of Halifax-Yarmouth, he served as the Apostolic Administrator for the Diocese of Antigonish until its new bishop was installed on February 3, 2020. From that time, Archbishop Dunn served with Archbishop Anthony Mancini in Halifax until November 27, 2020, when Archbishop Mancini retired from his office on his 75th birthday. At that time, Archbishop Dunn immediately became the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth.

Archbishop Dunn comes to the diocese after serving for 10 years as the Bishop of Antigonish, appointed by Pope Benedict XVI on November 21, 2009. Prior to his appointment to the Diocese of Antigonish, he served as an Auxiliary Bishop of Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario after his episcopal ordination on October 9, 2008.

Archbishop Dunn was born in St. John's, Newfoundland, on January 8, 1955 and was ordained to the priesthood on August 28, 1980. He was then assigned to a number of parishes in the Diocese of Grand Falls until 1988, when he enrolled at Saint Paul University in Ottawa in studies in Canon Law and completed his Doctoral studies in 1991. In September 1991, he was assigned to parish ministry at the Cathedral in Grand Falls, NL. He also worked as Vice-Chancellor and later Chancellor for the Diocese of Grand Falls as well as being involved in teaching theology and pastoral ministry with the Atlantic School of Theology. In 2002, he joined the faculty at St. Peter's Seminary, in London, Ontario and from 2005 until 2008, he had served as Dean of Studies. He was ordained as a bishop in Grand Falls-Windsor, NL and served as Auxiliary Bishop of Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario until January 2010. He was installed as the Bishop of Antigonish on January 25, 2010.

Archbishop Dunn became the Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Halifax-Yarmouth upon the retirement of Archbishop Mancini.

WEEK of PRAYER
for CHRISTIAN UNITY
2026

SEMAINE de PRIÈRE
pour L'UNITÉ DES CHRÉTIENS
2026

"There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the hope of your calling." (Ephesians 4:4)

« Il y a un seul corps et un seul Esprit, de même que votre vocation vous a appelés à une seule espérance » (Ephésiens 4,4)

weekofprayer.ca semainedepriere.ca

THE CANADIAN COUNCIL OF CHURCHES / LE CONSEIL CANADIEN DES ÉGLISES
Praxis Centre for Ecumenism
Centre canadien d'œcuménisme / Canadian Centre for Ecumenism

Sunday, January 18 | 4pm

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity Service
First Baptist Church Halifax
(1300 Oxford Street)

Wednesday, January 21 | 7pm

Lecture by Dr. Robb Fennell (AST)
Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Resurrection
(2096 Windsor St)

Thursday, January 22 | 2pm

Ecumenical Prayer Service
Northwood Care
(2615 Northwood Terrace, Halifax)

Sunday, January 25 | 7pm

Ecumenical Evensong
Anglican Cathedral of All Saints



FIRST
BAPTIST
CHURCH
HALIFAX

BREAKING STEREOTYPES SINCE 1827

Because we are followers of Jesus, First Baptist Church Halifax welcomes all people into the full life of the church community. This means we will not discriminate on the grounds of gender, age, race, national or ethnic origin, colour, disability, marital status, sexual orientation, or economic circumstances. Our diversity helps us all expand our understandings of God.

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