



ECUMENICAL PRAYER SERVICE FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY 2021



By Jaclyn Sharmele (courtesy of Herald)

Due to the pandemic, the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian unity this year was held on a digital platform and was hosted by the Cathedral of St John The Evangelist with the theme: Abide in my love and you shall bear much Fruit John 15: 1-17.

The Ecumenical Prayer service for Christian Unity is an event held on a yearly basis between Jan 18 and Jan 25. This annual observance, which began in 1908 as the Octave of Christian Unity, focuses on prayer for unity among Christian communities throughout the world

Although unable to come together physically this year due to the Movement Control Order, the Christian community was united in prayer digitally with the active participation of churches from around the Kuala Lumpur city centre; to name a few; the Presbyterian Church, Wesley Methodist Church, the Lutheran Church, Mar Thoma Syrian Church, the Anglican Church and the Catholic Church, with representatives from the Christian Federation of Malaysia, the Council of Churches of Malaysia and the National Evangelical Christian Fellowship.

Many netizens from the various churches also joined in the prayer which was telecast through the Cathedral of St John the Evangelist's Facebook page.

In his opening address, Archbishop Julian Leow, urged all Christians to pray and work for reconciliation and unity in the Church and with our human family. It takes great effort to get along with others but we must keep this oneness through Christ and be nourished by Him, because cut off from Him, we can produce nothing.

He reiterated that unity is the state of being one or single minded and he reminded us to be thankful for all that we have achieved, though much still remains to be done. "For the way forward we need patience as exulted by St Paul in Ephesians: 4, those who were called in Christ should always be humble and gentle with everyone, especially with one another. They should also be patient and cover everyone with love, just as Christ did — there is just one body of Christ and one spirit. Therefore, the unity of the spirit must be seen in the people who make up the body".

Total Viewers on the digital platform for the Ecumenical Prayer Service for Christian Unity which was held on 20th January 2021 was 3300

HEADS OF CHURCHES OF RETREAT 2021



The CCM Heads of Churches held their annual retreat from 12th January –13th January. Due to the current pandemic situation in the country, CCM decided to hold the retreat via Zoom; the first time in its history. The virtual gathering also provided an opportunity to many of the new heads from their respective churches to get on board and participate.

The Heads appreciated the opportunity to connect in ecumenical fellowship and to deal with challenges as the country faces a deteriorating national health emergency

ECUMENICAL NEWS

- ◆ The CCM was able to send a donation of RM 10,000 to the Sabah Council of Churches to assist congregations there to engage in urgent ministry to aid those affected by the Covid 19 pandemic. The Chairman of the SCC, Bishop James Wong expressed his appreciation for the ecumenical solidarity shown by CCM for the plight of poor communities in Sabah.
- ◆ The CCM received RM 80,000 from the Menteri Besar of Selangor during the State Christmas celebration . The money was divided and given to various CCM Related church charities in the state.
- ◆ MCCBCHST issued a Statement “ Reinstate Cancelled “Cuti Peristiwa” for Thaipusam in Kedah on 24th January 2021
- ◆ The GS, Rev. Dr. Hermen Shastri participated as a panelist on a Zoom Dialogue Session entitled: Breaking Hate Building Social Cohesion in a Divided Malaysia on 11th January 2021. This was organized by Chevening Alumni Malaysia (CAM)



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

2021

WILL BE A VIRTUAL WORSHIP SERVICE HELD ON 6TH MARCH

2021

THEME: BUILD A STRONG FOUNDATION

Organised by the CCM Women’s Committee

More info nearer to date.

CONSECRATION OF NEW ANGLICAN BISHOP



On the 1st of February the Consecration Service was held of the 5th Bishop of Diocese of West Malaysia at St. Mary’s Cathedral in Kuala Lumpur

The new Bishop, the Rt. Rev Dr. Steven Abbarow was joined by his wife Anne and their two children Ruel and Naomi.

For the consecration the retired Bishop Datuk Ng Moon Hing was joined by Bishop Jason Selvaraj and Bishop Steven Lawrence (ELCM), in laying of hands.

CCM congratulates Bishop Dr. Steven Abbarow and welcomes him into the ecumenical fellowship of CCM. We look forward to his leadership and wise counsel to strengthen ecumenical ties between the churches in the second decade of the 21st century.



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