

BREAK DOWN THE WALLS THAT SEPARATE US



A number of church leaders representing the Roman Catholic and Protestant churches from around the city of Kuala Lumpur gathered at the St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on the night of 19th January 2017, to participate in an ecumenical worship service in conjunction with the Week of Prayer of Christian Unity with the theme: "The Love of Christ compels us" (2 Cor 5: 14).

Rev Richard Tok, of St. Andrew's in welcoming the huge congregation, pointed out that his church was celebrating its Centenary and as far as he remembers this was the first time such a huge ecumenical gathering with such great number of leaders from the different churches had converged for a significant ecumenical worship.

Archbishop Julian Leow of the Roman Catholic Church in his sermon, noted that this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity liturgy takes account of the five hundred years commemoration of the reformation that had caused a major split in the universal church, and how now it is possible for churches to work together to restore unity.

"There are indeed many walls of prejudice, mistrust and antagonism to be overcome from the past, but progress is being made because unity of the body of Christ is the will of Jesus, who is the Head of the Church," he emphasized.

During the worship, small square boxes carrying captions of the "walls" that separate churches were brought to the cross as a sign of commitment to overcome the barriers that divide the churches.

The ecumenical worship ended with the sharing of peace with one another and the lighting of candles symbolizing sharing the light of Christ in unity in ecumenical witness to the world.

Similar ecumenical worship services will be held in the different cities of our country in this significant year of commemorating five hundred years of the Reformation.