**September**

**Celebrating reconciliation:**

***Teshuvah & Repentance***

After the Days of Repentance, Jews celebrate reconciliation with God and experience God’s unconditional love on Yom Kippur. Christians seek reconciliation: praying, celebrating the Eucharist and turning to God during the 40 days of Lent. Through rituals of repentance, Jews and Christians celebrate God’s mercy, and recommit themselves to living out their faiths in ways that help to transform our world. Beginning anew!

**A Christian voice**

**short version:**

At the heart of the Christian understanding of reconciliation is the healing of a relationship that is broken: the relationships with other human beings … with God … with the earth. To be reconciled, people must honestly acknowledge the *brokenness*—the mistakes that have been made that have caused damage or pain—and then make a commitment to a different path. The journey of reconciliation is often a slow one, and it involves trying to repair the harm that has been done, and to show by actions the intention to act differently. It calls to new ways of thinking and acting, and helps to bring about renewal and possibility, where perhaps there was only alienation and hurt. For Christians, reconciliation is rooted in the teachings and example of Jesus; in 2 Corinthians 5:19, St Paul says that God was accomplishing the work of reconciliation in and through Jesus, and has entrusted the task of reconciliation to the believers, to continue it in relationships, and in the world.

In the Protestant tradition, the Eucharist is interpreted as reconciliation of God and believers.