L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**4th Sunday of Easter**

**April 21st, 2024**

**Year B**

*In 2024, Earth Day falls on Monday, April 22. Check the PCC website for an intergenerational worship service with resources and prayers for Earth Day.*

**Colour** *White*

**Scripture Readings**

Acts 4:5-12;

Psalm 23;

1 John 3:16-24;

John 10:11-18

**Hymns**

251 – Christ is alive

356 - You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd

11 - The Lord is my shepherd (Psalm 23)

485 – Saviour, like a shepherd lead us

694 – This is my commandment

716 – Pray for the wilderness Alternate tune: 461

719 – God in great love for us lent us this planet

759 – In loving partnership

**Call to Worship**

Jesus the Christ said, I am the Good Shepherd.

**We have come to follow him.**

We gather in the name of the One who leads us by still waters.

**We have come to be restored in him.**

We gather in the name of the One who prepares a banquet for us.

**We have come to be fed by his love, so let us worship God.**

**Prayers of Adoration** **and Confession**

Loving God, our shepherd, guide and giver of life.

You nourish our lives and lead us into green pastures.

You restore our souls with rest and peace.

You give us joy so our lives overflows with goodness and grace.

You walk with us through the darkest valleys,

offering us courage and compassion.

At all times and in all circumstances, you are with us,

Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit,

so we praise you, Holy One,

here and now, now and always. Amen.

**God of mercy,**

**You lead us into green pastures,**

**but our lifestyles put those pastures at risk.**

**You offer us rest,**

**but we like to pursue our goals,**

**whatever the cost to the earth or our health.**

**You call us to show compassion,**

**but we are quick to judge others.**

**Forgive us, and humble us to live with respect in creation.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Jesus said, Come to me all you who labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Friends, trust that peace and forgiveness are God’s gift to you this day. Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

**Prayer for Understanding**

God of Word and Wisdom, send us your Holy Spirit as we listen to the witness of your people in the Scriptures. May we claim the story of your redeeming love again, and praise you with our lives through Christ, our Lord and Guide. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

The Gospel writer John reminds us that because Jesus laid down his life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for one another. What we offer today is not quite such a complete sacrifice, but our gifts show our gratitude and commitment in response to the gift we receive in Christ Jesus.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Giving God, you are our Shepherd, strong and wise. Bless the gifts we offer and multiply their impact in the world. Use them to spread your love and protect all that is vulnerable in your creation, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Gracious and loving God,

as a shepherd cares for the flock, so you care for each one of us.

Move in our hearts and minds, our congregations and communities,

and lead us to care for one another

for the sake of Jesus, our Good Shepherd.

Today we thank you for the gift of rest.

We pray for all those who are tired from work or worry.

Grant rest to restore those who are exhausted by the challenges they face,

and all those who are weary from the responsibilities they carry.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God our Guide, thank you for the gifts of truth and wisdom.

We pray for those who cannot discern truth in the midst of conspiracy theories,

and for places where authorities distort reality for their own ends.

Grant wisdom and common sense to all who make decisions

in the midst of misinformation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God our Strength, thank you for the ways you refresh our souls.

We pray for those whose lives are burdened by economic challenges.

We remember all in the midst of any sort of difficulty,

those who are sick, in pain, or facing death,

and those who are bereaved by the loss of someone dear.

 *Keep silence for 15 seconds.*

Be their source of healing and peace.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God our Shield and Defender,

thank you for staying with us when we face danger or death.

We pray for all those who live in fear:

prisoners, exiles and refugees,

victims of oppression, racism, and hatred,

and those who face the threat of violence day after day.

 *Keep silence for 15 seconds.*

Be their steady companion and source of courage.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God our Provider,

thank you for all the ways you fill our cup to overflowing.

Show us how we can be part of your redeeming work

in caring for the earth

and sharing what we have with those in any kind of need.

Hear us as we offer the prayer that Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go in love, with the peace of Christ within you,

to witness to his love in truth and action.

And may God’s resurrecting love open the future for you,

empowered by the Spirit,

and embraced by the presence of Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP**

**Mission Moment: Sunday, April 21**

In the Kushkak village in Afghanistan, 42-year-old Guljan lived a simple life with her husband and four children until one day in October 2023, when an earthquake struck their village. Guljan lost her husband and 11-year-old son. After the disaster, she encountered significant challenges in getting assistance due to the gender disparities present in her village. However, PWS&D’s partner recognized her needs and provided Guljan’s family with a winterized tent to help endure the harsh weather conditions. PWS&D provided food assistance, as well as other support after the earthquake to help people survive the winter challenges.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, April 21** We give thanks for ministries like Calvin-Goforth’s “Hub Club” in Saskatoon, SK that encourage greater social inclusion for seniors and older adults.

**Monday, April 22 (Earth Day)** We pray for the healing of the earth and for PWS&D projects promoting environmental stewardship and sustainability while helping communities break cycles of hunger and poverty.

**Tuesday, April 23** We pray for Atlantic Mission Society Auxiliaries as they reach out with Christ’s love to those in need in their communities.

**Wednesday, April 24** We pray for people living in long-term care facilities, that they may continue to be engaged participants in the life and ministry of a congregation.

**Thursday, April 25** We pray for the work of the Committee on Education and Reception as it meets this week.

**Friday, April 26** We pray for The Presbyterian College’s Dean of Students, the Rev. Prudence Neba, and each student who is writing exams, papers, and making important decisions regarding the summer semester.

**Saturday, April 27** We pray for the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario & Bermuda.