L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**5th Sunday of Easter**

**Mission Awareness Sunday**

**April 28th, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *White or Gold*

**Scripture Readings**

Acts 8:26-40

Psalm 22:25-31

1 John 4:7-21

John 15:1-8

**Hymns**

440 – For all the love

772 – Christ for the world we sing Alternate Tune: 291

46 – We will tell each generation

704 – Teach me, God, to wonder

520 – Servants of the Saviour

Alternate tune 483 – to fit the full tune, sing the first 2 lines again at end of each verse

297 – O love that casts out fear

491 – God bless your church with strength

574 – With the Lord as my guide

**Call to Worship**

Like spring breaking through winter’s power,

**God’s resurrecting power breaks into our lives in surprising ways.**

Like the vine that supports blossoms and fruit,

**God’s Word upholds the church in strength.**

Let us worship God who makes all things new.

**We will praise God who brings growth and renewal to all life.**

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

Holy God, Creator of all things;

you are our hope and the source of all wisdom.

Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord,

you are the vine and we are the branches.

Your love is our strength.

Your energy is our joy.

Holy Spirit, you nourish our faith so that we can bear fruit in many different ways.

We gather to offer our worship and praise you as

Holy God, Loving Son and Holy Spirit, ever Three and ever One.

**God of Love,**

**we fail to love and one another fully.**

**Forgive us for ignoring to love and worship you,**

**for ignoring the needs of others,**

**and not following your ways.**

**Forgive us for seeking praise from others,**

**yet failing to encourage them in their endeavours.**

**Forgive who we have been, O God,**

**and root our lives more deeply in your love.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

The writer of the Gospel of John records that God is love, and that God’s perfect love casts out fear. Those who abide in love abide in God and God abides in them.

Claim your hope in this Good News: God’s perfect love abides in you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Prayer for Understanding**

Holy Spirit, move in us and among us as we listen to the Scriptures read and interpreted. Open our minds and hearts to receive the Living Word so that we may be transformed to live as your Easter people. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

While the season of Easter is unfolding, the gifts of spring emerge around us to remind us of God’s generosity in Christ and in creation. As we present our gifts to God, may our generosity reflect God’s goodness to us and our hope for abundant life in Christ Jesus.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, we bless you for your gift of life renewed through Christ’s love. Bless the gifts we offer so they renew hope in the world you love, in the name of your greatest gift, Jesus Christ, our Risen Lord. **Amen**

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

Lord Jesus Christ,

we draw near to you in prayer this day,

trusting that your love changes lives

and your resurrection brings hope into the world God loves.

You walk with us through every challenging time,

and we give you thanks for every sign of hope

in a world that is often on edge and the future seems uncertain.

May we abide in your love.

We ask you to bless the ministries and mission activity

undertaken through staff and funding

provided by The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Thank you for each faithful servant serving in these challenging days,

whether in Canada or in international ministries.

Bless them with good health and courageous commitment,

and equip them well to reach out in love and respect.

May they abide in your love.

Loving and Listening God, we bring you now our prayers for others,

friends and enemies, neighbours and strangers alike.

We pray for people who are struggling with illness, loneliness, grief or sadness:

 *Hold silence for 15 seconds.*

May they abide in your love.

We pray for people in countries and communities

where it is not safe to live out their faith or express their views openly.

 *Hold silence for 15 seconds.*

May they abide in your love.

We pray for victims of discrimination and acts of hatred,

and those who fear violence day by day.

 *Hold silence for 15 seconds.*

May they abide in your love.

We pray for journalists and advocates for justice

who live under threat for telling the truth.

 *Hold silence for 15 seconds.*

May they abide in your love.

We pray for churches, local organizations and businesses

struggling under the pressure of economic challenges.

 *Hold silence for 15 seconds.*

May they abide in your love.

We pray for our families, friends and for ourselves,

as well as those in the news whose situations tug at our hearts.

 *Hold silence for 15 seconds.*

May we all abide in your love.

Lord Jesus, we believe that you hear our prayers

and will be faithful to our requests and concerns.

And so we pray together the words you taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go in the peace of Christ,

to witness to his love in truth and action each day.

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 28**

The Reformed Parish in Csap/Chop, a congregation of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia in western Ukraine, has been providing temporary shelter and food for people displaced by the war. Their social kitchen program includes hot food delivery to elderly congregation members who live alone and are unable to cook for themselves. With limited resources, Bishop Zan-Fabian reached out to the PCC for financial support to continue this ministry of care. The PCC provided a grant from Presbyterians Sharing, fulfilling the law of Christ to bear one another’s burdens.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, April 28 (Mission Awareness Sunday)** We give thanks for the service of all former PCC mission staff who worked with the church outside of Canada in creative and courageous ways and often under difficult circumstances.

**Monday, April 29** We pray for our church’s incredible history and that, with faith, we will pass on our heritage to generations who will follow us.

**Tuesday, April 30** We pray for the many members of the PCC on various ecumenical church councils and working groups, as well as representatives involved in interfaith conversations. We thank God for their involvement and the ways we connect with other Christians and faith traditions.

**Wednesday, May 1** We pray for students who are graduating in May from The Presbyterian College, Montreal. May it be a time of joy, celebrating the hard work and successes of each student; may each one experience God’s leading in next steps as they discern direction in their respective callings.

**Thursday, May 2** We pray for St. Marys Presbyterian Church in St. Marys Ontario. God bless the children there who are interested in Indigenous people and their cultures. May their personal gifts and passions be used to further the kingdom of Peace on earth.

**Friday, May 3** We pray for General Assembly commissioners as they prepare to help the church discern the mind of Christ for our denomination.

**Saturday, May 4** We pray for the congregation of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church (Lunenburg, NS) as they work through the PCC’s New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry.