L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**7th Sunday of Easter**

**Ascension Sunday**

**Christian Family Sunday**

**May 12th, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *White or Gold*

**Scripture Readings**

*7th Sunday of Easter Readings*

Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

 Psalm 1

 1 John 5:9-13

 John 17:6-19;

*Ascension Day Readings*

Acts 1:1-11

Psalm 47 or Psalm 93

Ephesians 1:15-23

Luke 24:44-53

**Hymns**

260 - Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord

457 – Now thank we all our God

1 – How blest are they (Psalm 1)

31 – Peoples, clap your hands (Psalm 47)

700 – Praise our Maker, peoples of one family

702 – Dear Christ, uplifted from the earth Alternate tune: 63

275 – Jesus shall reign where’er the sun

777 – Send me, Lord

**Call to Worship**

Clap your hands, all you peoples;

**We will shout to God with songs of joy.**

For God is awesome, reigning over all the earth!

**We will sing praises to God every day.**

Let us worship God with all we have to offer.

**We will offer God our love – heart, body, mind and soul!**

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

God of promise and purpose,

we praise with thankful hearts.

As the beauty of the seasons change

the beauty of your world lifts our hearts in praise.

You lifted up Jesus to be by your side,

and so we know he is always by our side

as the future opens before us.

Show us the promise and purpose in our own lives –

how we can unfurl with new life,

and move into the future empowered by the Holy Spirit,

embraced by the love of Christ our Lord.

**Lord Jesus Christ, you called your followers**

**to carry the Good News of God’s love and forgiveness to the ends of the earth.**

**Yet we confess we cannot always find the words to tell others of our faith.**

**We try to act out your love.**

**but it’s hard to tell others why we do what we do for you.**

**Forgive us.**

**Give us the courage to speak openly of our commitment to you.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Friends, remember the promise the Apostle Paul declares: What will separate us from the love of Christ? Hardship? Distress? Peril or sword? Neither death nor life, nor things present nor things to come can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. Let us rejoice that, no matter what is happening around us, no matter what we have done, God’s deep love will never let us go

**Prayer for Understanding**

O God, by the power of your Holy Spirit, open our minds and hearts to receive your Word, so that we may recognize your call to us to serve in the name of Jesus Christ, the Living Word. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

Even as season of Easter draws closer to its end this week, we continue to receive the blessings God pours out for us in Christ and in creation. Our gifts to God speak of our gratitude for these blessings and our commitment to share them with the whole world.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Eternal and ever-present God, bless the gifts we offer today with the power of your Holy Spirit. Use them and us to witness to the love of Jesus Christ and bring healing and hope to the world in his name. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

*Two different prayers are provided. The first is more suited to Ascension themes; the second is written for Christian Family Sunday. Choose whichever fits best in your theme for the day.*

O God,

Creator, Redeemer and Sustainer of all life,

You have begun the work of creating a new world,

a world where justice is known,

where freedom and healing are available to all people.

We are grateful for the seeds you have sown.

We pray for the places in the world that are caught up in violence,

where people are held captive or struggle under oppressive powers,

and where sickness prevails and medical resources are scarce.

*(Silence for a count of ten.)*

Grant each one courage and perseverance through your Spirit.

May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend for us all.

God of human connections,

You have begun the work of creating a new community,

one where love is shared and all find a sense of belonging.

We are grateful that we belong to you.

We pray for groups who are made to feel like they don’t belong,

for families caught up in tension or strife,

and for those who feel that no one seems to care.

*(Silence for a count of ten.)*

Grant each one courage and comfort through your Spirit.

May people everywhere find the fullness of life you intend for us all.

God of the earth and its wonders,

You have begun the work of making a new creation,

a creation where all that has been broken is being restored,

where all that has been distorted is made right,

and what has been damaged is renewed.

We are grateful for your power of renewal.

We pray for the earth,

the places where its natural balances are threatened

and species put at risk by human exploitation.

*(Silence for a count of ten.)*

Send your healing Spirit to renew the earth and make us wiser stewards.

May creatures everywhere know the fullness of life you intend for us all.

God of this life and new life,

As you work towards making all things new,

we pray for renewal in our churches and ministries,

for leaders tired out by their responsibilities ,

and for church members who aren’t sure how to make a contribution.

*(Silence for a count of ten.)*

Send your energizing Spirit to gather the church

in ways both familiar and new.

May your servants in every church know the fullness of life you intend for us all

and be empowered to bear witness to Jesus in refreshing ways.

For together we offer the prayer he taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

***A Prayer for Christian Family Sunday***

Lord Jesus Christ,

You came to us bearing God’s love

to live with us, to walk with us, and to show us how to love.

You pray with us and for us day by day.

Today we turn to you with our hopes and our concerns.

Draw near to us and to those for whom we pray,

so that your love will be known in our world this day.

Lord Jesus,

on this Christian Family Sunday,

we pray for the families we belong to -

Thank you for parents, grandparents and great-parents,

for the generations who started our families and all they have given to us.

Today we thank you especially for our mothers,

and pray for all the mothers around the world.

Give mothers hope for their children,

and peace in the world to raise their children safely.

Comfort and support each member of our families,

and guide each child and young person into the future.

Lord Jesus,

we pray for families in our community and in your world

We remember families in need:

Families who are struggling under economic pressures…

Families who know sorrow because someone has died or gone away…

Families who live in fear

because they are in the midst of some kind of trouble…

Surround these families with your love

and bring them courage to face whatever tomorrow brings.

Lord Jesus,

We pray for each other and for our church family:

Thank you for the friendship and fellowship we share,

and the unique gifts each one brings to our life together.

Show us our paths into the future,

and give us important things to do in your name.

And so it is as your family and your friends

that we offer the prayer you taught us, saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go in strength, with the assurance that Christ walks with 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 and Ascended Lord.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, May 12**

Somalia faces an acute hunger crisis, worsened by the most severe drought in four decades. With failed crops, widespread water shortages and reduced livestock productivity, Nafiso Hussein’s family and thousands more had to abandon their homes in search of relief. Hunger and extreme conditions affected Nafiso’s son Hadi, whose health had deteriorated critically. In the displaced persons camp where they had sought refuge, Hadi was quickly referred to the stabilization centre for treatment, and under this initiative, his health significantly improved. Nafiso is grateful for her son’s recovery, “He is well now, and I am happy to see him play and laugh like before.” PWS&D, with partners at Canadian Foodgrains Bank, provides funding to train community nutrition workers who identify and screen severely malnourished children.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, May 12 (Christian Family Sunday)** All Christians are members both of a human family and of the church, the household of God. We honour our parents who gave us life, and also the church which has nurtured us in faith.

**Monday, May 13** We pray for those living in poverty in a world where the gap between rich and poor continues to grow.

**Tuesday, May 14** We pray for families rising above poverty with educational opportunities and vocational training offered through PWS&D’s support.

**Wednesday, May 15** We pray for the members of the Women’s Missionary Society, that they will connect with former friends and make new friends at the 110th Anniversary Celebration and that these friendships will continue for many years to come.

**Thursday, May 16** We pray for Winnipeg Inner City Missions as it works to build a brighter future where individuals, children, and their families in Winnipeg’s inner city have greater opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

**Friday, May 17 (International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia)** We pray for an end to hatred and discrimination that targets LGBTQI2+ people. As a church, we commit to working for the flourishing of all people.

**Saturday, May 18** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Superior.