L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**6th Sunday After Pentecost**

**June 30th, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *Green*

**Scripture Readings**

2 Samuel 1:1, 17-27 and Psalm 130

OR

Lamentations 3:22-33 and Psalm 30;

2 Corinthians 8:7-15;

Mark 5:21-43

**Hymns**

815 – New every morning is the love

20 – The steadfast love of the Lord

16 – I worship you, O Lord (Psalm 30)

90 – Up from the depths I cry (Psalm 130)

203 – When Jesus the healer passed through Galilee

492 – Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all (as a sung response)

579 – Oh, I know the Lord’s laid his hands on me

474 – The love of God comes close

**Call to Worship**

Out of the depths we cry to the Lord.

**We will wait upon the Lord.**

Hope in the Lord!

**For with God there is steadfast love;**

With God there is great power to redeem.

**So we offer prayers and praise to God in whom we trust.**

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

Great and gracious God,

your glory speaks in the beauty of creation,

your majesty stretches to the depths of space.

You are the wellspring of hope

and the fountain of healing mercy.

We marvel at your love that overflows in our lives

and into the world you have made.

We worship you in gratitude,

offering you our trust

because you have come to us in Christ Jesus.

Receive our love and loyalty,

offered to you each day as the Spirit prays within us.

**Great and merciful God,**

**We confess we sometimes lose trust in you.**

**When we feel desperate, we wonder where you are.**

**In the face of tragedy or disaster,**

**we ask how you could let such things happen.**

**We forget to reach out to you.**

**Forgive us, O God, when we give up on your love.**

**Reassure us that your love in Christ Jesus will never let us go.**

**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 Holy Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

**Prayer for Understanding**

God of all generations, send us your Holy Spirit as we listen to the Scriptures, read and interpreted. Open our minds to your wisdom, open our eyes to see how to serve you, and open our hearts to share in your healing love. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

The stories of Scriptures remind us how much we need God’s healing love and mercy in times of loss and loneliness. Our gifts to God support ministries of care and compassion through our congregation and in the mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Consider your gift as an outreach to those in deepest need.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Compassionate God, we offer you our gifts with grateful hearts, glad to know you keep reaching out to the world you love. Bless what we bring, and use us and our gifts to touch the world with your healing grace through Christ, our Saviour and friend.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

*Consider using #492 Lord Jesus Christ, love of all as a sung response after each section of this prayer. If singing a response is not desired, you could use a spoken response like this:*

*In all our struggles and good intentions,*

***bring healing, strength, and peace.***

Lord Jesus Christ,

You are our source of peace and healing, and we are grateful.

Today we pray for each one who faces choices and decisions about their health – for those trying to follow good diets and exercise enough;

for all waiting for appointments or wondering if they should make another;

for any who find caring for their health frustrating ,

and for all facing pain or anxiety day by day.

 *(Pause)*

In all our struggles and good intentions we sing:

Sung response #492: Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all.

Lord Jesus Christ:

You are our source of wisdom and generosity, and we are grateful.

Today we pray for each one facing hard choices about finances –

for those struggling with bills and budgets;

for those torn between covering necessities and enjoying a treat;

for those who want to be generous and yet feel overwhelmed by all the need.

 *(Pause)*

In all our financial struggles and good intentions to be generous we sing:

 Sung response #492

Lord Jesus Christ,

you are our source of love and forgiveness, and we are grateful.

Today we pray for each one facing choices about their relationships.

We pray for people we ought to call but just haven’t;

for those with whom we feel a grievance and have been avoiding;

We pray for those we’d like to invite into closer relationship but haven’t yet;

and for those we miss dearly and need to tell how much we cherish them.

 *(Pause)*

In all our good intentions to live out your love and mercy we sing:

 Sung response #492

Lord Jesus Christ:

you are the source of rest and right relationship for God’s whole creation,

and we are grateful.

We pray for the earth, its many creatures and habitats competing for survival,

for its scarce resources and its abundant beauty.

 *(Pause)*

Challenge us to live out our good intentions for the earth

in our lifestyle choices, big and small,

so that your kingdom may come on earth

not by disaster but through discipleship.

For it is as your disciples we pray together:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go in faith, ready to serve God, trusting that God counts your life as precious.

And may God bless you and keep you,

may God’s face shine upon you,

and may God grant you grace and peace

now and evermore.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, June 30**

After participating in the New Beginnings program that guides congregations through a renewal process to discern God’s call for their future, St. James (North Yarmouth, ON) began a ministry to help address the social isolation of seniors and older adults, both within the congregation and the surrounding community. St. James adapted its service to become an interactive, conference-call worship model that allows people at home or in care facilities to participate more fully through prayer, reading scripture or singing. Community programming for seniors is also centred around encouraging greater social inclusion, through delivering hot meals and care packages, a weekly home visit program with the minister and elders, and even chartering a bus to sing carols and bring Christmas cheer to doorsteps during Advent. St. James receives support from Presbyterians Sharing.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, June 30** We pray for Knox College and its new students who will be invited to register for program studies in early July. We pray for continued discernment of God’s call to equip and prepare for service.

**Social Action Spotlight July: Anti-2SLGBTQI+ Rhetoric and Violence**

Recently, there has been an alarming rise in harmful language and violence targeting LGBTQI people—especially those who are transgender, non-binary, or gender non-conforming—both here in Canada and across the globe. The PCC’s Confession to God and LGBTQI People acknowledges that: “The church has often perpetuated harmful lies that LGBTQI people are dangerous and abusive… The church’s prejudice contributes to hatred and neglect of LGBTQI people making them targets for physical, spiritual and emotional violence. For these unloving and unjust actions, we ask forgiveness.” Since doing justice and acting with love are important marks of Christian discipleship, the church chose to confess and repent, a process which involves repairing the harm we have caused and working to prevent future harm.

One impact of the recent increase in rhetoric demonizing and dehumanizing 2SLGBTQI+ people is that many transgender, non-binary and gender non-conforming youth and adults feel that there is no place for them in society. They feel unsafe in public. While the emotional and spiritual wounds this causes are significant on their own, such rhetoric has also led to instances of physical violence. For example, in June 2023, a former student of the University of Waterloo entered a Gender Studies classroom and stabbed a professor and two students; an attack that appears to have been motivated by transphobic rhetoric.

One doesn’t have to actually call for violence to contribute to its likelihood. Rhetoric that scapegoats marginalized people can also cause harm, inciting hatred that some people will use as justification for violence. In a very real sense, attacks on any marginalized group can create situations where violence is tolerated; even normalized or seen as desirable. This doesn’t just make the targeted group less safe, it makes everyone less safe; violence spills over.

But safety and peace can spill over too. The church is called to be peacemakers. Intentionally working to support safety and healing and prevent harm are faithful ways to respond to anti-2SLGBTQI+ rhetoric and violence.

**Questions for Reflection**

We are called to love our neighbour. What are some ways you see people in your community acting with love? What are some things that could be done better?

It’s easy to think of violence spilling over. What do you think it would look like if safety or peace “spilled over?”

**What can you do?**

The 2023 General Assembly approved a recommendation “That congregations be encouraged to consider responses in their local communities to acts of hate and harm towards the LGBTQI+ community and sponsorship support of LGBTQI+ refugees.” Programs supporting LGBTQI people facing difficulties exist in many communities.

* Find programs in your area and see if there are ways you can support them.
* Consider sponsoring or otherwise supporting LGBTQI+ refugees.

**Learn more**

Resources are available on the Gender, Sexuality and Inclusion page of the Social Action Hub: <https://presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/gender-sexuality-inclusion/>

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP JULY**

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Monday, July 1 (Canada Day)** We pray that this land will be a just, equitable and welcoming country and that all those who form and keep our laws will carry out their responsibilities with wisdom, courage and mercy.

**Tuesday, July 2** We pray for young adults from our partner churches, The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and The Korean Christian Church in Japan, participating in an ecumenical learning community in St. Catharines, Ontario.

**Wednesday, July 3** We pray for the VST summer school program and that participants will be encouraged and equipped for faithful service to God through it.

**Thursday, July 4** We pray for partners in Palestine and Israel as they work to supply food and essential supplies to Palestinians.

**Friday, July 5** In this summer season, we pray for guests at Crieff Hills who are on retreat with their church, their family, or in solitude.

**Saturday, July 6** We pray for the youth and leadership at the uplift 2024 national gathering at Brock University in St. Catharines, who are spending today learning about the role of transformative justice in building a more peaceful and just world.