L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada



**Worship Planner**

**14th Sunday after Pentecost**

**August 25, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *Green*

**Scripture Readings**

1 Kings 8: (1, 6, 10-11), 22-30, 41-43 and Psalm 84:14-18

OR

Joshua 24:1-2a, 14-18 and Psalm 34:15-22

Ephesians 6:10-20

John 6:56-69

**Hymns**

411 – Stand up and bless the Lord

52 – How lovely is thy dwelling place – Psalm 84

344 – The wise may bring their learning (Tune 1972 B of P #468; also fits 7676D tunes)

723 – Lord, in this broken world

632 – Help us accept each other

571 – Lord, I want to be a Christian

654 – O God of Bethel, by whose hand

**Call to Worship**

God hears our cries and rescues us from trouble.

**Let us praise God’s holy name.**

God draws near the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

**Let us praise God’s holy name.**

Let us worship the One brings new life and praise God’s holy name forever.

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

God of majesty and mystery,

we come before you in wonder and gratitude.

Source of all that is,

you are beyond our imagining;

your creation astounds us with its beauty and power.

Word of hope and healing,

you embrace us with tender care,

drawing near in every situation.

Spirit of purpose and possibility,

you show us which way to turn when we trust our choices to you.

Receive our praise and prayer this day,

Source, Word, and Spirit of Life, ever Three and ever One.

**God of mercy,**

**we face many choices each day**

**and we confess we often choose with no thought of you.**

**Forgive the choices we’ve made that hurt others,**

**those that ignored our own wellbeing,**

**and those that betrayed your love.**

**Guide us in all our choices,**

**simple or complicated,**

**so we express our faithfulness to you day by day.**

**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 gifts to you this day.

Be renewed by the power of the Spirit that moves with you into each new day.

**Prayer for Understanding**

Lord, to whom shall we go, for you have the words of eternal life? Guide us by your Word and Spirit this day, so that we may gain wisdom from the Scriptures, and be moved to follow Jesus more close for he is your Living Word. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

As summer stretches on, we begin to see the fruit of our labours in field and garden, produce of God’s good creation. Yet we know many fields and gardens are under great stress. So we bring what we have to share, praying that God’s generosity will multiply the fruit of our lives to support those whose summer has been less fruitful.

**Prayer of Dedication**

God of growth and goodness, we offer what we have to share, knowing that others have lost their crops and worry for the future. Bless our gifts and use them to spread seeds of hope and wellbeing among those whose future is uncertain, for the sake of Christ, the Bread of Life.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

*The sung response #492 ‘Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all’ can be used between the paragraphs of this prayer. Alternatively, leave a pause at the end of each paragraph, followed by a spoken response, for example:*

*One: God, in your mercy,*

***All: Hear our prayer***

God in whom we live and move and have our being:

As we gather in your presence today,

we are aware of many challenges in our own lives,

in the lives of those we care about, and in the world around us.

Thank you for your faithfulness to each of us

and to your whole creation,

given all the different situations we face.

Show us how our concern for the world and for each other

can respond to the needs we name before you today.

We pray for those who have been in the headlines lately,

for those situations in the world and in our county that concern us deeply,

and for all whose lives cry out to you and to us for help…..

*Silence for 15 seconds*

*Sung or spoken response*

We pray for those who are suffering, thinking today of

those who are ill and those who are bereaved;

those struggling to make ends meet;

and those whose homes have been upended for any reason:

*Silence for 15 seconds*

*Sung or spoken response*

We pray for those looking forward to a new beginning the Fall:

those starting at new schools or in new training programs;

those beginning new jobs or new activities;

those welcoming new members into the family through birth or marriage

those beginning life in a new home or community

*Silence for 15 seconds*

*Sung or spoken response*

We pray for our congregation as we look to a new season of activities.

Help us see where you call us to reach out with your love and generosity.

Renew our faith and our friendships in Christ.

Equip us to meet every challenge we face

with hearts full of faith & commitment

for we dare to pray Christ taught us as his followers:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

Go in gratitude, relying on the presence of Christ as bread for your journey.

And may the God who made us,

the Christ who mends us,

and the Spirit who gives us life

bless you with peace and purpose each day. Amen.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, August 25**

In Malawi, the Mabiri Community Day Secondary School’s Sexual Reproductive Health Club is a component of the Every Girl Empowered Project, which is supported by PWS&D. One of the issues discussed by club members is school dropout rates among their peers. One of the reasons for this is the inability to pay school fees. Determined to make a difference, club members identified a peer, Wezzie, aged 16, struggling financially. To help her, they organized an open house event, inviting supporters to hear Wezzie’s story and learn about the importance of financial support for marginalized pupils. Through their advocacy efforts, the club secured pledges to cover Wezzie’s school fees, enabling her to take and pass her examinations successfully. The club was pleased knowing they successfully advocated to help improve Wezzie’s future.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, August 25** We give thanks and pray for the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Malawi, celebrating its 100th anniversary this month.

**Monday, August 26** We pray for women in India who, with PWS&D’s support, are gaining access to livelihood opportunities and engaging in workshops about gender issues, contributing to a more equitable society.

**Tuesday, August 27** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Roland DeVries, Principal of The Presbyterian College, Montreal, as he begins a sabbatical this fall.

**Wednesday, August 28** We pray for the staff of the church’s colleges whose work and creativity support the work of theological study, research and reflection.

**Thursday, August 29** We pray for church school teachers and youth workers as they prepare for the year ahead.

**Friday, August 30** We pray for the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy for the Correctional Service of Canada and for our denominational representative, the Rev. Brad Shoemaker, in their work to provide effective spiritual care to offenders in correctional institutions.

**Saturday, August 31 (International Day for People of African Descent)** Recognizing the violent history of colonization faced by people of African descent, we seek the Spirit’s wisdom to end ongoing anti-Black racism.