L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**15th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 1st, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *Green*

**Scripture Readings**

Song of Solomon 2:8-13 and Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9

OR

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9 and Psalm 15

James 1:17-27

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

**Hymns**

324 – Great is thy faithfulness

663 – God, whose giving knows no ending Alternate tune: 722

756 – O Christ, our Lord, we meet here as your people

763 – To show by touch and word

648 – I’m gonna live so God can use me

462 – All my hope on God is founded

457 – Now thank we all our God

**Call to Worship**

Holy God, you call us to worship.

**In your presence, we seek truth and forgiveness.**

Holy God, you call us to worship you.

**In your presence, we seek the grace to forgive one another.**

Holy God, you call us to worship you, heart, body, mind and soul.

**So we gather to offer you our prayer and praise with joyful thanks.**

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

Faithful God,

In your creation,

you have made the seasons to change,

the sun to shine and the rain to fall,

the vines to bear fruit and the fields to produce good things.

You alone are our strength and security;

you alone bring us rest and comfort.

We turn to you as the source of all life,

marvelling at your wisdom,

seeking to learn your purpose for our lives.

We offer you our praise and thanksgiving,

for you are the God who made us,

the Christ who mends us,

and the Spirit who brings us life.

**Faithful God,**

**even though we know you are the Source of our lives,**

**we confess we often turn our backs on you.**

**We hear your Word but follow our own ways.**

**We see others in need but prefer to meet our own needs first.**

**We harbor anger and say things that cause others pain.**

**In your mercy, forgive us,**

**and restore us to right relationship with you and with one another.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

While it is true that we have all sinned,

it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God’s love in Jesus Christ.

When we seek the mercy of God in humility, God will grant us grace.

Be at peace with God, with yourself, and with one another.

**Prayer for Understanding**

God of Word and Wisdom, send your Spirit upon us today as we hear the Scriptures read and interpreted. Help us be doers of your Word, not mere listeners, so that our lives reflect the truth we meet in Jesus Christ, your living Word. Amen

**Invitation to the Offering**

The Letter of James records that every generous act comes from God. So let our offering today reflect God’s generosity and our gratitude for every gift we have received through God’s faithfulness to us.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Great is your faithfulness, O God, and so we offer to you a portion of what we have received through your unfailing goodness. Bless these gifts and our lives, so that your love is proclaimed to the world through all we accomplish in the name of Jesus Christ, our Friend and Saviour. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God whose Word created life,

we give you thanks for the abundance we enjoy from earth’s goodness.

Make us wise caretakers of the earth’s fragile balance,

so vulnerable to drought and disaster.

May your world become a place of abundance for all your creatures,

for we know all our lives depend on you.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of transforming love,

we are grateful to live in a land which is mostly peaceful,

with leaders accountable for their decisions.

We pray for those who face racism, violence and greed

in our communities and in many other nations.

Open hearts and minds to recognize such harm,

and help us build a common life where all people find dignity in their work,

are rewarded fairly, and respected fully.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of vigilant care,

thank you for the strength and comfort you offer us

in times of sorrow and stress.

We pray for those who do not know security in their lives day by day,

for those facing financial pressures,

for the vulnerable who must depend on others for their care,

and for those who feel exhausted by the responsibilities they carry.

Guide us to shape a society where the weak are protected,

where the elderly are honored for their experience,

and children are cherished for their potential.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God of all times and places,

as the summer moves toward autumn,

and activities reorganize for another season,

we pray for families who face decisions about schooling,

and for churches and organizations planning programs.

Equip us all with the wisdom to plan well,

and act with understanding for those eager to get things going

and for those anxious about moving too quickly.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

God who hears our desires even in the silence of our hearts,

listen now as we name before you the people and situations on our minds today:

*(Hold silence for 20 seconds)*

Receive all our prayers in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray together, saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

The Book of James instructs God’s beloved: “Let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to anger; be doers of the word, and not merely hearers.”

Go with these words on your hearts,

And may the God of wisdom guide you;

The Christ of mercy walk beside you;

And the Spirit of hope inspire you each and every day,

Now and always. Amen.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, September 1**

In an Indigenous community in Guatemala, Mercedes Coronado (36), a teacher and mother of eight, shares her transformative journey as the vice president of the agroecological group Los Arbolitos. The community women once faced challenges, including violence and a lack of decision-making power within their households. With the support of PWS&D’s local partner, the Maya-Mam Indigenous Association for Development, Mercedes and the women are experiencing positive change through education and training programs, enabling them to advocate for themselves and future generations. Mercedes is grateful for her husband’s strong support in her career pursuits, emphasizing the importance of gender equality in fostering harmonious relationships and eliminating discrimination.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, September 1** We pray for presbyteries as they gather after a summer respite to continue caring for the congregations and ministers within their boundaries. We also pray for their clerks and moderators as they prepare to offer leadership within their courts.

**Monday, September 2** We pray for members of the Canadian Council of Churches’ Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group, and the Rev. Dr. Catherine Chalin Clark who represents the PCC on that group. The reference group monitors developments in biotechnology and life sciences and discerns the theological and ethical implications of its use in the world.

**Tuesday, September 3** We pray for students and teachers who are returning to school and for Sunday schools and church groups as they resume after a summer break, that they might joyfully return to fellowship and study.

**Wednesday, September 4** Calling God, we pray for students who begin their studies or return to them this month at VST. Ignite your gifts in them through teaching that they may serve you and the world with compassion.

**Thursday, September 5** We pray for the Committee on History’s PCC 150 Ad Hoc Team in their work to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Church and highlight where the denomination has been, where it stands, and where it is going.

**Friday, September 6** We pray for the farm and kitchen staff at Crieff Hills who are working hard to harvest and preserve the summer’s bounty.

**Saturday, September 7** We pray for the Committee on Church Doctrine as they meet in person. May their work help the church think about contemporary issues from a Christ-centered perspective.