L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**16th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 8th, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *Green*

**Scripture Readings**

Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 and Psalm 125

OR

Isaiah 35:4-7a and Psalm 146

James 2:1-10, (11-13), 14-17

Mark 7:24-37

**Hymns**

321 – Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

86 – Those who rely on the Lord – Psalm 125

105 – I’ll praise my Maker while I’ve breath – Psalm 146

624 – Blest are they

762 – When the poor ones

730 – O for a world where everyone

**Call to Worship**

Put your confidence in God.

**We have God as our helper and so we rejoice.**

God gives justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry.

**God frees the prisoners and opens the eyes of the blind.**

So put your trust in God’s goodness.

**May God’s goodness endure forever! Let us worship God.**

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

Eternal God,

You are our beginning and our end.

You gave breath to all living things.

By your Spirit, you come among us this day,

breathing new life into our familiar patterns,

as the gift you offer us through Christ Jesus.

By your grace,

you open new possibilities for the world you love.

So we offer you our lives in worship and in service,

joining our voices with all your creatures,

to offer you honour and blessing, glory and gratitude,

now and always. Amen.

**God of mercy,**

**you keep an eye out for those who dwell on the margins of life.**

**We confess we fail to keep our eyes open for those on the margins.**

**We have been silent when we should have spoken up**

**in the face of injustice.**

**Our generosity to others does not match what you offer us.**

**Forgive us for thinking of ourselves first.**

**Renew our commitment to show others the kindness we meet in Jesus Christ.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

Hear the good news! Who is in a position to condemn us? Only Christ –

and Christ died for us; Christ rose for us; Christ reigns in power for us; Christ prays for us. Believe the good news of the gospel. In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. So be renewed to live according to God’s generous grace.

**Prayer for Understanding**

Gracious God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit as we hear the Scriptures read and interpreted. May we hear what you are saying to the Church today, and find the courage to follow your will. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

The Book of Proverbs declares that those who are generous are blessed, for they share their bread with the poor. While we do not bring bread today, we offer our gifts trusting God to use them to meet needs of those who often go without.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, you call us to reach out to those in need in kindness rather than judgment; and with generosity, not just good intentions. Bless our gifts and our actions for Christ’s sake, so that our faith in his love will show in the work of the Church that bears his name.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

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

We come to you in prayer as the summer season draws nearer to its close:

We give you thanks for the occasions we have enjoyed

to catch up with family and friends;

to travel for recreation and restoration and let our worries go.

We are grateful for each moment to savour the beauty of creation.

Refresh us for the season ahead we pray,

and renew our commitment to serve you.

O God, Jesus faced many demands wherever he went,

and pressure from critics, whatever he did.

We pray for all those who have not found rest this summer:

for those whose work is stressful, exhausting or unappreciated;

and for those whose livelihoods remain uncertain

because of circumstances beyond their control.

We pray for those with hard choices to make,

about work or school or what comes next,

about relationships and priorities,

or about social policy and community leadership.

 *Silence for 20 seconds.*

May each one know your strength and guidance day by day.

Today we remember those for whom this summer has been touched by suffering:

We pray for those who have lost loved ones,

and those facing an uncertain future or a difficult diagnosis.

We pray for those who have lost their homes, for whatever reason,

and for those who despair about the climate crisis

and what can be done to repair the suffering earth.

 *Silence for 20 seconds*

We pray for all those who join efforts to relieve suffering of any kind.

May each one find courage to face tomorrow in your company.

O God, we need the embrace of your presence, each in our own way.

As we prepare to leave this service, walk with us,

and show us how to live each day as those who follow Jesus,

for we dare to pray the words he taught us, saying:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

The Book of James challenges God’s beloved: “You do well if you really fulfil the God’s royal law: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ For faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.”

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 8**

At Samuel House, a ministry of the Reformed Church in Romania, vulnerable children receive nutritious food and homework tutoring so that their potential can be realized in a caring Christian environment. Responding to God’s call, Csilla Bertalan first opened the doors in June 2003 to welcome underprivileged children living in difficult circumstances. Csilla is grateful to God and partners for their support in transforming so many young lives. She shares, “I am grateful that the PCC has been standing beside us in this mission. Thank you!” Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing have been supporting Samuel House since 2014.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, September 8** We give thanks for teachers at Francisco Coll School in Guatemala who equip students with skills and knowledge that will help them succeed in furthering their education.

**Monday, September 9** Dear Lord Almighty, we pray for those who work to build relationships that are broken in our communities. Continue to hold our leaders from the World Council of Churches and the Canadian Council of Churches in your care as you guide those working for peace and unity.

**Tuesday, September 10** We pray for search committees in vacant congregations as they discern who God is calling for them to invite to be their new minister.

**Wednesday, September 11** We pray for Samuel House, a ministry of the Reformed Church in Romania, and Csilla Bertalan, Director, as they serve underprivileged children in Romania.

**Thursday, September 12** We pray for Edmonton Urban Native Ministries, which runs a drop-in centre out of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, and the people it serves.

**Friday, September 13** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Brandon.

**Saturday, September 14** We pray for sessions as they help the members and adherents of their congregations grow in faith and participate in the ministry of Christ locally and around the world.