L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**17th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 15th, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *Green*

**Scripture Readings**

Proverbs 1:20-33 and Psalm 19

OR

Isaiah 50:4-9a and Psalm 116:1-9

James 3:1-12

Mark 8:27-38

**Hymns**

333 – I sing the almighty power of God

495 – The heavens declare your glory, Lord Alternate tunes 652 or 103

10 – God’s glory fills the heavens – Psalm 19

656 – Jesus, friend of little children

704 – Teach me, God, to wonder

211 – Take up your cross

461 – Be thou my vision

**Call to Worship**

Come, people of God, worship the One who listens to our prayers.

**We will worship the One who hears us.**

Come, people of God, worship the One who watches over us.

**We will worship the One who cares deeply for us all.**

Come, people of God, worship the One who offered his life for us.

**We will offer thanks and praise to the One who gives us life.**

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

Living God,

you are the artist of the changing skies

and architect of the steadfast earth,

Loving Christ,

you were born to walk life’s journey with us

and show us God’s purposes.

Spirit of life,

you are always moving in us and among us,

offering us wisdom for every choice.

Creator, Christ and Spirit,

we honour you in our prayers and our praise.

In this time of worship, show us how we can serve you,

for we seek your guidance and your grace now and always. Amen.

**God of time and eternity,**

**we confess that we have long memories,**

**especially for moments we resent or regret.**

**Each week we seek your forgiveness for our mistakes,**

**but we confess we do not forgive others so faithfully.**

**Sometimes we seek opportunity to even the score.**

**Confront us with your mercy, O God,**

**and open our hearts to its cleansing power.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

From now on, the Apostle Paul declared, we regard no one from a human point of view. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation. Through Christ God has reconciled us, and given us a ministry of reconciliation. Thanks be to God that we can all make a new start, this day and every day!

**Prayer for Understanding**

God of Wisdom, the Psalmist tells us your law is perfect, making the simple wise.

Send your Holy Spirit to focus our attention on your Word, so we may grow wiser as we learn to follow Jesus, your Living Word.

**Invitation to the Offering**

Jesus challenged his disciples to take up the cross and follow him. Whatever we offer him speaks of how we take up his challenge in our time. So give with grateful, loyal hearts.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Generous God, you poured out your love for us through Jesus Christ, who gave up everything on the cross. We bring what we have to offer you in love and loyalty. Receive our gratitude and bless all that our gifts can do to share your love for Christ’s sake. Amen.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of inspiration and imagination,

you are the artist of our lives.

You have filled your world with gifts,

expressed through the creativity and dedication of so many.

We give you thanks for a new season of opportunity

to gather in worship and witness,

learning from you and from each other.

Artist of our lives,

 **Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

Today we give you thanks for the artists among us,

offering their inspiring gifts.

Thank you for painters and poets,

for lines on a canvas and lines on a page,

which inspire us and leave us wondering.

Thank you for sculptors and storytellers

who fashion faces in stone and scenes in words

to outline the profile of your truth for us.

And thank you for the art on our fridge doors.

Artist of our lives,

**Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of grace and goodness,

We know your creativity in the arts of fabric and foodstuff,

in hands that work with wood and keep machinery humming.

We give you thanks for those who stitch patterns with thread,

and those who set patterns on our plates, mixing colours and flavours.

Thank you for those who build and repair, refinish and restore

the things we need and the things we cherish.

Artist of our lives,

**Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of music and movement,

We know your beauty in the gifts of keyboard and composer,

in the blending of voices and the bending of dancers.

We thank you for these sounds and sights

that can touch our hearts once more,

and open our souls to praise you.

We pray for artists of every kind,

that their work will find appreciation and support

throughout our community.

Artist of our lives,

**Awaken our gifts to serve you.**

God of hope and healing,

We thank you, too, for the healing arts,

for the care and relief offered by professionals in our health care system

and for support given by friends and volunteers.

We pray for all who seek healing – for body, mind or spirit.

Give each one your presence and peace

through our prayer and friendship.

Awaken us to all to our creative potential

to serve you in serving each other.

Hear our prayers, silent and spoken,

summed up in the words Jesus taught us:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

“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 day,

now and always. Amen.

**PRAYER PARTNERSHIP**

**MISSION MOMENT: Sunday, September 15**

After participating in the New Beginnings program, which guides congregations through a renewal process to discern God’s call for their future, St. Giles Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines, ON, is exploring innovative ways to engage with their community. The congregation is turning faith into action by fostering a welcoming and supportive environment for individuals with disabilities and their families. They have created a multi-sensory space where individuals with sensory sensitivities can find comfort and engagement. They hope to offer respite programming and support groups for caregivers who demonstrate a commitment to walking alongside them in their journey. The New Beginnings program receives funding from Presbyterians Sharing.

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, September 15** We give thanks for congregations like St. Giles Presbyterian Church in St. Catharines, ON that engage in intentional ministry to support children with special needs and their families.

**Monday, September 16** We pray for congregations in transition, and for those who serve as their ministers and interim moderators. May God’s Spirit guide them as they continue in their journey of discernment.

**Tuesday, September 17** We celebrate the ways our congregations work together to support Presbyterians Sharing by sharing their gifts, time and talent —serving on committees and participating in advocacy campaigns, learning experiences and other opportunities to serve.

**Wednesday, September 18** We pray for the families of Paul McLean (working with the church in Taiwan), Blair Bertrand (working with the church in Malawi), Joel Sherbino (working with the church in Malawi), and Lora Nafziger (working with United Mission to Nepal).

**Thursday, September 19** We give thanks and pray for those who serve on the Canadian Ministries Grants Committee as they fulfill their responsibilities with wisdom, compassion and discernment.

**Friday, September 20** We pray for members and leaders of the Atlantic Mission Society as they hold their Annual Meeting from Sept. 20–22 in Truro, NS.

**Saturday, September 21 (International Day of Prayer for Peace)** We pray that love and compassion drive out senseless violence around the world and ask God to protect PWS&D partners delivering humanitarian aid to uprooted families.