L’Église presbytérienne

au Canada

The Presbyterian Church

in Canada

**Worship Planner**

**18th Sunday after Pentecost**

**September 22nd, 2024**

**Year B**

**Colour** *Green*

**Scripture Readings**

Proverbs 31:10-31 and Psalm 1

OR

Jeremiah 11:18-20 and Psalm 54

James 3:13 - 4:3, 7-8a;

Mark 9:30-37

**Hymns**

490 – God of grace and God of glory

434 – For the beauty of the earth

1 – How blest are they, who fearing God – Psalm 1

348 – Tell me the stories of Jesus

356 – You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd

296 – The clay-stained hands of love Alternate tunes 481 or 661

585 – Christ, you call us all to service

**Call to Worship**

From sunrise to sunset,

**Let us praise God’s holy name.**

With the wisdom of the aged and the energy of the young,

**Let us praise God’s holy name.**

In our work, in our homes, and in all we do,

**Let us praise God’s holy name.**

Let us praise the Lord with all our hearts!

**We will worship God now and always.**

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

God of all creation,

you have opened the world around us

and filled it with beauty and purpose.

Each creature declares your praise –

the mountain states your majesty;

the ripened field, your generosity.

Birds flying aloft sing of your freedom;

the tiny ant works with your persistence.

We pray that all our work will honour your justice and mercy.

May all our relationships speak of your compassion.

So may we praise you, O God,

not just in this hour of worship but in all the hours you grant us,

as we follow Jesus Christ, our Lord and our Friend.

**God of all creation,**

**you opened the world around us and filled it with wonder,**

**yet we confess we look away from its harsher realities.**

**Our ears can be deaf to cries of need.**

**Our minds ignore opinions which differ from our own.**

**Forgive us when we seek greatness instead of goodness,**

**and miss the wisdom you intend us to embrace.**

**Assurance of Pardon**

The prophet Micah reminds us that God requires of us three things:

to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

To all who truly repent and seek reconciliation with God and neighbour

in kindness and humility, God offers forgiveness and peace.

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

**Prayer for Understanding**

Shine the light of your Word on the path ahead, O God. Help us choose the way of your wisdom, so we may bear fruit that is pleasing to you and shines your light into the world around us. Amen.

**Invitation to the Offering**

The Letter of James invites us to show gentleness born of God’s wisdom through our good works. The gifts we offer to God support many good works through our congregation and the work Presbyterians undertake together around the world. May they bear much fruit in Jesus’ name.

**Prayer of Dedication**

Wise and faithful God, we offer our gifts to you in thanksgiving for your gifts to us in Christ and in creation. Bless these gifts and the good works they will support, so that the world may know your wisdom and faithfulness through Christ, our Lord.

**Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession**

God of all people and places, we come to you in prayer,

giving thanks that you are with us in all situations.

You bring us strength and courage when we are anxious or afraid.

You provide wisdom and direction when we face choices and challenges.

Thank you for your faithfulness to us.

In our prayers, enlarge our love and sharpen our vision

so that we may serve the world you love more faithfully.

We pray for those who dwell on the margins of the economy,

facing the challenges of unemployment, financial insecurity and rising costs.

Give leaders in government, business and labour a mutual vision

that reflects the values of your kingdom,

so that everyone has enough resources and respect to live well and wisely.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those facing famine and drought this year,

and for those who have lost everything through fire, storm or conflict.

Bring support to those people and agencies who work to alleviate suffering

and help them rebuild lives and communities.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We give you thanks for those who work for peace and mercy

in a world divided by bitter conflicts,

and for those who keep peace and lead negotiations in international disputes.

Give them wisdom and perseverance.

We remember those who face violence, persecution, or discrimination daily.

Send your Spirit to protect the vulnerable and shame the vicious

so that justice and wellbeing will prevail.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for teachers, students,

educational administrators and support staff

as another school year begins.

Thank you for the gifts of education,

for deepening insight into this ever-changing world

and the ability to distinguish truth from error.

Grant all those in education this year mutual respect

and commitment to the shared venture of learning.

Help each of us bring the benefits of our education to our life of faith

and give us all a teachable spirit.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for all those struggling with pain or illness,

disability or daunting diagnosis.

Stay by their side.

Be with those who face death this day,

and those who weep for loved ones who have died.

Unite us in love, whatever we are facing,

and grant us the peace and hope you have promised us in Christ Jesus

who taught us to pray together:

**The Lord’s Prayer**

**Commissioning and Benediction**

The Book of James instructs God’s beloved: “Who is wise and understanding among you? Show by your good life that your works are done with gentleness born of wisdom.”

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 22**

PWS&D’s annual Journey for Hope encourages supporters to gear up and walk, run, ride, roll or do another activity they love to raise money for the food security work PWS&D does around the world. Food security is an essential human right, yet a significant portion of the global population is food insecure, without access to enough food of acceptable quantity and quality. Your participation in and support for Journey for Hope enables PWS&D to actively respond to hunger needs through food security projects that improve agricultural production in places like Haiti, Guatemala and Malawi. Funds also help provide emergency food assistance in countries that are extremely vulnerable, including Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Thank you for participating and making a difference!

**DAILY PRAYERS**

**Sunday, September 22** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Dean of St. Andrew’s Hall in Vancouver.

**Monday, September 23** We give thanks for the contributions of temporary migrant agricultural workers in Canada. We pray that decision makers will enact policies that better protect the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families and develop fair pathways to Canadian citizenship.

**Tuesday, September 24** We pray for the members and work of the Gender, Sexuality and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

**Wednesday, September 25** We pray for newly ordained Ruling Elders, that God will give them wisdom and compassion as they serve on their sessions.

**Thursday, September 26** We pray for the work of the Leadership Centre at The Presbyterian College, Montreal and its director, Dr. Adrian Langdon. May the centre’s ministry enrich and energize the church.

**Friday, September 27** We remember the clerks of synods who will be working on preparations for the various meetings and gatherings of synods during October.

**Saturday, September 28** We pray for those participating in Journey for Hope on September 28 in support of PWS&D’s food security programs.