



WORSHIP RESOURCES
FOR MISSION
AWARENESS SUNDAY

April 29, 2018

Theme: Understanding Truth,
Living Reconciliation

by Rev. Mark Tremblay

Sessions and WMS/AMS groups have worked together to promote mission through Mission Awareness Sunday since 2000.

Leaders' Notes:

An introductory paragraph explaining that today is Mission Awareness Sunday would be a great way to start the service. Something like, "Today we join churches across Canada to promote and celebrate mission work. The service was written by the Rev. Mark Tremblay, minister at Knox Presbyterian Church in Calgary, Alberta."

The Confession of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and Principles of Reconciliation have been provided with this resource. You are encouraged to have these available for your congregation.

Scripture Passages: Daniel 1: 1–7
Matthew 28: 19–20

Call to Worship¹:

Leader: There is no part of creation that does not reflect God's image

People: Jesus presents us life in all its fulness

Leader: The church is commissioned to celebrate life and to resist all life-destroying forces

People: Mission begins in the heart of God

Leader: Mission is about the transformation of all God's creation

People: The church exists to bring healing and reconciliation to the world

Prayer of Adoration:

Holy and loving God, we thank you for the gift of life infused in and through all creation. Today we would celebrate the mission of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and wonder about the radically different way we treated Indigenous peoples in Taiwan to those Indigenous peoples we found in this country we call Canada. In one we expressed cultural sensitivity, in the other cultural arrogance. Help us learn from the past so that we might respond to your call to mission and produce loving actions only, actions which are creative, nourishing and transformative for all people. Hear us now as we pray the words of confession,

Prayer of Confession:

Merciful God, you have called us as participants of your transformation. However, there are times that we have seen the need for transformation only in others. "We regret that there are those whose lives have been deeply scarred by the effects of the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada." Forgive our short-sightedness, cultural arrogance and misunderstanding. Breathe your Spirit upon us so that we might experience true metanoia and be transformed to participate in healing and reconciliation for all.

Declaration of Forgiveness:

For all that you are, for all that you have done, God's grace is the reason you here. Through grace we may find the transformative power of love to leave behind the lie of the world that change is not possible. In Christ we find freedom to change, to choose life. Amen.

Offertory Prayer:

Holy God, we realize that the gifts we bring are not the fruits of our lives but the blessings of your love. We thank you. May we always put you first and remember to share our blessings with others.

Prayers of the People:

Leader: Let us pray to God saying:

People: Transforming God, make us humble in your service.

Leader: Paul told the church that it is only through the Spirit that we learn what to pray. Our prayers must conform to God's purpose for creation. With awareness of the brokenness of humanity, the fragility of the earth and the skepticism we hold about change being necessary, let us pray to God:

People: Transforming God, make us humble in your service.

Leader: Though we think we are all right and it is others who need to change; it is those who are poor, sick and powerless who need more help than us, we have become complicit in a system that has made it possible for people to become poor, sick and powerless. Let us pray to God:

People: Transforming God, make us humble in your service.

Leader: We have taken the command to subdue the earth as a license for domination. We believe anything we can see, or touch could be ours exclusively—it's finders' keepers! There are times we even feel only people like us may experience your grace and love. Let us pray to God:

People: Transforming God, make us humble in your service.

Leader: Our earth, our neighbours and we, ourselves, are victims to a culture of domination. We have become desensitized to and a part of its dehumanizing tendencies. We have become blind to its life-destroying force. The whole of creation is in need of healing and reconciliation. Let us pray to God:

People: Transforming God, make us humble in your service.

Leader: Help us work toward reconciliation by co-creating a more equitable and inclusive society. Make us aware of the barriers, gaps and chasms that we have created which prevent some of your children from experiencing your offer of transformative life. Let us pray to God:

People: Transforming God, make us humble in your service.

The Lord's prayer may be included here. One possibility would be to use the Inclusive Lord's prayer from the New Zealand Prayer book.

Benediction:

Leave this place empowered by the Word of God to love others as you would have them love you; and take God's love that was expressed through Jesus Christ and given to you all through the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Hymn Suggestions:

762	When the poor ones
401	O Spirit of the living God
486	The Church of Christ in every age
756	O Christ, our lord, we meet here as your people
758	Christ's is the world
754	Go ye, go ye into the world
778	Lord, you give the great commission

¹ The Call to Worship and the Prayers of the People were inspired by Together Towards Life: Mission and Evangelism in Changing Landscapes, World Council of Churches, Crete, 2012.

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by The Rev. Mark Tremblay. Mark was called to Knox church in 2012. He was attracted by the unique passion for Worship, Justice he experienced from the Knox congregation.

He has degrees in Philosophy, Religion and Theology. He has ministered to Churches in Brampton, Bermuda, and Eastern Ontario. He strives to bring recent scholarship and post-constantinian thinking to his exegesis and proclamation of the gospel; preaching should be educational, relevant and challenging. He also believes that the church is called to be part of the wider community in which it resides.

Mark and his wife, Liz, enjoy walking through Fish Creek Park with their two dogs and getting out of Calgary to explore the mountains. They have four adult children.

GET IN TOUCH

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