



# Presbyterians Sharing Sunday 2025-2026 Liturgy for Worship

This worship service is designed to be used on a Sunday that best fits the schedule of the congregation. The service can be led by lay leaders as well as the minister. Permission is given to reproduce and adapt this worship service as needed.

## **WELCOME**

Today, our service of worship draws inspiration from the work we do together through *Presbyterians Sharing*. *Presbyterians Sharing* is the national fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada supporting the overall mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. This worship service will reflect on how these gifts, given to God, continue our worship beyond Sunday morning.

As we worship God, let us reflect on what we can do to spread the good news in our communities, in our country and around the world.

## **PREPARE**

Decorate your church with footsteps leading into the sanctuary. For churches with sidewalks leading to the church, use sidewalk chalk and draw footsteps entering the church. Other churches could make a trail of paper feet going into the church. Write simple messages on the footsteps that welcome and invite people to worship. Be creative!

## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Come into this time just as you are.  
Come into this time in humble thankfulness.  
Come to have tired feet tended.  
Come to have bruised feet bandaged.  
Come to have dusty feet washed.  
Come to be renewed by Christ's love.  
Come to be revitalized by the Spirit's presence.  
Come to worship God!

## **PRAYER OF APPROACH/CONFESSION**

God of the many and God of the few, God of the weak and the strong,  
God of saints and sinners, we celebrate your patient care in all times and all places.

God of all generations, we walk toward you this day on tired, talented, beautiful feet,  
to celebrate, to rejoice, to raise our voices in song. Our feet dance your praises and run towards your  
open and loving arms.

We pray for your welcome, we pray for your mercy and grace as we boldly approach you.  
We pray that our worship may be a delight to you as we come together in tent and temple, in chapel  
and cathedral, in open air and behind stone walls. May your glory be known to all who gather near and  
far, today and all days.

Although we may leap and sing for joy this day, we also know there is much wrong in our lives,  
in our communities and in the world; and so we pray that you will hear us as we make our confession.

Our feet are indeed tired and worn. We feel the stresses and strains that alienate us from you.  
We are out of step with ourselves, out of step with each other, out of step with your created world, and  
out of step with you.

We drag our feet as we are reluctant to use our talents or gifts. We have blisters from rubbing people  
the wrong way and calluses from losing our sensitivity and becoming indifferent to other people's needs  
or hurt or pain. We are slow to follow, because our feet are made of clay.

Forgive us we pray. Amen

### **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

We like to pretend that we don't have feet of clay, but we do.  
The good news is that, because of Jesus, our feet are not the only ones we stand on.  
For in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and in Jesus Christ we find strength, guidance, love and hope.  
Thanks be to God!

### **HYMN SUGGESTIONS**

641 – One more step along the world I go  
642 – O Master, let me walk with thee  
229 – Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love  
587- Called as partners in Christ's service  
585 – Christ, you call us all to service  
491 – God bless your church with strength  
665 – Lord Jesus you shall be my song

## **SCRIPTURE**

Psalm 8

Isaiah 52:7-12

John 13:1-20

1 Corinthians 12:12-26

## **CHILDREN'S STORY**

### ***Instructions***

*Pre-cut 20 footprints of different shapes and sizes out of paper. On the back of each footprint write one letter to spell out: P R E S B Y T E R I A N S S H A R I N G. You then may want to recruit a volunteer to help you with the story.*

### ***Story***

Did you know you can learn how to dance by using a pattern of footsteps spread across the floor? Well, long before there were video games that taught you to dance, people could learn to dance using footprints that would be cut out and placed on the floor. Footprints that looked like these: (hold up a number of pre-cut footprints.)

By arranging these footprints in just the right pattern you can learn to waltz or tango or fox trot or cha cha cha or whatever. (I am sure you can learn hip hop this way too!)

*[Place the feet on the ground and show them a dance step. If you have time you could put eight feet on the ground, and have a child join you in the dance. Practice this at home and do a step you are comfortable with. To make it more fun, recruit a volunteer to help you and you can show how you dance together. ]*

Whatever dance it may be, it doesn't happen just by putting the correct steps together. There needs to be music and rhythm and composition and cooperation between the dancers to really make it work. But when we work together, when we join our feet in dance together, with different people providing the music, the steps, the dance, we can make a beautiful dance!!

There are a great variety of gifts among God's people. There are many sizes and shapes of feet. They come from all around the world and they are good at all kinds of different steps. We can dance alone, but when we join them together with other dancers – what a beautiful dance it makes!!

*[Pick up the footprints – and give one to each child with the letters facing out. If there aren't enough children, get some adults to help out. Have it spell out PRESBYTERIANS SHARING.]*

Did you know that our church works with Presbyterian churches across Canada and around the world to do God's work? When we collect the offering every Sunday, some of that money goes to The Presbyterian Church in Canada to support mission and ministry programs. We call those gifts

*Presbyterians Sharing* because it's one way we share in ministry and it's one way we share our gifts with people across Canada and around the world.

It's a little bit like a dance. We join our footsteps with Christians around the world to do God's work, and God makes it a beautiful dance. Together we are *Presbyterians Sharing* God's word!

*Let us pray together:*

Loving God,  
Thank-you for giving each of us different skills and talents,  
different gifts we can use to do your work.  
Help us use these gifts to share your love across Canada and around the world.  
In Jesus' name, Amen.

### **CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY**

Have the children trace their footprints using paper and pencils or crayons. If you have time, cut them out. Talk about how we all have different and unique footprints, just as they are all different and unique. Have each child list their talents/gifts and write them in the footprints. (For young children you will have to write the words in.) Talk about how we all have different gifts and talents, and how if we share them with the church in different ways. The footprints can be posted in the church for everyone to see or be brought back and used in the children's story next week. They could also be put on the offering plate by the children.

### **SERMON**

#### *Beautiful Feet from all around the world*

It's probably certain that unless you are a podiatrist you have never read a book about feet. After all, feet are not the most glamorous part of the human anatomy that we could discuss. Well today, we are going to take a bit of a foot journey.

Feet are a rather curious part of our bodies. They bear all our weight and hold us upright; they keep us balanced and prevent us from falling. Sometimes they are abused and sometimes they are pampered.

There is nothing more common or down to earth than a foot. The dictionary defines a foot as the lower extremity of the vertebrae that is in direct contact with the ground in walking or standing. Two other definitions reinforce the foot's lowly status. It is defined as:

1. The lower end of an object, or the end opposite the head such as the foot of the bed and,
2. The inferior part or rank such as the foot of the class

In our scripture reading today, we find Paul turning this ranking of body parts upside down. He declares that the foot is no longer subordinate to the head, or to any part of the body for that matter. He declares that no matter how significant or how lowly you seem to be, your value comes because you are part of the whole body, so each part is as important as the next.

As Eugene Peterson puts it in *The Message*:

an enormous eye or a gigantic hand wouldn't be a body, but a monster! What we have is one body with many parts, each its proper size and in its proper place. No part is important on its own. Can you imagine Eye telling Hand: "Get lost; I don't need you" or Head telling Foot, "You're fired; your job has been phased out!

We come face to face with this reversal of values: the idea that no part is superior to another; equality all the way around; functioning as a unit; each part just as important as the next; creating harmony and unity. As Nelson Mandela said some years back, while addressing students in Toronto about two million children who were starving around the world, "this can be overcome if you and me work together – working together as the body of Christ – by means of his Spirit"

But, as we know, this is not always the reality faced in the world today. Today's world is more like the images conjured up by Peterson:

- huge disproportionate eyes, seeking out the vast wealth of the world.
- huge grotesque hands reaching out to scoop up financial, ecological and human resources.

The news is full of the misdeeds and corruption of the world - from our backyards to the other side of the globe. It is painful to watch a newscast and be confronted with the tragedies of this world – to the abuse and misuse of power – to the corruption and distortion of the body. Indeed, there is much for us to feel discouraged by, much for us to be overwhelmed by, much for us to grieve together.

But that's not the end of the story. There are also stories of hope. Does it not bring great joy when someone succeeds, when others reach out to help, when we reach out to help? Does it not help re-establish the balance that a body needs to survive when we tend and care for and wash a few dirty feet along the way?

It is always amazing that when God's talented people join together,  
the result is much greater than what we could accomplish if each worked independently  
the whole is greater than the sum of its parts!

The result is that we are here gathered together to worship our God who brings about this equilibrium in the body. What is that expression? If the shoe fits, wear it.

We are not often found wearing the same shoes as someone else. Some shoes fit better than others, some are too tight, some are too sloppy with no support. I would say to you, if the shoe fits, wear it: walk in it - run in it - dance in it. But know, that you don't have to do it alone.

To be a follower of Christ sets one in the midst of people.

We are the body of Christ - the household of faith, the children of God, the holy people.

But for whatever reasons, we often still try to go it alone.

We too often fail to use the gifts that are available to us in the support and help of others.

How many times have you heard someone say, "I don't need to go to church – I can be a good person and have faith on my own."

We need other people with whom to communicate, with whom to share. We need others like us – helpers fit for us, people for whom we pray and who pray for us

God provides support for us in Christ Jesus, who is in every way like us, who has been where we are – and God connects us with others who are in Jesus Christ. That connection, that community, has the potential and resources beyond our imaginations, in our church, in our community and in the world.

One way we can make those connections come alive is through our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing*. *Presbyterians Sharing* is our way of supporting mission and ministry together, as The Presbyterian Church in Canada. We contribute to it through our weekly offerings. **Our congregation's commitment for this year is \$\_\_\_\_\_.**

**Through Presbyterians Sharing**, we share in a wide range of ministries in Canada and around the world. Together, we:

- discern the vision and direction for the denomination
- equip congregations and support presbyteries as they launch new faith communities
- fund projects and ministries supporting truth, reconciliation, healing and reparation
- accompany international partners through grants and mission staff as they share the good news of Christ
- address causes and consequences of poverty, racism, oppression, conflict and violence
- protect and restore God's creation amid our current climate crisis
- equip leaders to serve the church in Canada and around the world through theological and lay education
- develop resources to help all levels of our church to be inclusive and welcoming to all people

...and so much more!

This is our ministry. It's one way that we join our feet with Presbyterians across Canada to do mission and ministry together in Canada and around the world. Together our dance proclaims the good news of the gospel in word and deed.

It is God who joins our talented feet – the stronger and the weaker – with the talented feet of our sisters and brothers in Christ to make a beautiful pattern. As we follow the rhythm and the music of the spirit, our talented feet join in the graceful dance of the people of God.

We need to remember that the gracefulness of the dance does not depend on us. It is God's gift. In fact, God's eye can perceive the beauty of the dance even when we cannot. Sometimes God's grace allows us to see the dance as if through God's own eyes.

The Rev. Hastings Phale joined General Assembly this year, virtually from Malawi. The country coordinator of Friends of Prison ministry, which won the 2025 Cutting Edge of Mission Award. They are planting seeds of hope among men, women and children weekly in Malawian prisons, serving 6000 people weekly. The prisons in Malawi have insufficient resources and are lacking in the basics of life. Hastings shared,

"Our focus is to bring hope to the hopeless. Malawi prisons are total different from yours. The prison cells are very small. In one of the prisons built to host 800 prisoners, hosts over 2000 prisoners. . . .

We come in, like Jesus does. These people needs someone who hears their stories, someone who reasons with them, someone who can clean their feet. Mostly we are know as companions to these people. Sometimes we come in as preachers, but also as people who bring in bible study, . . we tell them 'Jesus thinks about you.' We also try to learn from them. Without you we cannot proceed. Without you we cannot bring this good message. Without you we cannot bring joy to people."

(See the full video at <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2025/>)

This is what our ministry is about – in our community, in our world – seeing the opportunities that the Holy Spirit presents. This is what *Presbyterians Sharing* is all about.

So say it again - if the shoe fits wear it:

walk in it; run in it; dance in it; hop, skip and jump in it; reach out in it;  
share in it; care in it; love in it.

And do it together!

### **CALL TO OFFERING**

Our talented feet are gifts from God to us and our talented feet can be gifts from us to others. We do not stand alone. God joins our feet with the feet of our brothers and sisters in Christ to make a beautiful pattern. And as we follow the rhythm and music of the Spirit, our feet join in the graceful dance of the people of God. May we join in the dance as we offer our gifts to God!

### **DEDICATION**

O God may we always remember that the gracefulness of the dance does not depend on us. You give us the gift of dance, and you perceive the beauty of that dance, even when we cannot. Use our gifts to continue and enliven the dance. Continue to call us to the dance which makes sure there is enough of everything – music and space and dance steps – to go around, beyond what we can imagine. Amen.

**Prayers for the People/Responsive Prayer:**

As God's people, called to love one another, let us pray for the needs of the church, the whole human family, and all the world, saying,

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That churches and Christians of all traditions  
may ever more deeply embrace the unity  
to which we have been called in Christ, and for which he prayed;  
and that we may exercise our common gifts in the service of all,  
we pray to you, O God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That the earth may be freed from war, famine and disease,  
and the air, soil and waters cleansed of poison,  
we pray to you, O God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That those who govern and maintain peace in every land  
may exercise their powers in obedience to your commands,  
we pray to you, O God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you will strengthen our nations to pursue just priorities  
so that the races may be reconciled; the young, educated; the old, cared for;  
the hungry, filled; the homeless, housed;  
the oppressed, liberated; the marginalized, restored;  
and the sick, comforted and healed, we pray to you, O God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you will bless our enemies,  
and that you will help us to find ways to understand,  
to love and to be reconciled with all who persecute or hate us,  
we pray to you, O God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That The Presbyterian Church in Canada might be blessed  
with passion, with integrity, with resources and with vision,  
so that it might continue to bless and serve  
this country and this world,  
we pray to you, O God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

That you will accept our thanksgiving for all of the saints  
who bore witness to the light;  
and that you will strengthen us that we may persevere  
in the faith to which we have been called  
and at the end may behold your glory, we pray to you, O God:

**Lord, hear our prayer.**

O God, in your loving purpose answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes, for we offer our prayers and our lives to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

### **COMMISSIONING**

Go out into the world changed by this time.

Go out into the world in humble thankfulness.

Go out into the world to tend to tired feet

Go out into the world to bandage bruised feet.

Go out into the world to stoop and wash dusty feet.

Go out into the world renewed by Christ's care.

Go out into the world revitalized by the Spirit's presence.

Go out into the world to worship God!

*This Presbyterians Sharing liturgy was prepared by the Reverend Ruth Houtby.*

*The Responsive Prayer was written by the Reverend Emily Bisset.*

*Please feel free to photocopy and adapt to suit your worshipping community.*