

Mission Awareness Sunday
April 28, 2024



Atlantic Mission Society

Theme: "Keeping the Faith"

The AMS Mission Education Committee has prepared these resources for the use of auxiliaries and congregations on Mission Awareness Sunday.

In planning your service, you are not limited to the suggestions made here. Please make any changes necessary to make the service your own, and meet the needs of your congregation.

Please remember, as always, that you must receive permission from your Session to lead in worship.

Prepared by AMS Mission Education Committee:

Hymns	Linda Mackinnon
Sermon	Kathy Parks
Welcome	Elisa Campbell
Call to Worship	Joanne Smith
Prayers for the people	Dawn Griffiths
Prayer of Adoration and confession	Marion Barclay
Offering and prayers of thanksgiving	Dawn Griffiths
Children's Story and Activity	Mary Condon

Scripture Readings

Acts 8:26–40;
Psalm 22:25–31;
1 John 4:7–21;
John 15:1–8

Hymns

Follow me, the Master said
How firm a foundation
Simply trusting every day
Will your anchor hold
Amazing grace

Book of Praise 1972 / 1997

483 / 645
425 / 685
452 / 689
515 / 744
403 / 670

Welcome

Welcome to our Mission Awareness Service. Thank you for joining us on this special Sunday. Mission Awareness Sunday is a day where we celebrate The Atlantic Mission Society and their work. The PURPOSE of the Atlantic Mission Society is to glorify God and to support with prayer, study and service mission endeavors through The Presbyterian Church in Canada. With your help we are able to continue on this path.

Call to Worship: Heb 11:1, Heb 12:2(a); Mk 12:30(b); Mk 12:31(b)

L. As we come to worship today Lord

R. We come into your Presence with Hope, Faith, & Love.

L. Now Faith is being sure of what we Hope for and certain of what we do not see.

R. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus the author and perfecter of our Faith.

L. Let us keep Your Commandments:

R. Love the Lord your God with all your Heart and with all your Soul and with all your mind and with all your Strength;

I. Love your Neighbour as yourself.

R. Come Let us Worship together. Amen

Hymn:

PRAYERS OF ADORATION AND CONFESSION

God of steadfast love and faithfulness, our voices join with those of all times and places to praise your holy and wondrous name. The splendor of your creative power dazzles us; your delivering hand sets our feet on a firm foundation; your redeeming work in Jesus Christ humbles us with the depths of your love, and

forgiveness, for the world. In our worship today, may your Spirit bless us with renewed vision for the good news of your rule and reign. May our hearts be warmed by your gracious love for us, that draws us into joyous relationship with you, and with your people— both here on earth, and those gathered into your heavenly hand. Compassionate God, in your Son, Jesus Christ, you reveal your perfect love for us, a love that casts out all fear. But we are fearful...and so we confess our fears before you: the anxiety that fills us, as we look to an uncertain future before us; our mistrust towards others, whose lives are different from our own; our feverish activity, to prove self-worth to ourselves, to others, and to you; our reticence to risk ourselves, for the sake of your rule and reign in daily life. Forgive our failure to trust in your most perfect love for us. Through your Spirit's power, embolden us to surrender our lives to your gracious faithfulness and tender mercy. Renew our desire to follow Jesus Christ, your Son, and find in him the perfect love from you, that conquers all fearfulness, and fear. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, we pray. Amen.

[Lord's Prayer]

Assurance of God's Love and Forgiveness

Children's Hymn:

Children's Time [material provided]

Scripture: Acts 8:26–40;

Psalm 22:25–31;

1 John 4:7–21;

John 15:1–8

Message\Sermon: Keeping the Faith [Message provided]

Hymn:

Invitation to Offering

Our God has given us so much; gifts of creation and love; gifts of hope and joy; gifts of peace and **faith**. We are called to share these gifts with others. Sometimes we think we have so little to give in a world that needs so much; then we remember the lesson of the small boy and his gifts of loaves and fishes. Our gifts in your hands are multiplied and do far more than we can ask or imagine. The gifts of our hands, hearts and prayers will now be received.

Offering Hymn:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Offering Prayer:

Generous God, we offer our thanks for all your amazing gifts to us;

brilliant sunsets and shining rainbows;

golden daffodils and new green growth where once there was only frozen ground;

people to love and people who love us;

your forgiveness and grace.

You are with us each moment of every day, offering strength and love, hope and light. You surprise us with joy and fill us with peace. You strengthen our faith. For all these things and more we give you thanks. In response to your love we offer our gifts. Take and use them, we pray to change lives. We pray in faith. Amen

Prayers for God's World and God's People:

God of Light, we see so much darkness in our world.

The darkness of war.

Of disease.

Of devastating earthquakes.

Of greed and the lust for power in some world leaders.
Of a changing climate leading to more frequent storms, floods and wildfires.

Of increasing poverty and homelessness.

When we focus on the darkness, it can become overwhelming.

When we focus on the darkness, our faith can falter.

Yet you, Lord Jesus, are the Light of the world! You are faithful, and you renew our faith.

You call us to live in your light and hope.

And You call us to reflect your light to others.

And so we come today praying for ourselves and for our world.

Open our eyes and minds to recognize your presence, forgiveness and hope that is with us each moment. Fill us with your love so we can reach out in love to those who need it so badly.

We pray for our world.

We pray for peace for areas torn by war and violence. Lord, be with each person so that they know your presence and love in the midst of such devastation.

We pray for our beautiful earth. May governments and industries work together to protect our environment.

We pray for governments and community leaders that they will work for justice and the good of all people.

We pray for help for those struggling in poverty.

We pray for healing for those who are ill, and strength for their families and caregivers.

We pray for your peace for those who are dying; and for your comfort for those who are grieving.

We give thanks for all who work in our churches to bring your light and love to others:

Ministers and elders;

Treasurers and members of Boards of Management;

Sunday School teachers and Youth Leaders;

Members of service groups.

The Atlantic Mission Society.

We pray for each one as they work to share the light of your love in our congregations, communities and around the world.

Lord of love and light, hold us all in your care. Build up our faith.

Open our eyes to your Light shining in the darkness, knowing it cannot be put out! Show us ways we can reflect your Light to others in a world that needs it so much.

We give you glory, our God of Light, as we pray in faith. AMEN
[Lord's Prayer]

Closing Hymn:

Prayer and Benediction:

To you, Loving God, we offer all praise and glory for all you have done for us through Jesus Christ, our Lord. We give thanks for your Word, and the gift of those who have nurtured us in faith along life's journey. May your Spirit bless our congregations and empower each of us to be the people of faith you call us to be. And now, let us go out in Faith to love and serve God. And may the Blessing of God, Creator, Christ and Spirit be with us today and forever. AMEN