

**Mission Awareness Sunday – 2025**

**Order of Service**

***(Please feel free to change the order, or modify any part of the service, including adding other items (eg. Praise Time, Mission Moment etc.) to make this worship experience meaningful in your congregation.)***

**Hymn Suggestions: *1972/1997***

To God be the glory 73/350

O Master, let me walk with thee 469/642

Come, children, join to sing 251/377

From heaven you came (Servant King) /379

Called as partners in Christ’s service /587

Jesus’ hands were kind hands /631

Brother, sister, let me serve you /635

**Welcome:**

Welcome to our Mission Awareness Service. Today the AMS members are leading the service.  There are envelopes provided with the bulletin if you would like to help support the work of the Atlantic Mission Society (AMS).

Today we praise our God who continually reaches out to us in love and calls us to share that love with everyone.

Today we celebrate The Atlantic Mission Society and acknowledge its work in response to God’s love.

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.

**Local Announcements:**

**Call to Worship: *(Responsive, or*** *one Voice****)***

 The voice of God is calling us here today;

 **The warmth of God brings his people together.**

 So, we come with joy and sorrow in our hearts;

 **With good deeds and bad habits;**

 With kindness and with selfishness;

 **With doubts and with faith.**

 Lord, we lay the burdens of our lives before you

 **and ask for comfort and peace.**

 We give you thanks and praise as we worship together.

**Opening Hymn**

**Prayers of Approach and Confession:**

Holy One, we come today just as we are, with all the joys and burdens of our week filling our minds. We come to be still in your presence, and to refocus our minds and our lives on you.  We come to worship you.  The beauty of sunrise and sunset; the changing seasons in all their magnificence; the stars in the sky and the creatures from the tiniest to the greatest, all proclaim your glory! *(Continued on page 3)*

Lord Jesus, your love for us and all creation changes everything!  You offer us your forgiveness, peace, joy and hope so we can live life abundantly. You love us completely, and call us to be partners, sharing your love, serving others as you serve us.

Holy Spirit, you are with us always, reaching out to us with your comfort and assurance, leading us in the ways of God.  You inspire us to serve others with creativity and commitment as we follow Jesus, our Lord.

***Unison Prayer of Confession:***

**Loving and forgiving God, we confess that too often we fall short of our calling to walk in your way, to serve our neighbours, and to love our enemies. These are not easy choices for us*.*Forgive us when we follow our own way rather than your way.  By your Spirit lead us, strengthen us and empower us to be the people and the Church, you call us tobe.  AMEN.**

**Assurance of God’s Love and Forgiveness:**

While it is true that we have all sinned, it is a greater truth that we are forgiven through God’s great love for us in Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ we are loved, forgiven, and called to share God’s love and forgiveness with others.  AMEN.

**Children’s Time:** (See Mission Awareness Service, 2025 - Children’s Story)

**Prayer for Understanding**

God of Wisdom, as we hear your Word in Scripture today, fill us with understanding.  Inspire and strengthen us to respond as faithful followers of Jesus Christ. Amen.

**Responsive Psalm 100 (**NRSV)

1 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth.
2 **Serve the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing.**

3Know that the Lord is God.  It is he who made us, and we are his;
**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

4 Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise.
**Give thanks to him; bless his name.**

5 For the Lord is good;
**his steadfast love endures forever and his faithfulness to all**

 **generations.**

**Gospel:** Matthew 20:20–28. (NRSV)

**20**Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to him with her sons, and kneeling before him, she asked a favor of him. **21**And he said to her, “What do you want?” She said to him, “Declare that these two sons of mine will sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your kingdom.” **22**But Jesus answered, “You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?”[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%2020%3A20-28&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-23813a)] They said to him, “We are able.” **23**He said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.”

**24**When the ten heard it, they were angry with the two brothers. **25**But Jesus called them to him and said, “You know that the rulers of the gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones are tyrants over them. **26**It will not be so among you, but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, **27**and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, **28**just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life a ransom for many.”

**Message:** “Christ’s Service—Our Response”

*Prepared by the Rev. Kenn Stright (see Message for Mission Awareness Service - 2025).*

**Hymn**

**Invitation to the Offering:**

In joy and thanksgiving, let us present our gifts to God.

**Presentation of the Offering /Offering Hymn:**

***Offering Prayer:***

Blessed Heavenly Father, you have given us love, faith, hope and the tools with which to use them. All that we are, we owe to your grace. Please accept these gifts of gratitude for all that we have, and all that we are. In Jesus name we pray. AMEN.

**Prayers for God’s World and People:**

God of each and every life, we thank you for your presence and leading.

You touch us in so many ways.  You speak to us in your Word.

We see you in the life of Jesus.

You come to us through the wonders of creation.

You touch us through the love and compassion of your people;

and you meet us in the silence of prayer.

We thank you for all the gifts of grace you shower on us each day.

We thank you for inviting us to come close to you in prayer.  Here we can ask anything.  You respond to our needs with wisdom, comfort, forgiveness, and love, even as you challenge us to deepen our relationship with you.  You show us how we can reach out to our hurting world with the hands, feet and voice of Jesus.

We come now with our prayers for your world.

God of justice,

open our eyes to the needs around us,

and show us how best to support those in need.

Help us to continue to learn and understand the injustices done to our Indigenous sisters and brothers, including those by the Presbyterian Church

across our nation.

Show us how best to be part of the ongoing work of reconciliation.

We see divisions and anger in our society.

We pray that you will guide leaders to heal divisions. Show us how to mend relationships in our own community.

God of compassion,

We look around the world and see so much suffering and despair.

Millions of people are living in fear amid violence and war.

Comfort them with your love and hope.

Bring lasting peace in all areas of conflict.

We remember the millions who are displaced by conflict, natural disasters or economic need. We pray that those with power will pay attention to the suffering, and work toward solutions.

We remember those who are ill in body, mind or soul, and pray for healing.

In the silence we name in our hearts those we know who need your care…. *(10 seconds silence)*

God of wisdom,

You call ordinary people to be the hands, feet and voice of Christ, bringing your love, grace and mercy to those in need.

We give thanks for the ways we in the church are able to reach out to our world through Presbyterians Sharing, Presbyterian World Service and Development, the Atlantic Mission Society and our local congregations.

Through these, we seek to bring Christ’s love to those who need so much to hear the Good News; to those who need to know the forgiveness, hope and comfort Jesus offers.

We pray for wisdom and courage to follow Christ with joy, as he leads us into new ways of service.

We come with praise, thanksgiving and expectation as we pray in faith;

through Jesus’ name. AMEN.

**Closing Hymn:**

**Commissioning:**

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands

stretch out our hands to serve.
May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart

open our hearts to love.
May we see the face of Christ in everyone we meet,

and may everyone we meet see the face of Christ in us. Amen.

**Blessing:**

May the God who made us,

The Christ who mends us,

And the Spirit who brings us life

Bless and keep us now and always. Amen