

**MISSION AWARENESS SUNDAY 2025**  
**ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

*The following prayer has been provided by the Rev. Kenn Stright, who has written the meditation for the 2025 Mission Awareness Service. While the original author is unknown, it is a prayer that Kenn has found meaningful through the years, hence, his desire to share it with others.*

**A Prayer To Begin:**

What does mission mean?

Tell me, Lord,

What does mission mean?

Does it mean

A willingness to forsake privileges?

To renounce glamour and position?

to leave no wound in society unhealed

no sore in society unattended

No hurt in society uncared for...?

Does mission mean

never to rest, while hunger

disease

oppression

destroy human life?

Never to be silent, while people suffer under

loneliness

guilt

despair

anxiety

fear

hate...?

Tell me Lord,

What does mission mean?

(A prayer from Bangalore, India; Source unknown)

## **Suggestions for Study on the theme of Mission**

One of the most powerful tools for teaching is often song. The following hymns can be found in our Presbyterian Book of Praise (1997) or on the internet, searching by title.

Provide each member of your group with the words to sing and study.

### **#1. Called as partners in Christ's service (BoP #587)**

This hymn takes us through the meaning of service to the Christ of God, as servants to the One who came to serve. The hymn speaks of 'new patterns for Christ's mission'. The church at large, and the Atlantic Mission Society in particular, are seeking to discern what 'new pattern' may be emerging as we seek to be faithful to the gospel and the mission of Christ in this, our own time.

The hymn addresses the need to respond to the unique challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century in ways that might seem different than in the past (we never did it that way before!) but are true to the gospel and the mission and ministry of Jesus Christ: "new patterns for Christ's mission in a small or global sense."

The assurance most needed in this world in turmoil is one of 'hope and confidence and peace.'

Matthew 25: 31 and following reminds us that any activity, however great or small, done out of love for Christ promotes the mission of Jesus. Take a deeper look at those things that declare we belong to the family of God as we engage in them.

*Matthew 25:35–36: for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.*

The issues really haven't changed all that much: world hunger, lack of safe drinking water especially in Indigenous communities, refugee crisis, poverty and wealth disparity, the health care system, homelessness, inequality in the justice system.

Where does service in the name of Christ call us in addressing these crucial issues along with the climate crisis, the tragedy of wars, the growing disparity between rich and poor?

Something to reflect upon: "The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." Frederick Buechner

## **#2. Brother, sister, let me serve you (BoP #635)**

*Jesus said, I am among you as one that serves. (Luke 22:27)*

May you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you. (Celtic Blessing)

“let me be as Christ to you;” (verse 1; line 2)

Sound impossible? Jesus said we would do even greater things! (John 14:12). God partners with ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

How do these quotes inspire you or give you hope?

## **#3. Jesus’ hands were kind hands (BoP #631)**

*Micah 6:8 What does the Lord require of you but to do justice, to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God.*

The hymn takes us back to the words of Saint Teresa : "Christ has no body on earth but yours, no hands but yours, no feet but yours. Yours are the eyes through which Christ's compassion for the world is to look out; yours are the feet with which He is to go about doing good; and yours are the hands with which He is to bless us now." ~Saint Teresa of Avila.

The ‘hands’ are those of the servant doing the work of Christ in church and community in acts of kindness and compassion, restoring those who are tired and worn, hands that reach out to grasp those lost and alone in the world.

Name some examples where you see ‘Christ-servant hands’ being lived out around you.

A Blessing to share and reflect upon:

*May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.*

*May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open up your hearts to love. (Source unknown)*