

**2025 Mission Awareness Sunday**  
**Theme:**  
**Christ's Service – Our Response**

**Introductory Study**  
*Prepared by Marion Barclay, Editor*  
*The Presbyterian Message*

**Suggested Date: April 27, 2025.**

However, the service may happen on any date that works for your congregation. Please approach your Session to seek permission to lead the service on whatever date you choose. Worship resources will be available on the AMS webpage ([pccweb.ca/ams/](http://pccweb.ca/ams/)) by the end of February 2025.

This year, the service incorporates two scripture passages **Psalm 100**, as the responsive reading, and the gospel reading, **Matthew 20:20–28**, the story about a request for two sons to have places of honour in Jesus' kingdom.

In addition, the provided message references Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief 9:1–9.1.3, titled “Our Mission”.

Among the suggested hymns, an excerpt from “Jesus' hands were kind hands” (#631, Book of Praise, 1997) is also incorporated into the message.

**Read together Psalm 100, either in unison, responsively, or by a solo voice.**

This psalm may be quite familiar to auxiliary members. It is a psalm of thanksgiving, declaring joy in God's love and faithfulness towards the peoples of the earth.

Take a few moments allowing group members to talk about their relationship with this psalm in their journey of life and faith.

The psalm speaks of an outlook of joy, delight and gladness, in worshipping the Lord. How is worship a joyous experience for you, and for your congregation?

**Listen together as the gospel story is read, either by one voice Matthew 20:20–28, or by two voices: Matthew 20:20–23 and Matthew 20:24–28.**

A key point in this story is Jesus' comment: *the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve.*

(a) Identify three or four examples from the life of Jesus where Jesus demonstrates serving others. (b) Are there any take-aways from your discussion about these examples how Jesus, the Living Christ, serves us today?

Jesus takes an unpleasant controversy between his disciples and turns it into a teachable moment about a bigger truth for their lives as citizens of God's kingdom here on earth. How might this teachable moment be a source of guidance for our discipleship today?

**Read together, or have read by a solo voice, Section 9.1, *Our Mission*, of Living Faith: A Statement of Christian Belief.**

*If your church does not have copies of this booklet, you may find it on the PCC website, [presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od/](http://presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od/); scroll down the list of official documents to Living Faith.*

Reflect on the two-fold focus that mission is both evangelism and service. How do we encourage and live out this two-fold focus of mission in our lives and as members of the AMS?

**Read together these words from the hymn: Jesus' hands were kind hands.**

*Take my hands, Lord Jesus, let them work for you;  
make them strong and gentle, kind in all I do.*

*Let me watch you, Jesus, till I'm gentle too,  
till my hands are kind hands, quick to work for you.*

(#631, *Book of Praise*, 1997. Words: Margaret Cropper; Music: French traditional.)

Discuss how *we watch Jesus* today, and allow his life to penetrate our attitudes, our words, and our actions.

**Closing Prayer:**

Lord God, we rejoice in the gift of Jesus, the Living Christ, to our lives and to the world. We offer humble thanks that his redeeming work on the cross allows us to experience the joy of your salvation. We offer up our conversations and reflections of this day, that your Spirit may use us as instruments of your grace and blessing, as we proclaim your love, and lead your people in joyous worship on Mission Awareness Sunday. In the name of Christ, we pray. Amen