

2026 Mission Awareness Sunday
Suggested Date: April 26, 2026.



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

Suggested Scripture Readings:

Responsive Reading: Psalm 9:1–10

Gospel: Matthew 9:9–13

Message: The Mission of Jesus...Then and Now”

Prepared by the Rev. W. Grant Johnston

Suggested Hymns: *Book of Praise, 1997*

373 Jesus loves me (378, BP 1972)

376 Lord, the light of your love is shining

497 Word of God, across the ages (291, BP 1972)

635 Brother, sister, let me serve you

655 Give me oil in my lamp

761 Who’s goin’ to tell the story

Other:

This little light of mine (*music and words to be locally sourced*)

Welcome:

Today we are celebrating Mission Awareness Sunday. The resources used in our service this morning have been provided by the Atlantic Mission Society (AMS).

The PURPOSE of the Atlantic Mission society is to glorify God and to support with prayer, study, and service, mission endeavors of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Following the message, we will share some details of how this purpose is lived out in the work of the General Society and here in our own congregation through the (*Name of Auxiliary*).

Announcements: (*Relevant for the local congregation*)

Responsive Call To Worship:

L: This day we come to offer God our praise and worship.

P: We come to be renewed in faith, as sons and daughters of God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

L: We are divinely accepted, forgiven, and made new.

P: In Jesus, the joy of abundant life is ours.

All: May our hearts rejoice and be glad!

L: Together, let us worship God.

Hymn Selection:

Prayers of Approach and Confession:

Holy God we come to you with an open heart. You lead us through your teachings to be patient, kind and humble. Help us to remember we are your children and must try our best to serve one another as you have taught us. You have the power to guide us to do good things in our lives. Jesus said: "I am among you as one who serves".

Merciful God, may we your children be servants for you to help others and give of ourselves to your good works. Let us spread your light in the world to lighten the load of our brothers and sisters and transform their lives. We remember that you call ordinary people to do extraordinary things through thoughtful and earnest prayer.

We now come with our prayers of Confession: *(May be one voice or in Unison, printed in bulletin.)*

God of grace and mercy,
 Forgive us, Lord, for not making you first in our lives.
 We do not always follow your words but are selfish in our thoughts and deeds.
 We confess we do not share your words with others.
 Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
 For these and other faults that disappoint you Lord, forgive us.

Hear us, as we continue to pray as your Son has taught us:
Our Father, who art in heaven;
Hallowed by thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil;
For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends,
 God forgives, restores and strengthens us
 through the risen Christ.
 Know you are forgiven,
 and live in peace and in joy.

Children's Hymn Selection:**Children's Time:**

(See document: 2026.Mission Awareness Sunday. CHILDREN'S RESOURCES)

Hearing The Word:**Prayer for Understanding**

Life-Giving God,
 Calm our minds, and focus our hearts,
 that we may attend to your Word
 with expectancy for our lives.
 Help us hear afresh that personal word of help from you
 that is living water to the thirst of our lives.
 In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray.
 Amen.

Responsive Reading: Psalm 9:1–10.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9: 9-13 (Good News Translation)

Jesus Calls Matthew

⁹ Jesus left that place, and as he walked along, he saw a tax collector, named Matthew, sitting in his office. He said to him, "Follow me." Matthew got up and followed him.

¹⁰ While Jesus was having a meal in Matthew's house, many tax collectors and other outcasts came and joined Jesus and his disciples at the table. ¹¹ Some Pharisees saw this and asked his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with such people?"

¹² Jesus heard them and answered, “People who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick. ¹³ Go and find out what is meant by the scripture that says: ‘It is kindness that I want, not animal sacrifices.’ I have not come to call respectable people, but outcasts.”

Message: “The Mission of Jesus...Then and Now”.

(See document: 2026.Mission Awareness Sunday.MESSAGE)

Hymn Selection:

Sharing The Good News of the AMS

In our message today, we have been invited to consider Matthew’s joy in being included in Jesus’ group of followers. He threw a party and invited others.

The joy of faith in Jesus Christ, and the joy of fellowship together, have long been a part of the life of our _____AMS Auxiliary. Our meetings include “food” too...even if only a cup of tea and a biscuit! However, our primary focus is upon prayer, study and service in participation of the church’s call to share the love of Jesus with others.

As an auxiliary of the Atlantic Mission Society, our mission offerings to the General Society support the work of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. For 2026, this grant is thirty-five thousand dollars (\$35,000). We also provide annual bursaries for students studying for the ministry. Our resource publication *The Presbyterian Message* is produced five times a year, and includes mission information, mediations, prayer suggestions and study material. Its circulation goes beyond the AMS and is appreciated by readers across our country. As a Society, we also support the three Presbyterian Camps located in the Synod: Camp Geddie, Merigomish, NS; Camp MacLeod, Cape Breton, NS and Camp Keir, Canoe Cove, PEI.

In 2026, the General Society is also contributing additional grants, totaling twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000), from its investment funds to mission endeavours. Ten thousand dollars(\$10,000) has been directed to the work of our national church through the Priorities for Mission Fund. A second \$10,000 is available for grants recommended by local AMS auxiliaries to support mission projects in their local congregation or community, or projects supported by our denomination

nationally and/or internationally.

In the past year or so, our _____ AMS Auxiliary has....
(Here share a few sentences about special mission projects your auxiliary has supported, your mission study theme for the year, how you make use of The Presbyterian Message, or other highlights from your auxiliary's life.)

Invitation to the Offering

Because of God's kindness we have gifts to give; because of God's grace we have the reason to give; and because of God's love in Jesus Christ, we have the example to give. The offering will be received.

Presentation of the Offering / Offering Hymn or Doxology

Offering Prayer of Dedication:

Gracious God,

We dedicate these offerings for the work of mission; the mission of our local church, and the church worldwide. We give thanks for those who give of their time and talents to reach out to others in your name. May we spread the good news of your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers for God's World and People

Almighty God, source of all truth and wisdom, we pray with gratitude for all of your many gifts given to us so freely.

We pray that we can be a source of comfort to those who live in poverty, so that we may cheerfully share our gifts with impoverished people. Many times, we have taken your care and love for granted, forgetting that message of Jesus Christ, your Son, to bring our love to others. As Jesus taught us, it is more blessed to give than to receive. Everything we possess is ours, only in trust. Forgive our unwillingness to let go, so that through our actions there can be an end to poverty.

Compassionate God, we hold before you those who are cold and homeless, suffering these indignities because of ongoing conflict or natural disasters, because of war and climate change. We pray that those without shelter will find peace, hope

and comfort through you. We pray too, for solutions to protect those who have been displaced from their homes.

God of justice, we lift up our prayers for world peace. We pray that leaders in war torn countries can find diplomatic solutions to conflict that will bring about harmony for all nations. We pray for positive solutions to end all wars so that there will be no more sorrow, death and destruction. Teach us to live amicably wherever there is disagreement.

Loving God, we pray for those refugees who have had to flee from their homes due to persecution and conflict. May they find safe and loving communities where they can resettle and find healing from trauma. May we learn to be compassionate as we pray for your protection over the vulnerable.

Caring God, we pray for those who are facing poor health, job loss, mental illness and those who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Often, we feel overwhelmed with these struggles. Hear us, as we lift up the names of those we know who desperately need your unconditional love, as we pray silently together.....

Gracious God, hear our prayers and the words we have spoken, and all our innermost thoughts. We lift all of this to you, secure in your love, through the power of the Holy Spirit, and through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Closing Hymn

Benediction:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all. Amen. (2 Cor 13:13, GNT)