

Worship Planner for Combined 'Coldest Night of the Year' Worship Service
Sunday, February 16, 2025 at 10:00am at Lucknow Presbyterian Church

Lucknow and South Kinloss Presbyterian Churches – Robert Royal
Lucknow and Trinity United Churches – Linda Roberts
Guest Speaker – Lisa Harper, The North Huron Connection Centre

Musical Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting the Christ Candle

Responsive Call to Worship

In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst,
 come worship a God who feeds the hungry.

In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed,
 come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.

In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumor of war,
 come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.

In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness,
 come worship a God who gives life meaning.

Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.

Opening Hymn #765 We've a story to tell to the nations

Prayer of Approach and Lord's Prayer

Hear us now as we lift our confessions to you.

Wise and patient God; we confess that we often stray from your presence. You have offered us peace yet our lives feel frustrating and unsettled in these times. You offer us compassion yet we feel neglected and resentful amid life's challenges. You offer us a mission with meaning and purpose but we become preoccupied with our own plans and desires. Forgive us, O God, and draw our attention back to you so that we follow your guidance and trust you as our Shepherd, as we pray in Jesus' name,

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be 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, and the power, and the glory,
 forever and ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Music Ministry – Be thou my vision (four choirs)

Hymn #746 What a friend we have in Jesus

Family Focus

Prayer for Illumination

Scriptures

Isaiah 58: 6-12

“This is the kind of fast day I’m after:

to break the chains of injustice,
get rid of exploitation in the workplace,
free the oppressed,
cancel debts.

What I’m interested in seeing you do is:

sharing your food with the hungry,
inviting the homeless poor into your homes,
putting clothes on the shivering ill-clad,
being available to your own families.

Do this and the lights will turn on,
and your lives will turn around at once.

Your righteousness will pave your way.

The God of glory will secure your passage.

Then when you pray, God will answer.

You’ll call out for help and I’ll say, ‘Here I am.’

A Full Life in the Emptiest of Places

⁹⁻¹² “If you get rid of unfair practices,

quit blaming victims,
quit gossiping about other people’s sins,

If you are generous with the hungry
and start giving yourselves to the down-and-out,

Your lives will begin to glow in the darkness,
your shadowed lives will be bathed in sunlight.

I will always show you where to go.

I’ll give you a full life in the emptiest of places—
firm muscles, strong bones.

You’ll be like a well-watered garden,
a gurgling spring that never runs dry.

You’ll use the old rubble of past lives to build anew,
rebuild the foundations from out of your past.

You’ll be known as those who can fix anything,
restore old ruins, rebuild and renovate,
make the community livable again.

Matthew 25: 31-40

“When he finally arrives, blazing in beauty and all his angels with him, the Son of Man will take his place on his glorious throne. Then all the nations will be arranged before him and he will sort the people out, much as a shepherd sorts out sheep and goats, putting sheep to his right and goats to his left. “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Enter, you who are blessed by my Father! Take what’s coming to you in this kingdom. It’s been ready for you since the world’s foundation. And here’s why:

I was hungry and you fed me,
I was thirsty and you gave me a drink,
I was homeless and you gave me a room,
I was shivering and you gave me clothes,
I was sick and you stopped to visit,
I was in prison and you came to me.’

“Then those ‘sheep’ are going to say, ‘Master, what are you talking about? When did we ever see you hungry and feed you, thirsty and give you a drink? And when did we ever see you sick or in prison and come to you?’ Then the King will say, ‘I’m telling the solemn truth: Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me—you did it to me.’

This is the Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Message: Lisa Harper

Hymn – Homeless people, will you listen? (4 verses)

(To the tune of PCC Hymn #410 – Joyful, joyful we adore you)

Invitation to the Offering

Doxology #79

Prayer of Dedication

Mission Moment

Prayers of the People

Closing Hymn #635 Brother, sister, let me serve you

Benediction

Benediction Song – Go Now in Peace

Musical Prelude