

Worship Resource for **MISSION AWARENESS SUNDAY**

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

April 28, 2019

Theme: *No Doubt!*

by Rev. Dr. Lynda Reid

Sessions and WMS/AMS groups have worked together to promote mission through Mission Awareness Sunday since 2000.

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Leaders' Notes:

An introductory paragraph explaining that today is Mission Awareness Sunday would be a great way to start the service. Something like, "Today we join churches across Canada to promote and celebrate mission work. The service was written by the Rev. Dr. Lynda Reid, retired minister living in Ajax, Ontario."

NOTE: All scripture references are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

Scripture Passages: Acts 5:27–32
Psalm 118:14–29
Revelation 1:4–8
John 20:19–31

Call to Worship:

Leader: We believe! Christ is risen!

People: We have no doubt—He is risen indeed!

Leader: The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.

People: This is the Lord's doing; it is marvelous in our eyes.

(Psalm 118:22–23)

Prayer of Approach:

On this resurrection morn, we gather to worship and praise you, Holy God. In the stillness of this hour may we hear your word for us. In the joy of this hour may we remember the sacrifice of Jesus Christ who gave his life to be our savior and defied death to give us eternal life. In the peace of this hour may we sense the Holy Spirit whispering new thoughts to us that will bring about a world of God's own choosing.

Blessing and honour and glory be yours O God as we worship in your name.

Because of our sin, we are unworthy to praise you so mightily. But in your safe presence we confess our sin and ask your forgiveness.

Forgive us when our faith falters, when we doubt carefully made decisions, when we don't trust our community of faith, when we forget to seek your leading.

Pour out your Spirit upon us, that we may know Christ more fully and be faithful ambassadors of Jesus' gospel.

We pray in the name of the risen Christ. Amen

Assurance of Pardon:

Friends, the good news is that "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." (John 3:16) A son who went to the cross for us. A son who loves us and forgives us even before we ask him. Thanks be to God.

Receiving the Offering:

Our generous God has given us enough, and more than enough. As disciples of Christ, we are called to share with our brothers and sisters. The offerings will now be received.

Prayer of Dedication:

O God, accept the humble gifts we bring. May they be used wisely by the Women's Missionary Society, Presbyterians Sharing, and our congregation to ensure that those who need it are cared for in the name of Jesus. Bless these gifts and those who have given them. Amen.

Prayers of the People:

Leader: Almighty Giver, we thank you for the many gifts you have given to us. We come to you knowing how blessed we are for the freedom to worship. There are places in the world where Christians are forced to worship secretly.

People: **We pray that one day your name will be glorified in shouts of open praise.**

Leader: You are our God, but there are times we feel like doubting Thomas, times when our faith feels distant, or is tested by the injustices in our society.

People: **Give us confidence O God, to believe that Jesus is walking with us at all times.**

Leader: We rejoice in the season of Easter reminding us that Jesus went to the cross of forgiveness and gave us resurrection hope.

People: **Thank you God, for the ministry of Jesus Christ, who has called us and guided us to live as his disciples.**

Leader: We rejoice that The Presbyterian Church in Canada confidently engages in mission in the world. We thank you for the staff of the WMS, International Ministries, Canadian Ministries, Justice Ministries, and PWS&D who make the church aware of the places in the world where the gospel needs to be presented in word or in action.

People: **We give thanks for the gifts and skills people have to provide such ministry.**

Leader: We pray for our international mission staff, who work in partnership with ministries in Japan, Taiwan, Nepal and Malawi. We remember David McIntosh in Japan. We thank you for the creative work of Paul McLean in Taiwan whose specialty is Bible translation.

People: **We give thanks for the gifts and skills people have to provide such ministry.**

Leader: We pray for the Together We Can! projects of the Women's Missionary Society. We pray for the ministry in Haiti which is working to end gender-based violence. We pray for our friends at the Kenora Fellowship Centre. We are thankful for the new partnership with Tumakatana in Africa and prayer that it may flourish.

People: **We give thanks for the gifts and skills people have to provide such ministry.**

Leader: We pray for the ministry of the church as it reaches out to serve First Nations communities, especially as the church works to provide safe and peaceful places for healing and reconciliation.

People: We give thanks for the gifts and skills people have to provide such ministry.

Leader: We pray for congregations and presbyteries who are sharing with Canadian Ministries in new church development. We particularly think of the project at Dunnville Presbyterian Church in Dunnville, Ontario.

People: We give thanks for the gifts and skills people have to provide such ministry.

Leader: We pray for all the churches who provide assistance to refugees uprooted from their homeland and required to make a new way in our communities.

People: We give thanks for the gifts and skills people have to provide such ministry.
We pray that we too will be open to opportunities to serve in our church and community. In Jesus name. Amen.

Commissioning and Benediction:

There is no doubt—Christ is risen! Go into the community sharing the good news of Jesus sacrificial love.

“Grace be with all who have an undying love for our Lord Jesus Christ.” (Ephesians 6:24)

Hymn Suggestions (from the Book of Praise):

Opening: 422 (Sing a new song unto the Lord)
436 verses 1, 2, 5, 6 (God, we praise you for the morning)

Children and youth time: 254 verses 1, 3, 4, 5 (Jesus is risen from the grave)

After the meditation: 368 (Let Christian faith and hope dispel)
585 (Christ, You call us all to Service)

Closing: 251 (Christ is alive)
258 (Thine be the glory)

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by The Rev. Dr. Lynda Reid. Lynda is a retired minister of the Presbyterian Church. For many years she was the education consultant for the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario & Bermuda. Lynda enjoys volunteering in her home congregation Knox, Oshawa. She has an enthusiasm for music and her cat soothes her soul.

The liturgy was written with the help of Katherine Allen. Katherine retired from the WMS after working for 40 years. She leads at various levels of the Society and sings with the Ontario Presbyterian Chorus and the Leaside Presbyterian Chorus and choir. Katherine enjoys photography, genealogy, and spending time with friends.

GET IN TOUCH

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