



Worship Resource

for Mission Awareness Sunday

April 24, 2016

Theme: *Learning and Reaching out Together in Love*

by: Rev. Lara Scholey

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

Women's Missionary Society

50 Wynford Drive, Toronto, ON M3C 1J7 • 800-619-7301 • www.wmspcc.ca

Scripture: Philippians 1:3–11 (Paul’s prayer for the Philippians)
Matthew 5:13–16 (Let your light shine)
Exodus 3:1–12a (Called to serve)

Call to Worship:

Leader: This is the day that the Lord has made!

People: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Leader: Come together as Christ’s people, with wonder and with praise.

People: We are called to serve, and called to reach out.

Leader: You are the light of the world.

People: Let our light shine! May God fill us with compassion as we worship.

Prayer of Adoration and Confession: (could be read in unison)

Glorious God, your faithfulness is everlasting and your glory stretches through the heavens. You have created and shaped us in love. You have begun a good work in us, and we are grateful.

Merciful God, we admit that we get discouraged. We underestimate your light within us. Forgive us when we turn away from the needs of others. Help us to reach out in faith, and to be generous. Empower us to be your beacon of light in a troubled world, through Christ, Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness:

Rejoice and be glad! Our God is full of mercy, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Through Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Dare to believe in the gift of a new beginning, and be at peace.

Children’s Time: *Don’t Just Assume* (see insert)

Sermon: *Learning and Reaching out Together in Love* (see insert)

Offertory Prayer:

Generous God, we offer the gifts of our lives, our time, our talents, and our money. Receive them to carry out the work of your kingdom, near and far. May your light shine through these gifts and through our service, in Christ, Amen.

Prayers of the People:

God of hope, we give you thanks for all the saints, past and present, who shape us and encourage us. Enable us to grow in faith and to be the body of Christ in the world. We are grateful for ‘new worlds’ into which we step, meeting new people, and learning about new realities.

God of love, shine your light in the world’s dark places. We pray for all who are too weary to pray; for all who are ill and each one who cares for them; for the sick and anxious; and all who feel alone. We pray for each one who mourns the loss of a loved one, or the end of a dream. Grant strength and comfort, and open our eyes to a new beginning.

God of wisdom, guide the ministry of the WMS and AMS. Enable our groups to learn about mission, to build relationships, to be generous in sharing our gifts, and to let our light shine as we reach out in difficult places.

Fill us with your love, that it may overflow as we reach out to the vulnerable in our communities and around the world. Grant us confidence as your children and courage as your servants to learn about people who are different from us. Be with communities burdened by poverty, disease, or war. Be with refugees fleeing their homeland. Bring peace and relief.

God of this broken world, we give thanks for moments of healing and new beginnings. Bring your forgiveness to couples where relationships are strained. Bring your peace to families who are overcome by the demands of work, play, and service. Be with us as our communities and churches change, that we may see a new way forward, by your grace.

In the silence, we lift up to you those known to us who are in need of your love and hope... (time of silence). All this we pray in the name of Christ, the Lord of love and life, who taught us to pray, saying together, Our Father....

Hymn Suggestions:

#757 – Come sing, O church, in joy!

#759 – In loving partnership

#674 – In the bulb there is a flower

#648 – I'm gonna live so God can use me

#641 – One more step along the world I go

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by the Rev. Lara Scholey. Rev. Lara Scholey serves a 2 point charge in rural Nova Scotia, where she has been for 14 years—Burns Memorial, West Branch, and Bethel, Scotsburn. Her congregations have a passion for Christian Education and for Mission. She is presently convenor of the PWS&D committee, having travelled to Malawi, India, Afghanistan and Haiti. Lara grew up at St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Brampton, ON and spent summers in Gravenhurst. She lives in Scotsburn with her husband, Dr. Carl Adams, a physics professor at St FX University. They have 3 children—Matthew, Isaac and Charlotte Adams, all 12 years old, who teach her so much about life and faith and reaching out.