

Worship Resource

for Mission Awareness Sunday

April 30, 2017

Theme: *Inspired*

by Rev. Joel
Sherbino



Work in
Partnership

Be Overwhelmed

Make a
Difference

Get INSPIRED

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

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. It is an opportunity to bring the work of the Women's Missionary Society and the Atlantic Mission Society to congregations. Today's service was written by the Rev. Joel Sherbino, minister at Paris Presbyterian Church in Paris, Ontario."

At the end of the sermon you will be handing out elastic bands, please have enough for the whole congregation.

Scripture: John 6: 1–15

Call to Worship Psalm 145: 10–18 (The Message):

Leader: Creation and creatures applaud you, God;
your holy people bless you.

**People: They talk about the glories of your rule,
they exclaim over your splendor,**

Leader: Letting the world know of your power for good,
the lavish splendor of your kingdom.

**People: Your kingdom is a kingdom eternal;
you never get voted out of office.**

Leader: God always does what he says,
and is gracious in everything he does.

**People: God gives a hand to those down on their luck,
gives a fresh start to those ready to quit.**

Leader: All eyes are on you, expectant;
you give them their meals on time.

**People: Generous to a fault,
you lavish your favour on all creatures.**

Leader: Everything God does is right –
the trademark on all his works is love.

**People: God's there, listening for all who pray,
for all who pray and mean it.**

Opening:

Our Father, we are thankful for this new day. We give thanks for this opportunity to come together to praise you. Thank you that through Jesus, we can have a relationship with you. We are grateful for all that you have done and for all that you continue to do.

We ask Lord that through the singing of the songs, the reading of your word, the giving of our gifts and the thoughts of our minds that we would keep our focus upon you. Lead us so that our lives would be transformed by the work of your Spirit. We ask all of this in the name of the Father, The Son and The Holy Spirit. Amen.

Children's Time: *Courage* (see insert)

Sermon: *Inspired* (see insert)

Offertory Prayer:

Lord Jesus, we are thankful for the many ways that you provide for us. As we give back to you we ask that your blessing would be upon these gifts and upon our lives. Use these gifts and our lives as we continue to partner with you to bring your good news into this community. For this we ask in your name Jesus. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer:

Almighty God, thank you for the reminder of how you work in the midst of all of life. With a gift so small, a boy's lunch, you were able to impact so many. Help us to never forget that you are not distant, but that you desire to partner with your people to build your Kingdom here on this your earth.

Help us to not become discouraged when we are faced with difficult circumstances and forgive us for failing to believe that you will show up. Help us to remember that no gift is insignificant when we place it into the hands of Jesus.

As we look at our community and our lives. We recognize that there are significant needs (*Insert what they may be*). Yet in spite of them, we have hope that you are here and at work. We give thanks for the great work that is already occurring in our community and around the world (*Here is the time to name them, especially the ones that were referenced in the sermon*).

Help us to have the courage to allow you to stretch us, as we step out in faith (*if there was an initiative to start, mention it here*). Believing that when we work with you, not only are our lives transformed, but those around us are greatly impacted.

Our wish is that our lives and our actions would bring glory to Your name.

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 (from the *Book of Praise*, 1997):

- #30 – God is our refuge and our strength
- #497 – Word of God, across the ages
- #574 – With the Lord as my guide
- #650 – He leadeth me
- #663 – God, whose giving knows no ending
- #757 – Come sing, O church, in joy!
- #763 – To show by touch and word

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by The Rev. Joel Sherbino. Joel started his ministry at Paris Presbyterian Church in June 2006. Before arriving in Paris, Joel along with his family lived in Malawi, Africa, where for three years he served as the Associate Pastor at St. Columba (Church of Central Africa Presbyterian). Joel has recently been appointed as the Malawi Liaison for International Ministries with The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Joel is married to Rebecca Sherbino, Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Raw Soup Social Enterprise. They are the proud parents of Isaac, Masika, and Canaan.