



Worship Resource

for Mission Awareness Sunday

April 26, 2015

Theme: ReciproCare in Mission

by: Rev. Shirley Gale

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

Women's Missionary Society

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Centering or Praise Song: #420 Praise, I will praise

Call to Worship:

God is in our world from dawn to dusk,
from the twilight hours to the first light on the eastern horizon.
God is near us and around us.

God speaks to our world,
gently in love and thunders fiercely in judgment.
God calls to those who are faithful,
comforting and challenging them,
preserving them and sending them forth.

Let us worship God!

People's Response:

“O Christ, the tree of life, our end and our beginning,
we grow to fullest flower when rooted in your love.
Brothers, sisters, clergy, lay, called to service by your grace,
different cultures, different gifts, the young and old a place.
We have this ministry; O God, receive our giving.

“We have this ministry,” hymn 590 vs. 2, *The Book of Praise*

(Leader's Note: alternate response “Called as partners in Christ's service,” hymn #587 vs. 1, The Book of Praise)

Prayer of Praise and Confession (responsive):

Leader: Eternal God we praise you for your pursuing love, revealed in Jesus, his life, his teaching, and the cross he bore for our salvation.

People: We praise you for welcoming us even though we come with mingled, imperfect motives, and hearts unprepared to rightly worship you. May we receive the blessings you long to bestow, that we may not go away empty, but refreshed and encouraged by your sustaining grace.

Leader: Creating and recreating God, trusting in your grace and compassion, we offer our prayers of confession:

ALL: Forgive us the times our faith has wavered; the times mingled motives have blended with our purest aspirations; and the times our love has been cold toward others and we have turned away from their distress. Merciful God, help us to draw nearer to you so that even while we are busy with the duties of home, work, and other commitments, we remain in harmony with your will and mission. Our prayers and worship we offer in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon:

Hymn #774 God forgave my sin/Freely, freely OR #350 To God be the glory, verse 1 and chorus OR

Our God is gracious and merciful, and abounding in steadfast love. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven. With thankful hearts, let us live in hope and in the strength of God's indwelling Spirit.

Children's Story: But, what can I do? I am only a kid! (see insert)

Prayer for Illumination:

God of wisdom and unswerving love, as the written word is read, enable each of us to hear, with discerning and receptive hearts, your call to live and serve as ambassadors of your reconciling love. This we pray in the name of your Living Word, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Scripture Readings:

Old Testament: Responsive Psalm 15 (NRSV)

Genesis 12:1–9 (NRSV)

New Testament: Mark 16:14–19 (NRSV)

Sermon: ReciproCare in Mission (see insert)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Creating and recreating God, we are thankful that your everlasting dominion is a kingdom of grace and love. We are thankful that we can know Jesus, the King of Kings, Lord of Lords, as our Brother into whose hands you gave all power in heaven and on earth—the very hands that were nailed to the cross for our salvation. We thank you for calling us to be partners in your mission of salvation, love, and renewal. You call some to travel and spread your care in all the world, while others you call to bloom where they are planted. Help us to be receptive to every whisper of your Spirit, and grant us the grace to submit to your wisdom, guidance, purpose, and all your desires.

God of all nations and people, when conflict, violence, and the selfish pursuit of kingdoms and power inflict overwhelming grief and suffering, may your Spirit of truth bring order into the confusion. May the selfishness of human affairs and the pursuits of kingdoms and power be reordered and transformed by your Spirit of love and peace.

We pray also for your Church in the world and the mission you have entrusted to it. We remember especially this congregation of your people and ask your blessing upon its ministries, (*Leader's note: insert ministries specific to your congregation, WMS or AMS group*). We pray for those among us who are grieving, those who are ill or in need of any kind (*Leader's note: insert names of members of congregation who are ill, etc.*). Bless each one according to their need and your wisdom and love.

God of abiding, comforting love, fill the hearts of us, and all for whom we pray, with the assurance that you are always near, that there is no place in all creation that you are not present. In our journey as your missional people may we experience more fully the joy and certain hope that only you can give. This we pray in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

Offertory Sentence: 1 Chronicles 28:9

Just before King David died he invited the people to give to the work of the Lord God saying: “Who then will offer willingly, consecrating themselves today to the Lord our God?”

The people responded to David's invitation with generosity and recommitment. “And then the people rejoiced because they had given willingly, for with a whole heart they had offered freely to the Lord.”

As an act of faith and faithfulness let us present ourselves and our offerings with a whole heart.

Offertory Prayer:

Gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, enable us to see you in the faces and needs of our brothers and sisters both near and far. Enable us to hear your call to serve in their voices. Let us serve you by serving them. Loving God, bless and use us and our offerings to love our neighbours according to the teaching and example of Jesus Christ in whose name we pray. Amen.

OR

God of amazing grace, we thank you for the love and riches with which you bless us. We pray you will mold our lives and nurture our generosity so that we may grow as faithful instruments of your love, not only in the Church, but in the world. Bless and use us and all we offer in Jesus' name. Amen

Commission: Colossians 2:6–7 (NIV)

“So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

Benediction (sung):

Be with us, Lord, with us abide, go with us where we go;
changeless amid life's changing tide, your presence may we know.

“O God, in whom we live and more,” hymn, 488 vs 4, *The Book of Praise*

OR

Let us confidently go from this hour of worship, remembering that the unfailing and empowering presence of God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit goes with us and will remain with us always.

Three-fold Amen #780

Suggested Hymns or Praise Songs:

From the 1997 *Book of Praise*:

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| 319 – <i>Wherever I may wander</i> | 764 – <i>There's a spirit in the air</i> |
| 344 – <i>The wise may bring their learning</i> | 768 – <i>Sometimes a healing word is comfort</i> |
| 478 – <i>To Abraham and Sarah</i> | 769 – <i>Lord of light, whose name and splendour</i> |
| 570 – <i>I have decided to follow Jesus</i> | 778 – <i>Lord, you give the great commission</i> |
| 726 – <i>May the God of hope go with us every day</i> | |
| 730 – <i>O for a world where everyone</i> | |

The worship resources for Mission Awareness Sunday have been written by the Rev. Shirley Gale. Shirley grew up in Perth, ON. In the Presbyterian Church she gave leadership in women's groups, church school, Bible study groups, and youth and children's groups.

In 1972, she and her family moved to Montreal where, in preparation for ministry, she studied at McGill University and Presbyterian College. Upon ordination, Shirley was called as minister of St. Matthew's Church in Montreal where she served for nine years. Since her first call, Shirley has ministered in Forest, ON; been a full-time Interim-Minister in Port Perry and Ashburn, ON; co-pastored with her husband, the Rev. Herb Gale in Guelph, ON; and sat on various committees and task forces at all levels of the church.

Since her retirement in 2000, Shirley hasn't stopped working. She has assisted several congregations with conflict resolution, future planning, and preparing to receive a new minister.

These days, Shirley enjoys time with her husband and family and also gardening, music, reading, and knitting. She keeps busy with traveling, pulpit supply, and committee work for Presbytery.