

Mission and Service Worship Service

Call To Worship

Responsive reading

M - is for miracles

Our gifts work miracles

I - is for independence

Our gifts give independence to people here in Canada & around the world

S - is for sharing

Sharing what God has so freely given to us

S - is for service

Our service to God

I - is for indigenous

M&S supports indigenous churches around the world

O - is for offer

We can offer more than what our goal is

N - is for needs

Providing the basic needs to people who have less than we do

&

S - is for smiles

The smiles our gifts put on the faces of people around the world

E - is for elevate

Our gifts raising everyone's spirit

R - is for rainbows

Making someone's world colourful – God's promise to us

V - is for vast & visualize

Try to visualize the vastness of where our M&S dollars are at work

I - is for imagine

Imagine not having clean water or enough food to eat

C - is for Christ

Doing what Jesus would do, helping others

E - is for Enthusiast

The eagerness & zeal that the M&S enthusiast has for the M&S Fund

F - is for faith

Our faith in action, our love made known

U - is for undaunted

M&S enthusiasts are undaunted in their belief in the M&S fund

N - is for non violence

Helping to end the violence of war

D - is for depending

God is depending on us to help others. We do that through the MISSION & SERVICE

FUND

Hymn: God, Make Us Servants of Your Peace VU 676

Opening Prayer

Christ of the broken, Christ of the wanderer, Christ of those without shelter, Surround those in deep need here in Canada and around the world. Surround them and help us hear their

cries for help. We are a people who long for the broken to be mended. Help us to reach beyond ourselves through our support of the Mission and Service Fund and know that when we do this we share in your ministry to the world. This we ask in your name. Amen

Children's Time – Any story about sharing

Hymn: Jesus' Hands Were Kind Hands VU 570

Prayer of Confession:

We confess before you gracious God that we sometimes lack compassion. We think it is important to help the poor but then we forget them as we fill our thoughts with our own concerns. Awaken us to the pain of those in poverty, the distress of those in nations whose lives have been significantly changed by natural disasters such as Haiti, Pakistan and now Japan. May we discover our common humanity with them and learn the art of finding Jesus in each sister and brother. Help us to see injustices clearly, the way Jesus did. We want to be awakened from our apathy and enraged by injustice as Jesus was. Bind us together as a community to work for equality and justice and any form we can. This in Christ's name we pray. Amen

Assurance

Forgiven, we live in hope. Loved, we live in grace. Washed, we are renewed. Thanks be to God

Prayer of Illumination

Open our ears and our hearts, O God. Lower our defenses so we may experience your word in a new way. AMEN

Scripture Readings:

Responsive Reading Psalm 72 VU 790

James 2: 14-18

Matthew 25: 34-40

Sermon: Looking Beyond Our Doors

Hymn: We Are Pilgrims VU 595

Offertory *"Give something however small to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could."*

Offertory Hymn Your Work, O God, Needs Many Hands VU 537

Prayer of Dedication

God has called us to share in his ministry to the world. God has called us to express his concern for the underprivileged and to proclaim throughout the world his message of hope and reconciliation. To those ends, let us now present to God our gifts and offerings. Amen

Minute for Mission

Prayers of the People and Our Lord's Prayer

God you sent your son Jesus to show us the way to minister to others. We want to hold up the Mission and Service Fund as our way of being the face and hands of Jesus in the world. In our gratitude for the example you sent us, we recall those in need. Help us to listen to those who are downtrodden or forgotten. Be close to those who are without work and those who are over-worked; those who are sick or captive; those who are ignored because they are too young or too old; those who are alone and lonely, especially those for whom this is a new and dreadful feeling. We pray for parents worried about their children and for children worried about their parents. Our hearts go out to all victims of violence, especially women who can make no defense. We pray for the embattled nations of the world, and especially, we pray for children who are victims of sudden violence. Shepherd them all gently, we pray.

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

Hymn I'm Gonna Live So God Can Use Me VU 575

Commissioning and Benediction

May the Christ who walks on wounded feet walk with you on the road.

May the Christ who serves with wounded hands stretch out your hands to serve.

May the Christ who loves with a wounded heart open your hearts to love.

When you leave this place may you see the face of Christ in everyone you meet, and may everyone you meet see the face of Christ in you.

I pray that it be true in your life and in mine. Amen.

If you have any questions or would like any help in promoting Mission and Service in your Pastoral Charge please contact me:

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Looking Beyond Our Doors

The Mission and Service Fund

It is so easy to speak about the Mission and Service Fund because it is the most amazing and unique fund around. The wonderful thing about Mission and Service is that unlike other charitable organizations where the administration costs take a 40 – 85% cut into the donations given as well as many unbelievable perks like cars and trips for the directors, our administration costs are only 13% for the work that is done at the General Council offices in Toronto. That means more of your contributions go where YOU WANT THEM TO GO. To the people who need it. When we send out an appeal for financial aid in response to a natural disaster like what has happened in Japan this year and last year in Haiti, and Pakistan, all the money goes to relief work being put into place by our trusted long time partners in those countries. No money goes to administration.

We can not talk about The Mission and Service Fund without telling some of the stories of our partners and the work they do:

We have the caring and hard working staff of the House of Lazarus in South Mountain who continuously **add their voices** to those who feel unheard or powerless to effect change in their own lives. The director of the food bank will come in after hours when there is an emergency to bring food to a family in extreme need. Knowing that education of all types is a key component for transformation from poverty to self reliance; they offer seminars, workshops and presentations to educate their clients.

Rev. Siliso Mpofu, programme is manager of our partner in Zimbabwe the Institute of Theological Reflection. He is also a professor at the university to supplement his income as they do not always have enough money for food as they like others in Zimbabwe have to pay for their children to attend school. With unemployment standing at 92% you can imagine how difficult it is for people to supply education for their children. Rev. Mpofu has to leave the country two or three times a week to work at any job he can find to support his family. Electricity is so costly most people can not afford it and those that can must deal with very unreliable power which can be off for days at a time. The average person in Zimbabwe has not had running water for several years. The government sends secret police to every church meeting to make sure that no one is speaking out against the government. Our partner in Zimbabwe tries as much as they can to help those that have no money at all by running medical clinics, schools and teaching women handcrafts to support their families.

One of our partners that you may not be aware of is in Northern British Columbia at Bella Coola. Our partner there operates a combination health care centre and hospital serving the people of the first nations and those in the surrounding communities. They have also been called into action when massive forest fires burn through Northern British Columbia to provide front line medical assistance to residents, fire fighters and volunteers alike. At one time the United Church had 30 hospitals plus a mission boat in British Columbia. There are now five hospitals and all of them located in remote areas, difficult to reach even in good weather and almost impossible during the winter as the roads are only dirt and very mountainous. These days these hospitals receive small grants from the government and others still rely heavily on the Mission and Service Fund for the bulk of their operating budget.

Because of you a refugee will get the help they need to stay in Canada from dedicated lawyers working pro bono. Applying for recognition of refugee status is arduous and can be quite intimidating involving many different levels of government. Most of these refugees have left their children behind with relatives so they can establish a life in Canada. Because of all the red tape, the average time they have to wait to be reunited with their children is five to ten years. Thanks to the work of our partner Montreal City Mission many successful and joyous reunions have taken place.

Because of you St. Columba House in the low-income area of Pointe St. Charles in Montreal are able to provide a safe and welcoming place where children can go after school. The programs provided are operated to enhance literacy and life skills of children through a range of creative and recreational activities, homework help and one-on-one tutoring in both languages. In addition to activities, children receive milk and a nutritious snack daily.

The Mission and Service Fund is the face of the United Church here in Canada and around the world. It is the "lifeblood" of our Church supporting a global vision of working together to serve others in the best way we can. We do make a difference.

In the 85 years of the United Church we have made a difference in the world because of the gifts voluntarily given to the Missionary and Maintenance Fund, now called the Mission and Service Fund. Many people in our society and in this Montreal and Ottawa Conference are marginalized and feel disconnected, disenfranchised, or alienated. Mission and Service funded projects say, "Here is a place for you. You belong and are welcome. You are a valued child of God." The Mission and Service Fund is a tangible expression of our faith. This allows us to live out our United Church Creed, "We are not alone we live in God's world." To be a church that strives to love, serve, and seek justice for all.

The following quote fits so well with the Mission and Service Fund. "Give something however small to the one in need. For it is not small to one who has nothing. Neither is it small to God, if we have given what we could.

Will you share what you have with those who are in need? Remember Matthew 25 states it is the same as doing it for Jesus!

Lord, you have given us so much. May we be willing to share it with those in need. Amen.