

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay
<http://standrewspres-tbay.ca> - Minister: Rev. Joyce Yanishewski

World Communion Sunday – October 5, 2025

You may wish to prepare a cup of juice, wine, or water, and some bread and quietly hold space to take communion with the words provided within this service.

Call to Worship

We come as guests invited to a table.

We come to celebrate with friends and neighbours.

Jesus Christ, our Friend and Saviour, invites us to gather.

We gather with his friends around the world.

Come and worship with hearts full of God's praise and promise.

We worship God in gladness, for God's faithfulness endures forever.

©The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. 17th Sunday after Pentecost October 5, 2025. Year C. World Communion Sunday

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

Gracious and Generous God,
you spread a banquet table and make room for all to come:
friend and foe, healed and sick, hopeful and hopeless.

You feed our desires with goodness
and fill our longing with steadfast love.

We worship you with grateful praise,
together with all your people, here and everywhere,
who break bread at your table and who share the cup.

We celebrate our life together in Christ
and offer our love and loyalty to you, O God,
source of all goodness,
through Jesus Christ, who shares our flesh,
and your Holy Spirit who prays within us.

©The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. 17th Sunday after Pentecost October 5, 2025. Year C. World Communion Sunday

God of all the world, we think if we turn off the media, we will not need to listen to the voices of our neighbors. We are blessed with family and friends, and so do not know the lonely. We are at ease in a world which is troubled, and so do not notice the bitter tears of others. Because we are people of affluence and privilege, we cannot understand those who are broken by the anger and brutality of the world.

Yet, you know, God of the sufferers. You hear the cries of those living in oppression, and call us to listen. Your tears mingle with those whose children lie mangled or dead in war zones, and would have us be peacemakers. Your faithfulness is great, when ours seems so futile, yet you would have us serve the world alongside your Child, Jesus, even as he served us with his life and gifts. Amen.

©2025 Thom M. Shuman. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com> October 5.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Call this to mind: God is ever faithful; hope is the gift passed on to us, love is the gift we can share with others; God's mercies never come to an end.

Great is God's faithfulness to all people, in all places. Thanks be to God, who has given us the promise of life in Christ Jesus our Lord! Amen.

©2025 Thom M. Shuman. <http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com> October 5.

Prayer for Understanding

God of hope, amid all the concerns in the world around us, we turn to your Word. Send your Holy Spirit to still our thoughts and speak your wisdom to us. Fill us with the humble confidence we meet in in Jesus Christ, your Living Word. Amen.

©The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. 17th Sunday after Pentecost October 5, 2025. Year C. World Communion Sunday

Scripture Readings

❖ Psalm 37:1-9

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- ² for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
- ³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- ⁴ **Take delight in the Lord,**
who will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord;
trust in the Lord, who will act.
- ⁶ **The Lord will make your vindication shine like the light,**
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still and wait patiently before the Lord;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out wicked devices.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- ⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord
shall inherit the land.

Copyright © 1995 The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Used by permission of the Presbyterian Church of Canada. Scripture text adapted or reprinted from the New Revised Standard Version bible, Copyright 1989, by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used with permission. All rights reserved.

2 Timothy 1:1-14

- ¹ Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus,
- ² To Timothy, my beloved child:
Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

³ I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. ⁴ Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. ⁵ I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. ⁶ For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, ⁷ for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

⁸ Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, ⁹ who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, ¹⁰ but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. ¹¹ For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, ¹² and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. ¹³ Hold to the standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. ¹⁴ Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

New Revised Standard Version, Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. **Thanks be to God.**

Message Where do I put my trust?

There is a video clip of Christian song writer, Rich Mullins, where he says, "...to identify fully with Jesus Christ who I claim to be my saviour and Lord. The best way that I can do that is to identify with the poor. This I know will go against the teachings of all the popular evangelical preachers but they're just wrong. They're not bad. They're just wrong. Christianity is not about building an absolutely secure little niche in the in the world where you can live with your perfect little wife and your perfect little children in a beautiful little house where you have no gays or minority groups anywhere near you."

Rich Mullins died in 1997 but was known for writing the song *Awesome God* that is still sung in churches and heard on radio stations to this day. The refrain of that song is

Our God is an awesome God,
He reigns from heaven above with wisdom, power, and love
Our God is an awesome God

Rich Mullins conveyed that his trust was in God and that God was with those who are most vulnerable and so we need to be to.

I don't have to tell you that we lived in a time of polarization of politics and policies. It feels like that there is nothing we can do to change this. If you are like me, there is a

sense of helplessness. I don't know what to say or what to do. I struggle to have conversations as I know I don't have all the facts and even when I do think I know at least some facts, another person with their interpretation of events and their "facts". I am at a loss. And yet...yet...

As I pondered the scriptures from both the first verses of Psalm 37 and the scripture reading from 2 Timothy 1:1-14 I see words that are given to describe God who is powerful and has not left us to our own devices. There are verses in the Psalm that are about God's actions in times such as we are experiencing now,

- ¹ Do not fret because of the wicked;
do not be envious of wrongdoers,
- ² for they will soon fade like the grass,
and wither like the green herb.
- ³ Trust in the Lord, and do good;
so you will live in the land, and enjoy security.
- ⁴ Take delight in the Lord,
who will give you the desires of your heart.
- ⁵ Commit your way to the Lord; trust in the Lord, who will act.
- ⁶ The Lord will make your vindication shine like the light,
and the justice of your cause like the noonday.
- ⁷ Be still and wait patiently before the Lord;
do not fret over those who prosper in their way,
over those who carry out wicked devices.
- ⁸ Refrain from anger, and forsake wrath.
Do not fret—it leads only to evil.
- ⁹ For the wicked shall be cut off,
but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land.

This Psalm is about trusting God in times when the wicked appear to have the upper hand. Regardless of what it looks like to us, the psalmist is writing words that speak of trusting that God has got this. Our work is to live out our lives in faith and in trust.

Yet it is so hard to wait on God, to trust that God has got this. One click of the remote or the scrolling of our social media feeds tells us a story of challenge and chaos. And though there are many people that we have to deal with from family to friends that have very different opinions from what we may hold, what is deeply disturbing to me is the polarization and division among people of the Christian faith. Of course, this is nothing new either. We have been living in a bit of a bubble the last few decades but there have been wars fought in the name of religion. The Reformation in the 15-16 hundreds was a time of great upheaval in the church and out of that came the Presbyterian Church and other denominations.

In our own time there is a fault line being created between many churches. There are the churches where women and children have a place in their perfect little family with their beautiful homes and where there is no room for families that look different. And there are churches that affirm vulnerable people, including minorities, the poor, the addicted, the people that make our churches messy and unpredictable, yet beautiful in the diversity and community that can be created.

What is really concerning to me is the rise of Christian Nationalism and our neglect in speaking out against it. This is something that I have brought up before. To share again, Christian Nationalism is the belief that the secular government should favor Christianity or even be replaced by it. This is a concept that started long before the current political climate around the world, but it has gained considerable traction in the last decade. It is disconcerting because it has a narrow view of faith and who and what is acceptable in God's sight. For people who would find themselves in this stream of understanding there is little to no room for women to be autonomous, there is no room for those who do not have wealth, and there is no room for anyone whose sexual orientation do not fit within the heterosexual binary of men and women.

I believe most every one is aware of the assassination of American political activist Charlie Kirk. It was a terrible act and the person responsible has to be held to account. There is no disputing that. The struggle comes in that Mr. Kirk is being held up as a Christian martyr, and that is concerning because Charlie Kirk was a Christian Nationalist. You may ask what has this got to do with Canada, but there were vigils held in Canada to honour him. The October 2nd edition of the Windsor Star led with a front-page story about a vigil held to honour Charlie Kirk where hundreds attended. The headline read, "*Martyred for his Faith*". Thing is he did not die for his faith in Jesus; he died for his belief in Conservative American White Christian Nationalism and that is a different thing. Again, let me reiterate that he should not have died at the hand of another. The point here is about what kind of faith are we called to live out as we try to be image bearers of God.

Going back to my point, the two somewhat opposing understandings of what it means to live out our faith are often melded into the same thing and they most certainly are not the same thing. People in the Christian Nationalism movement and in very conservative congregations do not represent the faith that I believe many Christians live out. Many Christians live lives of compassion for those who have little, showing kindness rather than judgement to those who were the very people Jesus spent time with. Jesus fed the hungry and healed those whom others wouldn't even touch, such as a leper and a woman who touched his cloak and was healed, or the woman who was bent over and he healed on the Sabbath in the Synagogue.

Which brings me to the reason for bringing all this up at all in the context of the scripture readings for this World Communion Sunday, a Sunday that at its core is about unity in our faith. First of all, these scriptures are about trusting that God is working in and

through all of this uncertainty and strife. We have story after story in the scriptures of how, as people reflected on their experiences, they could see how God was at work. Then there are the people in our lives who have been our Christian mentors. They may be family or friends; they may be people in our worship community.

In the letter to Timothy we can read as Paul imparts important stories and words to encourage and teach Timothy. We also know from the writing that family helped to bring about the deep faith that had Timothy pastoring other Christians. His grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice obviously impacted Timothy's understanding and choices or they would not have been named. I ask, who in your life has impacted your understanding of faith? Think about who may be looking to you to learn or at least see what it means to be a Christian. One thing that is for certain is that learning about and living out our faith happens in community, and it comes about from experience.

Paul, Lois, and Eunice had all been teachers and mentors to Timothy, but he also had the Spirit of God within him, and that is something all of us have access to as well. This is both reassuring and a little terrifying. If we have God's Spirit then it means that we have power. That power is to show mercy and compassion, to love, and to advocate for justice for those who have no voice. This is not about making our lives better, it is about making all lives better. Responding to the hurts and the hopes, restoring people to wholeness in community, and then rejoicing with them and for them.

It means that we have to find our voice for justice in the face of a kind of Christianity that leans into prosperity for those with money and power and neglects the needs of those on the margins. It means that we must remember that like Timothy we have been not been given a spirit of cowardice, but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

We have a holy calling, not according to our works but according to God's own purpose and grace. Grace. That is what is to define our faith and the way we see and treat others. Jesus cared for the least of these and that then is who we should be caring for, those whose lives are more challenging physically, mentally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually.

Do not be ashamed of your faith, put your trust in God. God's got this. We have to open our mouths and hearts, but God's got this. We do this in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good treasure entrusted to you...to us as Christians, called to share this treasure of love and grace with others, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us. Amen.

The Lord's Supper

Invitation to the table

In the early hours of this morning, while all was quiet and dark here at home, the sun was rising on the other side of the world. And with the dawn of this new day, God's

people began gathering for worship amid the sounds of drums, pipes, stringed instruments or pianos and organs.

And now we, too, join in this worldwide chorus of those who call upon the name of the Lord. On this World Communion Sunday, we remember especially that the scriptures are fulfilled as “people will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God.”

So come, not because you must, but because you may. Come not because you are strong, but because you seek God’s strength. All those who trust in Jesus are invited to come and join in the feast that God has prepared.

©The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. 17th Sunday after Pentecost October 5, 2025. Year C. World Communion Sunday.

The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you;

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God;

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, O God our Creator,

whose image dwells in every face of the human family.

In the faces of the matriarchs and patriarchs of Israel,

we see your desire to raise up a chosen people.

In the faces of judges and rulers, we behold the beauty of your law.

In the faces of your priests and prophets,

we witness your passion for justice and righteousness.

So now, joined with the global chorus of our siblings in Christ around the world,

we glorify you and pray for the day when the earth will be filled

with the knowledge of you as waters upon the face of the sea.

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth of your glory are full

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord,

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Holy, holy, holy Lord

God of power and might

Heaven and earth of your glory are full

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

We give thanks that you sent your Son into the world to show us your many faces:

Unexpected child,
Unwelcomed refugee,
Unhoused wayfarer,
Lover of the unlovable,
Toucher of the untouchable,
Loved by the least,
feared by authority,
friend of the weak and foe of the strong.

We who are many are made one in him. And in breaking bread and sharing wine with his disciples then and today we recall the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died;

Christ is risen;

Christ will come again.

Come, Mighty Spirit, upon this bread and cup that they may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.

As once you set your face to Jerusalem to relieve your people's suffering once and for all— send now your Holy Spirit

to the people of Palestine, starving and tired of being starved...
the people of Burundi, impoverished and tired of being impoverished...
the people of Ukraine, war-ravaged and tired of being war-ravaged...
the people of El Salvador, corrupted and tired of being corrupted...
the people of North Korea, silenced and tired of being silenced...
the people of the United States, divided and tired of being divided.

By your Spirit unite all peoples in Christ until we feast with him and all the saints in light. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, Almighty God, now and forever. Amen.

And now as written in the bulletin we pray the family prayer which Jesus taught;

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

The Story of the Last Supper

The Lord Jesus on the night he was betrayed took bread,
and when he had given thanks for it, he broke it, and said,

'This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me.'

In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying,

'This cup is the new covenant in my blood.

Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.'

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup,
you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

(partake of the bread and drink that you have prepared)

Prayer after Communion

**Loving God, Christ our Lord, Holy Spirit,
you have nourished us, body and soul, in this meal.
We have heard your love, so send us out to speak it.
We have seen your love, so send us out to show it.
We have been fed by your love, so send us out to share it.
And let all things be done for your glory. Amen.**

©The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. 17th Sunday after Pentecost October 5, 2025. Year C. World Communion Sunday.

Invitation to the offering

Whether we share euros, francs, pesos or dollars, we are invited to bring an offering today to support this congregation and our ministries. From the smallest coin to the largest check, every gift is valued, appreciated and will be used to sustain the work of Christ in the world.

With generous hearts and open hands, let us share our offering.

There are various ways that people give to this congregation for our work as God's people, through signing up for a monthly donation, or sending an etransfer.

Check out the opportunities to support St. Andrew's ministry at our website,
[St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Thunder Bay, ON – Part of the PCCWeb network of churches](#)

Benediction

Go from here to serve God, your strength renewed and your faith reassured,
for you are part of Christ's body, embracing the world in his name.
And may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

©The Presbyterian Church in Canada. Worship Planner. 17th Sunday after Pentecost October 5, 2025. Year C. World Communion Sunday.