

Social Action Spotlight: Systemic Economic Inequality

Poverty in Canada and across the globe continues to seriously impact the lives and well-being of many. According to Statistics Canada's most recent data, 7.4% of Canadians lived in poverty in 2021, which was up from 6.4% in 2020. The causes of poverty are complex, but a major factor is systemic economic inequality. Economic inequality is easy to spot, given the growing gap between people with wealth and people experiencing poverty. Speaking about systemic economic inequality names that there are social and economic structures creating and contributing to that growing gap. Not everyone starts at the same economic baseline. Racism, misogyny, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and other social ills erect barriers to economic security. Add in that wealth is more easily created when you already have wealth to draw on—as economic inequality compounds generationally—and it becomes very clear that our economic systems are not set up to foster equality. Too often our narratives about poverty blame those who are struggling, rather than looking at the systems that reinforce inequality, racism and economic vulnerability. Stop-gap measures like charity or temporary programs to help people “*get back on their feet*” may provide some relief but don't address the underlying structural problems. To break the cycle, structural change aimed at creating a more level economic baseline is needed.

What can you do?

- Advocate! Identify programs and policies that tackle economic inequality, including instituting a guaranteed livable income (where all people have sufficient income to meet basic needs) and encourage the government to meet its poverty reduction targets. For template letters, see the poverty reduction section of the PCC's Letters to Government page: presbyterian.ca/justice/letters-to-the-government.
- Learn more! Access Citizens for Public Justice's most recent resource on poverty trends in Canada: cpj.ca/category/research-poverty-in-canada.
- Track! Find whether Canada is meeting its poverty reduction goals: statcan.gc.ca/en/topics-start/poverty.

Prayer Partnership, Engaging in God's Mission Through Word and Action



PCC Daily Prayer - We pray for people who are unhoused. May governments, faith communities and our church work to end suffering for those who are without homes and support.



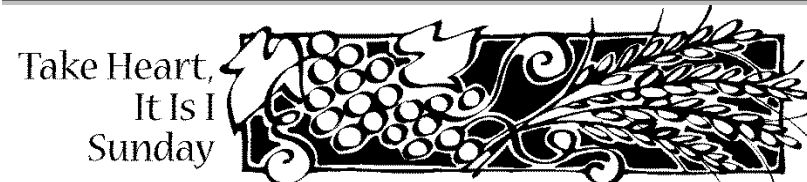
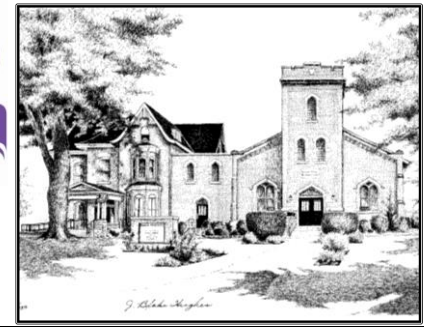
Office Hours: 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. - Monday – Thursday

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Sunday, August 13, 2023

Minister: The Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton

Today's Worship Leader: Anita Evans

Music Director: Bonnie Neaves

Organist Emeritus: Bert Van der Hoek, ARCCO

Welcome!

Our mission as a congregation, with the Holy Spirit as our guide, is to share the good news of Jesus Christ in the world, and to fulfill our responsibilities to God and our neighbours.

An offering can be made in one of the offering plates upon entering or leaving.

*If able, please stand where indicated with an * asterisk.*

Trumpet and Piano Prelude: Sonata in F major

A. Corelli

•Grave •Allegro •Sarabande •Gigue

Words of Welcome and Announcements

We Gather To Worship God

Lighting of the Worship Candle

*Call to Worship

*Hymn: **The God of Abraham praise**

331

Prayer of Adoration and Confession

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

P: Christ, have mercy upon us

L: Lord, have mercy upon us

Prayer for the Day

P: Amen

Assurance of Pardon

Passing of the Peace

L: The Peace of Christ be with you all

P: And also with you

*Hymn: **The storm is strong** (tune # 217)

728

Hear the Word of God

Prayer of Illumination

First Reading: **1 Kings 19:9-18** (pgs. 382-r, 348-w, 284-NRSV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

Responsive Psalm: **85:8-13**

***Gloria Patri**

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.

As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end.

Romans 10:5-15 (pgs. 1214-r, 1098-w, 921-NRSV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord

P: Thanks be to God

St. Matthew 14:22-33, (pgs. 1052-r, 948-w, 796-NRSV)

L: This is the Gospel of our Risen Lord,

P: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

*Hymn: **At the name of Jesus**

340

Sermon

Trumpet Solo: Sarabande

Soloist: Don Clark

G. Tartini

We Respond in Faith and Service

Prayers of Thanksgiving and Intercession

L: Lord, in your mercy

P: Hear our prayer

The Lord's Prayer (debts)

*Hymn: **Precious Lord, take my hand**

675

*Commissioning and Benediction

Choral Amen

Organ Postlude: Rejoicing

G.F. Handel



Welcome Visitors! - Thank you for worshipping with us today, at Elmwood Avenue Presbyterian Church. *You have enriched our community and we hope the service held meaning and beauty for you. Please feel free to remain after the worship service and join us on the front lawn, weather permitting for refreshments. You may wish to visit us on the web at www.elmwoodchurch.ca to learn more about us and what opportunities are available for personal spiritual growth and service to others. If you are not an involved member of a faith community, but seeking one, we invite you to return here any Sunday for worship and fellowship.*

If you would like to speak to the minister, or have him visit, you are very welcome to be in touch with him. Please contact the church office 519-438-3492 or email afullerton@elmwoodchurch.ca



Our thanks to Lorraine and Don Clark for enriching our worship service this morning with their musical gifts!



Stewardship Moment: In the end, everything has been entrusted to our protection, and all of us are responsible for it. Be protectors of God's gifts!
Pope Francis



FOR YOUR INFORMATION

This morning, we welcome back Anita Evans and thank her for leading us in worship. Anita decided to realize a long-term calling to ordained ministry. She has completed studies at Huron University College and Knox College, has been certified to seek ordination, and at this time is actively seeking a call to a congregation. As an accomplished flutist and musician, she can also be heard on several CDs produced by the choir of Oakridge Presbyterian Church.

Vacation: Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton is currently away until August 29.

Pastoral Emergencies: August 5 – 28, contact Rev. Keith McKee at St. George's Presbyterian Church, phone 519- 455-5760 or email stgeorge@execulink.com



For the London Chaplaincy - It's that time of year again when the children are eagerly looking forward to outdoor activities. The intensity of the sun can be injurious to our skin so we are asking for donations of children's sunscreen. This is SPF 30 or higher.

London Chaplaincy works hard to curate high-quality summer programs for low-income children and youth and create equitable access to enriching summer opportunities. To run these programs, our fundraising goal is \$20,000. You can support this critical summer season by:

- Donating through your offering envelope marked London Chaplaincy
 - Donating online via Canada Helps at www.canadahelps.org and search "London Community Chaplaincy"
 - Donating a gift-in-kind of breakfast foods (i.e. cereal, peanut butter, jam)
 - Volunteering as a camp driver, please call our office: 519-685-2771
- Thank you!*

Next Sunday, August 20 is Food Bank Sunday - Please leave your donations in the basket located in the Narthex. Thank you!

Fall Bazaar / Food Fare – Scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023

While you are enjoying your summer vacation, please remember to work on your knitting, crafts and preserves etc. **We need your help and your support will be greatly appreciated.** If you need jars...a large selection of sizes stored downstairs in the church's youth room. Help yourself!