



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Trailblazing

December 6, 2020

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer, or even in small groups outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



God's hope
F Peter

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

Announcements

Communion: All who want to know Jesus more are invited to join us for the Lord's Supper today. You are invited to provide your own bread and juice/wine.

Visiting: The government considers ministers to be essential workers. If you need a visit, please contact Rev. Peter.

Prayer Group: will be meeting through Zoom on Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)

[pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Movie Time: Join Antoinette Dec. 12 for *Arthur's Christmas* (Zoom).

Book Club: is next reading *The Fault in Our Stars*. The discussion will be on Dec 30th. Please contact Antoinette for details.

Offering Envelopes: have arrived at the church. We will be distributing them to people who are using them on a regular basis (over the next week or two). If you're worried about not receiving them, please contact the church office: 514-486-4559.

Re-opening the Church: Session will consider when to reopen the building after Montréal is no longer a 'red zone'. In the mean time, we are continuing to improve our facilities.

Please continue to check out the website

<https://kensingtonchurch.ca/>

or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Kris Epps (music).....Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca



Approaching God

Call to worship²

The season of Advent begins, and we celebrate the hope we find
in the good news of the Gospel.

**Through the birth
of a tiny and helpless child,
God comes to save the world.**

While we watch and wait for Jesus,
we join God's mission by bringing grace and mercy
to those who need it most.

**We engage the poor and the poor in spirit,
letting Christ's light shine through us.**

We speak words of comfort and love
to a world in need of hope and healing
as we share our stories of God's transforming Spirit.

Together, we are a sign of God's hope for the world.

lighting the candle

Prayer of Adoration³

**God of surprising grace,
when we least expect it
you bring fresh new life;
and where we feel that all is lost,
you bring redemption.**

**Give us courage as we share
all you have done, all you are doing,
and all you will accomplish
through Jesus Christ. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: He came down that we might have **peace**.....pg 11
<https://youtu.be/3WhJ95xYjBE?t=1653> (they don't sing 'peace',
but it gives you an idea.)

Prayer of Confession

It is Advent. It is the season in which we prepare our hearts
to welcome Christ, who is the bringer of all peace.

We confess to you the ways in which
we block the peace of Christ in our lives.

God of peace, hear our prayer.

The rushing and scurrying to get things done,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The worry about the little details,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The financial burdens we put on ourselves,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The impatience and irritability we feel
and take out on one another,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

The bickering and quarrelling we get into because we are too
busy,
we confess to you, O God of peace.

Though we make ourselves less than peaceful
at this time of the year,
your peace is always there for us.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

When we feel overwhelmed,
instill within us your peace, O God.

When we are filled with worry,
instill within us your peace, O God.

When we become irritable,

² provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development

³ provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development

instill within us your peace, O God.

When the guilt of our ways threatens to overcome us,
help us to remember that we are forgiven in Christ.

Instill within us your peace, O God.

Instill within us your peace, O God.
and help us to make choices that bring us closer to you.
Help us to be more peaceful
so that we may spread Christ's peace and love to others.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News through Isaiah 40: 1-2
Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.

Your sins are pardoned.

The penalty is paid.

Thanks be to God.

♪ Hymn: Comfort, Comfort all my peoples.....pg 11

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rTOeAl-Ph8I>



Listening to God



Prayer

O God, our beginning and end,
by whose command time runs its course:
bless our impatience,
perfect our faith,
and, while we wait the fulfillment of your promises,
grant us hope in your Word.

Amen.⁴

⁴ adapted from Worship Sourcebook D.3.1.6

Intro to the readings

- pay attention to what stands out for you. What attracts you?
What distracts you?

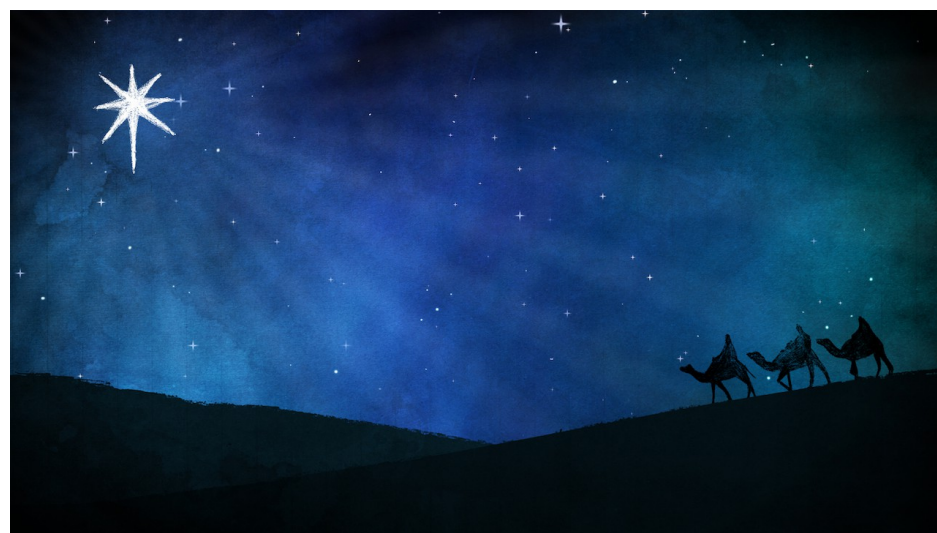


Reading: Please look up the passages in your own
Bible, or click on the name to be taken to an online
version (NRSV).

[2 Peter 3](#): 8-15a

[Mark 1](#): 1-8

[Psalm 85](#): 1-2, 8-13



Sermon: Trailblazing

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁵ Amen.

Jesus is coming, and it's going to be great. There will be peace,
love and happiness for all. This won't be some sterile and boring
world - we'll experience joy like we've never known it before.

Jesus is coming!

⁵ Psalm 19:14

The first Christians said that Jesus would return before they died... and then they died. The next generation said that Jesus would come any day now... well, soon... sometime.

The letter we heard was written to Christians who were probably born after Jesus' resurrection. They were faced with people making snide comments like, 'So, where is this great saviour of yours? Wasn't he supposed to be here by now?'

And so we have a response, a reminder to those struggling Christians, *"that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day."* At the time this was probably intended as an exaggeration... but it's now been thousands of years.

It's a little bit like a friend who's always late. I'm sure you've got one of those. Sometimes it's just something you roll with, maybe even cute or amusing. Sometimes, it's annoying... even spoiling plans.

Now with God, it's a little different. God created everything - including time. This is cool. Personally I appreciate having a God who is not bound by time. I can pray to God about anything and anytime. I can pray for help with something in the past that still hurts and God is there when the past was the present. Or I can pray about something in the future and know that God is there - not will be there, but **is** there. This helps give me peace.

That said, I'd like God to respect my time a bit more, because I'm stuck in it.

How about you?

Do you wonder about Jesus coming again?

Do you wonder if God is disconnected from our reality?

Well, this letter's got an answer for that.

God's not being slow, God's being patient. Why? God doesn't want *"any to perish, but all to come to repentance."*

God is often compared to a parent. Parents don't want their children to fail; they want them to be the best - like what God wants for all God's children (ie. everyone). Some parents act on this desire by swooping in when their child is in trouble. They help their child get good marks by telling them how to do their homework. They make sure their child doesn't take bad risks, and fight for their child if there is any threat to their success. They help with the applications to schools. I was talking to somebody who works at the Gazette and receives job applications from parents on behalf of their children. Does all this actually help the child flourish into who they can become? If God just swooped in to make sure we always succeeded, could we figure out our calling? Would we enjoy our potential? Could we experience peace with who we are?



God is also like a teacher. In this case waiting for the whole class to understand the lesson before moving on. The lesson is a life lesson - how to live in a way that allows everyone to celebrate their potential in God's love and experience the peace of Christ.

If you can forget the negative associations, the church term for doing this is righteousness.

One of the lines that stood out for me in the psalm is about righteousness.

*The Lord will give what is good,
and our land will yield its increase.
Righteousness will go before him,
and will make a path for his steps.*

Righteousness is creating a path towards this glorious coming. A time when, “*Steadfast love and faithfulness will meet; righteousness and peace will kiss each other.*” This is something to look forward to. A world filled with love, faithfulness, righteousness & peace.

The class analogy is a nice example because it takes patience and effort from everybody: teacher and class, those who understand and those who don’t. God is patiently waiting for everyone to figure out how to live love, faithfulness, righteousness and peace - how to walk this way. It’s something some of the class understand, at least in part. It’s something we can help others understand, and be patient about too.

God isn’t being a ‘helicopter parent’ about it and doing everything for us, we’re also not left without help. There’s the ultimate role model in Jesus, and the Holy Spirit working in us and in others. There are people preparing the way.

Back when Jesus came before, John prepared the way. He was a



bit of a radical, living a crazy and harsh life in the wilderness. He bluntly challenged people to admit their faults and change their ways. What’s amazing is that they came to see him. They listened to him. He challenged people with one technique, then Jesus came to reach others with other techniques.

And there are still people preparing the way. Some people are famous, like Dietrich Bonhoeffer standing against Nazi Germany, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr against racism in the U.S., or the Rev. Tommy Douglas bringing medicare to Canada.

Many people who are preparing the way are less well known. People like Private Sarah Evans and Claudette Colvin⁶ taking a stand against racism. They were arrested for not giving up their seat on a bus to a white person - preparing the way for Rosa Parks. There’s others who are trying to bring peace to people’s lives - like all those working on the vaccines to fight COVID... and many people who have “small” roles - anybody who has a chance to show love, faithfulness & peace. They are walking in the way of righteousness.

Which is the path to follow.

I don’t know when God will figure it’s time. Perhaps tomorrow, or maybe a thousand years from now. Today’s letter, and other passages as well, suggest to me that God is patient, but the new beginning may come before everything is perfect in this world. It may come before everybody in the class learns the lesson. However, there’s also lots of passages about God’s grace and forgiveness, and the whole Bible is about God’s patience with us.

⁶ www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revise-common-lectionary/second-sunday-of-advent-2/commentary-on-mark-11-8-5

Which leaves us with taking comfort in God's patience, so that we can continue to practice living steadfast love and faithfulness; so that we can practice living right with God - and be at peace God's sense of time.

In the name of God the Creator, Jesus our Saviour, and the Holy Spirit as our guide. Amen.



Responding to God

♪ musical reflection:

FaithTalk

These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Etching: Who are some people that aren't world famous, but that you think have made life better for others? Share what they did.

Wonder: What would you like to ask Jesus about the second coming?

Memories: Share about a time that you have felt at peace with a situation, or yourself, or the world. This is not necessarily a stillness, but more a it's what should be. It is right (righteous in a good way).

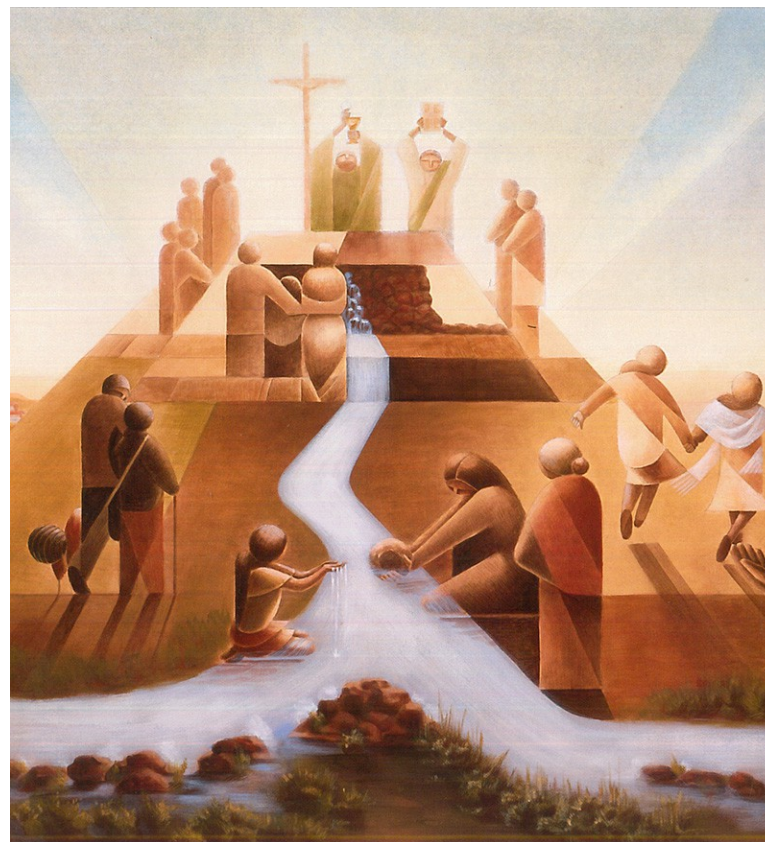
Actions: Continue with a daily advent practice. There are various suggestions in last week's bulletin.

Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on **our website**. Just click the '[Donate Now](#)' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can now donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also good options.



Eucharist, Source & Summit - Garcia

Communion

Communion Hymn: Put peace into each others hands.....pg 11
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu1xDPwTFQ>

Invitation to the table

This is a strange time to share Communion.

We are not gathered at one table, or even at one time, but we are gathered with one Lord.

It is the will of Jesus that those who want to experience him should meet Jesus here.

C'est la volonté de Dieu
que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
devraient partager ce repas.

So, come,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have come often
and you who have not come for a long time,
you who have tried to follow
and have done so imperfectly.⁷

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper,
we also come together with a statement of faith that we share with Christians of many types, around the world and through the centuries.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.



Great prayer of thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer

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.

In our weariness, God of beginnings,
remind us how you could no longer wait,
but ripped apart the fabric of chaos to make:
the rivers and the hills,
the worms and the hawks,
all with the stars as a backdrop,
and people - formed in your image.
Making us for joy to be with you forever.

⁷ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

Therefore we join our voices
with all the saints and angels and the whole creation
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of
your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

But we became overwhelmed by the virus of sin,
turning away from your advice and help.
Even when you send men and women to guide us.
You could have given up on us,
but your patience, your faithfulness, continues.
So you came in the Child of peace - the prince of peace.
As Jesus, you came to people who were anxious about the future,
to remind them, and us, that you are there and it will be okay.
You came to those who struggle,
giving love, hope, and peace.
and you showed us that despite appearances,
death is not the end.

Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

You know how stressed out we are
in these days which go on and on.

We pray that your Spirit fills our souls with the gifts of your love,
patience, faithfulness and peace.

We especially pray for those who are struggling
with isolation as we head towards a celebration at a distance
with those who are dealing with conflict. Whether that's on a
large scale such as in Ethiopia, or in their own homes.
for those who need healing of the body, mind, or soul.
May they know your peace.

and may your Holy Spirit move in this remembrance of your
table, making us into your community and filling us with your
peace so that we can bring it to the world.

To help us walk the right way,
we join with Christians all over in saying the prayer you left us.



Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)
Let us join with Christians throughout the world in praying...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is 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.**



we are all One in Jesus Christ - Soichi Watanabe



Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God
he broke the bread and shared it, saying
“This is my body; it is broken for you.”
“Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous”

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said,
“This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood
Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me.”
“Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon (saunt) sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi”
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

[take and drink]



Prayer after Communion

Jésus, il n'y a rien qui puisse te séparer de nous.
Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.
Resurrected Jesus, you come alongside our everyday lives,
and to guide us in the best way to live,
filling us with peace and hope.
Amazing God, help us share your peace with our neighbours
with the support of your blessed Spirit.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Hark the herald angels sing.....pg 12
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ICt1s44cfMM>

Benediction

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.
Amen.*



Rohingya Family Carries on Despite Challenges

Fleeing at a moment's notice wasn't an option for Nosomakatun and her two children who are dependent on wheelchairs for mobility.

But facing the increasing violence against Rohingya people in Myanmar, Nosomakatun's family were eventually forced to leave their homes. Since 2017, almost 750,000 Rohingya refugees have been forced to leave their homes in Myanmar.

The journey to safety brought about new challenges for the family, most crucially a lack of nutritious food.

Thankfully Nosomakatun and her family were able to receive food vouchers from a PWS&D-supported Canadian Foodgrains Bank project. With the vouchers, families can purchase a variety of nutritious foods to complement the rice, oil and lentils they are receiving from the World Food Programme.

These days, Nosomakatun is grateful to see her family safe, better nourished and more resilient to illness. "We are so thankful for the food," she shares.

This Advent season help those displaced by conflict find strength and nourishment for their bodies as they journey to find peace.

WeRespond.ca



The development and relief agency
of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Sunday, December 6

MISSION MOMENT

Prayer We pray for Hamilton Banda and volunteers at the Ndirande Handicapped Centre in Malawi who provide support to people with physical and mental disabilities, especially to children and their families.



Youth Clubs Make a Difference

In Malawi, 20-year-old Layton had been engaging in unsafe sexual behaviours. Several of Layton's friends attended Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported youth clubs, where they would get together and discuss how to achieve a world without AIDS. His friends warned him about the consequences of his actions and shared information they learned at the youth club. Layton never thought to attend these meetings until one day when his friends persuaded him to get an HIV test. Anxious about the results—which eventually came back negative—Layton knew he needed to change his life. Deciding to join the youth club himself, he reflected, "I think my friends from youth club saved my life. I joined them so that we can save many from such behaviours."

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, December 7 We pray for all in the church as we seek to be in communion with people holding differing theological views. We pray for compassion and understanding to keep us as one in Christ.

Tuesday, December 8 We pray for the health and safety of people serving and worshipping in ministries with Indigenous Peoples.

Wednesday, December 9 We pray for chaplains who serve in correctional facilities, and for the Rev. Glenn McCullough, our denominational representative to the Interfaith Committee on Chaplaincy for Corrections Canada.

Thursday, December 10 (Human Rights Day) We pray for individuals and organizations defending human rights in Canada and around the world. We pray for their safety, and the safety of those they support and protect.

Friday, December 11 We pray for the people of Palestine-Israel who work for peace.

Saturday, December 12 We give thanks for all those who are restless for peace throughout the world, and those who inspire others to resist injustice and defend inequality.

Put peace into each other's hands

1. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands,
 2. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands
 3. Put peace in - to each oth - er's hands
 4. As at com - mun - ion, shape your hands
 5. Put Christ in - to each oth - er's hands,

and like a treas - ure hold it;
 with lov - ing ex - pec - ta - tion;
 like bread we break for shar - ing;
 in - to a wait - ing cra - dle;
 he is love's deep - est meas - ure;

pro - tect it like a can words - dle - flame;
 be gen - tle in your ly in the ways
 look peo - ple warm - ly in and the eye:
 the gift of Christ re - ceive, re - vere,
 in love make peace, give peace a chance,

with ten - der - ness en - fold it.
 in touch with God's cre - a - tion.
 our life is meant for car - ing.
 u - nit - ed round the ta - ble.
 and share it like a treas - ure.

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-) Music: Ancient Irish hymn melody; harmony, Eric H. Thiman (1900-1975)
 Words: copyright © Oxford University Press from *Planting Trees and Sowing Seeds* Music: harmony, copyright © United Reformed Church
 in the UK/Oxford University Press

HE CAME DOWN

He came down that we may have love: he

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

have love; hal - le - lu - jah for ev - er - more.
 G Cantor
 Why did he come?

Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D with refrain

1. Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King,
 2. Christ, by high-est heaven a-dored, Christ, the ev-er-last-ing Lord,
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right-cous-ness!

peace on earth and mer-cy mild, God and sin-ners re-con-ciled.
 late in time be-hold him come, off-spring of a vir-gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal-ing in his wings.

Joy-ful, all ye na-tions, rise; join the tri-umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail the in-car-nate de-i-ty!
 Mild, he lays his glo-ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an-gel-ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth-le-hem."
 Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je-sus, our Em-man-u-el.
 born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us sec-ond birth.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707-1788), alt; French, Edmond L. Budry (1854-1932)
 Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847); arrangement, William Hayman Cummings (1831-1915)
 Words: French translation, copyright © World Student Christian Federation from Cantate Domino Music: public domain

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King.

French

1. Ecoutez! le chant des anges,
 vient d'éclater dans les airs;
 joignons aussi nos louanges
 à leurs sublimes concerts:
 gloire à Dieu! paix sur la terre!
 Aujourd'hui le Christ est né!
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
2. Son palais est une étable,
 une crèche est son berceau,
 et pourtant, c'est l'Admirable,
 c'est le Fils du Dieu très-haut.
 Il vient à nous débonnaire
 et de grâce couronné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
3. Avec vous, bergers et mages,
 aux pieds de notre Seigneur
 nous déposons nos hommages,
 nous lui sonnonns notre coeur.
 Tout son peuple sur la terre
 dit, avec nous prosterné:
 Jésus, s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus, s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.

Hungarian

1. Halld mint zeng az egész ég;
 "A Királynak dicsőség!
 Békesség a földön lenn,
 Istentől jó kegyelem."
 Népek, örvendeztetek!
 Visszhangozzák a mennyek!
 Hirdesse a természet:
 Krisztusunk megszületett!
 Halld mint zeng az egész ég:
 "A Királynak dicsőség!"
2. Krisztus, kit imád a menny,
 Úr a nagy világ előtt,
 Köztünk íme megjelent,
 Szent szűz az, ki szülte Őt.
 Dicsősége eget áthat,
 Isten Ő, ki porruhánkat
 Földön élni vette fel.
 Jézus O, Immánuel!
 Halld mint zeng...
3. Dicsőség! Ő a Király,
 Békesség és Igazság,
 Éltető világos nap,
 Bajainkra gyógyírt ad.
 Kis gyermek lett mi érettünk,
 Született, hogy mi élhessünk,
 Porból, hogy feltámasszon
 S újjászületést adjon.
 Halld mint zeng...