



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Wow!

January 31, 2021

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).



Prayer of illumination - M Moyers

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

Announcements

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

If you would like to pray at a different time, please contact Peter.

[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

New Hope Seniors Centre: is offering three programs through Zoom. If you are interested, you can register through email or phone: newhope.programs@videotron.ca or call 514 503 5649.

Watercolor Practice: Tuesdays from 1:00-3:00

Mediation with Giovanna: Mondays from 10:00am -10:30

Chair Yoga with Giovanna: Wednesdays from 10:00 am -10:45

Refugee Letter: Session has decided to write a letter to the provincial government regarding their decision not to allow organizations to sponsor refugees. If you would like to know more, or write your own letter, please contact Rev. Peter or your elder for more details.

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

Live Worship: When Montréal is no longer a Red Zone, Session will reconsider when we feel it is safe to open.

Please continue to check out the website [kensingtonchurch.ca/](https://www.kensingtonchurch.ca/)
or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>

Contacts

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Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle
 Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.
 Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship
 We gather in these places you make sacred,
to offer our thanks to God with all our hearts.
 We gather within our community of faith,
to follow Jesus, who longs to lead us into life.
 We gather in these moments,
to learn all we can of grace from the Holy Spirit.

♪ Hymn: Come thou almighty King.....pg 12
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OGuUQjDkQA4



Prayer of Approach & Assurance of Pardon
 Mighty God,
 Stories come to us through through time.
We hear about your power over nature and demons;
your power to change people's lives for the better
 Stories come to us of a new way of living.
We hear about your teaching,
and how Jesus opens your truth for us all to see.
 Stories come to us, old and new
We hear about your Spirit
blowing people towards a better life.
 We hear and marvel and celebrate these stories
 and even more, we celebrate you:
 our leader, our teacher, our friend, our judge, our creator, our
 most perfect mother and father.

We gather and thank you for your teaching and help.
 Jesus, there are things we are sorry for and need help with.
We ask your forgiveness for when we have hurt somebody
else, the environment, or ourselves through things we
have done... or avoided doing.

...

We know that when we regret what we've done and try to be
 better that you forgive us.
 May your Spirit give us strength and help us to live that
 forgiveness.
 In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit - Holy and One.
 Amen.



Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)
 Jesus left us a prayer to guide us into a healthier relations with
 God and each other. Let us join with Christians around the
 world, saying...
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.





Listening to God


♪ Hymn: Word of God, across the ages.....pg 12
www.youtube.com/watch?v=stTFIDKDBI8

Prayer

Our Lord and our God,
 as we hear your Word,
 may your Spirit descend on us.
 Softening our hearts so that we may see your ways.
 Fill us with your light.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
 Amen.

Intro to the readings

- The Psalm is quite descriptive of God's wonderful actions. Can you think of specific examples?
- The book of Deuteronomy is mostly full of laws that expand on the Ten Commandments. This bit expands on the fear of being in the presence of the super powerful creator/judge God and the people's desire for an alternative. So God agrees that they will still need to be taught by God, and there's a plan.
- In Mark we continue on from last week. Previously, Jesus returned from the wilderness (and his temptations) like a 'man on a mission'. He told people to repent because the Reign of God is at hand. He called some fishermen to join in, and they dropped what they were doing. Now they've heading into town. What sort of trouble will there be?

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

[Psalm 111](#)

[Deuteronomy 18: 15-20](#)

[Mark 1: 21-28](#)

Sermon: Amazing!

Dear Lord, please bless these words
 and the meditations of our hearts.² Amen.

What do you imagine it was like as Jesus started his ministry? What would it have been like for the regular person? What impresses you about today's passage of Jesus? What do you think would have impressed the people there?

Today's sermon is going to be a little different from normal, but something I've done before. It'll include a monologue from a character in the story. In fact, I've used a version of this before, but in reflecting on the themes in this passage, it conveys the ideas better than any other idea I had.

Today's monologue is from a talkative fisherman in Capernaum. I hope that Avrim will give you a picture of what it might have been like as Jesus started his ministry. The details may not be perfectly accurate, but they are reasonable guesses.

As you read, how do your impressions line up? Are you and Avrim surprised at the same things?

<> >< <> <> <>



<http://data2.archives.ca/e/e440/e010975543-v8.jpg>

Shalom,

My name is Avrim. I'm a fisherman. It's not a quite as honourable as some other professions - but as long as you wash well, the smell isn't so bad.

I like this life. Feeling the sun rise when you're out on the water; working as a team to pull the nets in; interacting with the customers; home for a nice meal with the family; and then tending the equipment with my son. The day has a good rhythm.

There can be terrifying storms or stillness with no fish - but most of the time I like it.

My home, you ask,

It is lovely. We live near the harbour. One room ...plus the roof of course.

While I am working, my wife, Naomi, sees that everything at home runs smoothly. Because I'm out so early, she makes sure

that Nathan gets up and out to class. Meanwhile, Sarah has already been up helping her mother make the bread. Nathan picks it up from our local oven on the way home for our noon meal.

Once, somebody took our loaf by mistake, and they waited the next day to apologize... and ask for our recipe. We were so proud of Sarah. We're sure to find her a good husband.

God has blessed me with a wonderful family.

I also feel blessed to live in Kefar Nahum - Capernaum to you gentiles.

It is nice to be in such a big city. Somebody told me the other day that there is about 500 people here!

It's a great city!

Okay, not great like Jerusalem - we're not famous for anything.

But we are in a great location. Being on the northern end of the Sea of Galilee puts us along the trade route between the coast and Syria, *and* the trade route up the Jordan River.

While I'll ask you not to repeat this to anyone, I think the Roman's have helped business. The Centurion based here has done a good job keeping the brigands under control.

Some of those brigands claim to be revolutionaries, but I'm not sure these ones are as concerned with our interests as their ancestors where.

I suspect they're more interested in the goods.

While I haven't had any dealings with the centurion, his slave who buys my fish seems happy to be a part of that household.

The centurion is also respectful of our traditions.

This isn't true with all the gentiles who come through. Their stories and music are exciting to hear in the market, but some of their ideas are offensive to the Lord - such as the idea of working on the Sabbath.

This upsets the natural rhythm of the week.

The Sabbath is a central blessing that God has given us; we must stop working for a whole day. This day is set apart from the other days to focus time with our Lord.

I can't imagine not having the Sabbath.

This week my Sabbath started as normal, with the family gathering at Sundown to light the candles and say the evening prayer. Then the kids went to bed while Naomi & I relaxed on the roof under the stars.

I always wake up before sunrise, but on the Sabbath I don't have to work. Instead I go up to the roof and think and pray and watch the Sun slide up out of the sea. Sarah joins me and we thank God for the many blessings we have - and usually sing a few psalms as well.

When Naomi and Nathan finally stir, we share a leisurely breakfast of bread, boiled eggs, almonds and dates.

and then it's time to go to the synagogue.

One of the special things about being in a city with hundreds of people is that we have a building dedicated to being our synagogue.

While I haven't seen any others, I think ours is beautiful. For a year after it was built, Eli illustrated the stories from the Torah on

the walls. Now, when I go in, I really feel like this is a place that is set apart for time with The Lord.

After some prayers, Benjamin leads us in some singing of the psalms.

Then we hear the Torah. Today Luke gets up to read from the scrolls. He takes one of the shelf and opens it. I like it when he reads. Our ancestors sound so real - unlike Isaac, who reads it all like it is just a book of laws.

And then David normally interprets the passage for us. He studied hard to become a scribe - and usually there's something interesting in what he says... well, sometimes. Whatever he says, there's always a lively discussion after.

Today, thought, was different.

A stranger stands up to interpret the passage.

He was sitting with Simon & Andrew - fishermen from down the wharf. We nodded in recognition.

The man was introduced as Jesus, son of Joseph from Nazareth.

There was a bit of a snicker. I mean, can anything good come out of Nazareth?

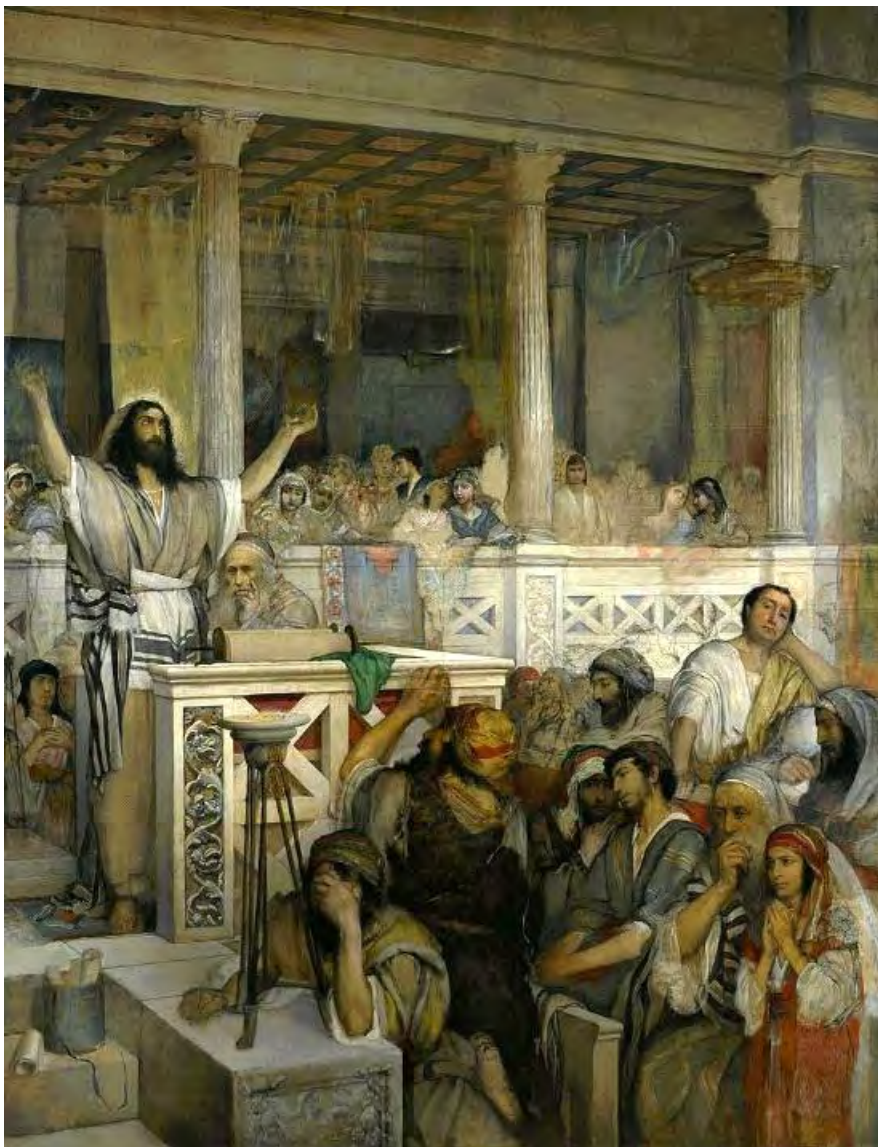
But we listened respectfully.

And, well... I'm at a lose for words...
Yes, that is a little surprising.

I just don't know how to describe it.

It was amazing. We just sat there and absorbed what he said. I suspect our jaws were hanging open a bit.

We had never before heard somebody interpret the law with such authority. It felt like we were in the presence of Moses himself. There was no doubt that what he said was right. Truly, God had sent us another prophet - here... to Capernaum.



Christ Preaching at Capernaum - M. Gottlieb

And then another amazing thing happened.

Reuben started shouting.

Reuben wasn't a quite sort, and he's behaviour has been more odd lately - interacting more with the traders, adding to his market stall, trying to be more like the elite... but still... Reuben would normally wait for the interpretation to be done.

And to interrupt this man - Jesus? Was Reuben disturbed?

He shouts out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?"

While that's a good question, if he'd just sit down, maybe we'll hear.

and then he shouts, "Have you come to destroy us?"

which is crazy talk. Where did this idea of destruction come from. This Jesus is talking about God's Reign coming. This is about making our lives better, not destroying our ways.

Then I think he said, "I know who you are, the Holy One of God."

Which just doesn't make sense. This Jesus might be special, but the Holy One of God? That's blasphemy.

and then Jesus seems taller.

His presence fills the room.

and his voice, It comes quietly... but it's like all of creation has stopped, and silently waits.

Jesus speaks, "Be silent, and come out of him!"

and Reuben fell to the floor, convulsing and screaming.

I can't believe we had somebody with an unclean spirit in our synagogue - and on the Sabbath. But there it is, this unclean spirit being pulled out of Reuben, right in front of us.

It was both scary and amazing. When it was done we thought Reuben was dead... until he started to snore.

This Jesus was amazing.

He had such authority.

His interpretation of the Law was so full of hope.

and then there's the way he recognized an unclean spirit and was able to just tell it to leave.

We couldn't talk about anything else all day.

And look at me, three days later and I'm still talking about him.

Where did you say you were from? Bethsaida. Well, have a blessed journey, and enjoy my fish.

Shalom

<><><><><><><>

I hope that Avrim helped flesh out the story.

How do you feel about demon possession? For Avrim it was simply the way of the world. The surprising bit was that it was somebody he knew... and on the Sabbath.

Of course, that wasn't the main purpose of Jesus being there. Jesus came to teach. That made a big impression... and stirred up

the demons in people. You can think of it as being possessed by an outside force, but was it like a Hollywood horror movie, or attempting to live the lifestyle of the privileged?

An interesting theme that runs through the whole Gospel is that the Unclean Spirit recognizes and names Jesus... and the people don't clue in.

Which, sadly, is often still true.

All people, included us, go through much of our lives not recognizing God around us. We become focused with fixing our nets, or baking the bread, or finding a husband for our daughter... okay, those examples are dated - but the point stands. The Holy Spirit is still at work all around us, but often we don't recognize her.

Prayer and reflection will help. So will doing what Avrim did - talking about our experiences.



3

But that's not the big point of today's passage. It ends with people's reaction to Jesus. They are amazed. We have no idea what passage Jesus spoke on. We don't know what he said - although it's highly likely to be similar to his later teachings about the Reign of God.

3 <https://thumbs.dreamstime.com/b/people-talking-phone-men-women-calling-telephone-communication-conversation-smartphone-vector-characters-set-152014610.jpg>

They are amazed by the authority Jesus had when interpreting the Law. The poor scribe didn't stand a chance - how do you compare to Jesus? He spoke with the certainty that only God can have.

And that is the point in this first public action of Jesus - he is impressive. He is awesome. He speaks and acts with the calm authority that nobody else on earth has - with the authority of the Holy One of God.

As we continue through Mark, and through our lives, let us remember this story of Jesus' amazing authority.

*In the name of the Father, the Son & the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ musical reflection: My Father Watches Over Me.....Gabriel
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IRuHGJkHSw

✦ Spirit Sighting

This week there was an announcements that the federal, provincial and city governments were going to spend money to provide more affordable housing. It'll include help paying rent and the building of new places. Apparently there will quickly be 263 new units in Montreal. It also recognizes those with special physical, mental or safety needs⁴

People having place to live is a sign of the Reign of God - praise God.

⁴ https://www.thesuburban.com/news/city_news/57-million-for-montreal-affordable-housing/article_5f2b7567-6526-5ddd-8de9-92042467f1c5.html



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

Values: What do you find amazing or wonderful about God/Jesus/Holy Spirit?

Memories: Share stories that you have heard, or lived, that show an aspect of the Reign of God (love, caring, feeding, companionship, housing, food, ...). It doesn't have to be big. For an added challenge, stay within the last week.

Give thanks to God and pray that these opportunities grow.

Etching: What Bible stories do you find amazing? Which do you wish you had been there to see? Describe what attracts you to those stories. Try turning one of them into a short story.



✦ 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.



loaves and fishes
KM Berry

Prayers of the people

In this prayer you are invited to thank God for your blessings and to share your concerns. Some items I will be praying for include:

- COVID
 - thanks that COVID cases in our hospitals have dropped
 - that those suffering physically, mentally, & economically from COVID and it's impact will find healing
- thanks that Peter M's chimo treatment is done and prayers that when they do the tests in about a month they will find the cancer gone
- housing
 - gratitude for what we have
 - prayers for those struggling to pay bills or with poor conditions... or no home

Jesus, our living Lord,

We praise and thank you for the witnesses to your authority.

For the people we meet who help us see your Spirit,
and especially for the witness of scripture.

In thinking about you, we remember blessings that you have given us...

...

Out of these blessings, we also see that all is not right with the world. There are situations to which your Spirit has attracted our attention. Jesus, you not only teach and heal, but also listen to our concerns. We bring some not to you...

...

Through your Spirit, you are still active in the world. We humbly ask for your presence to be felt in these situations.

🎵 Hymn: There's a Spirit in the air.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8r-AkLkxtU

Benediction

*May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
Shine in our hearts, transform our lives,
and brighten the world.*

*And the blessing of God almighty,
rest upon you always.⁵ Amen.*



i.pinimg.com/736x/35/41/c1/3541c11196dd22565320d4bcf1d69619--sea-of-galilee-bible-stories.jpg

We celebrate in prayer that vulnerable families in Nicaragua are being empowered through PWS&D-supported programs to help with their babies' growth, and the overall health of their families.



Knowledge Nourishes Babies and Families

When Cristina Flete gave birth to her first baby, she wasn't aware of how crucial exclusive breastfeeding and developmental activities could be to her child's long-term health. When her second child was born, Cristina attended a workshop facilitated by Presbyterian World Service & Development's (PWS&D) local partner in Nicaragua. With other mothers, Cristina learned the importance of breastmilk for a child's developing brain and how to create materials to stimulate her child's mind. Additionally, culinary classes empower parents with tools to help with their families' overall health. With PWS&D support, families are combating malnutrition and chronic illness, giving their babies the best chance for a future of good health.

DAILY PRAYERS

FEBRUARY

Monday, February 1 We pray that God nurtures and grows our practice of hospitality so that we might offer our time to those in need of friendship and compassion more easily and often.

Tuesday, February 2 We give thanks and pray for all frontline workers who support and serve under difficult circumstances.

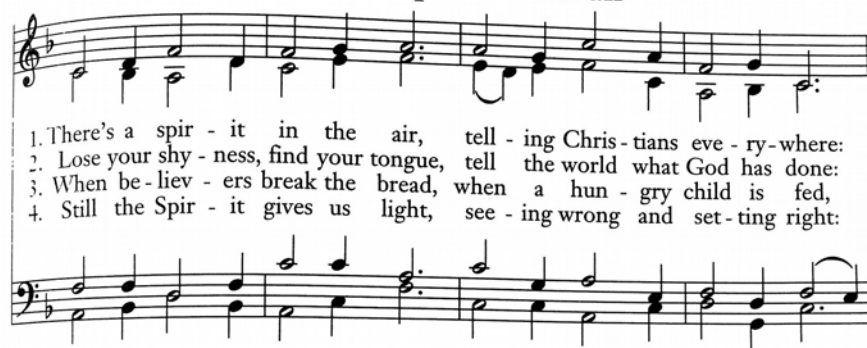
Wednesday, February 3 We pray for the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon, and for Dr. George Sabra, President of NEST, as the school continues its recovery efforts after the explosion in Beirut's port in August.

Thursday, February 4 We pray for church secretaries and custodians and all those who support the worship and mission of the church in ways that are too often overlooked.

Friday, February 5 We pray for all those affected by COVID-19, including international partners of Presbyterian World Service & Development who continue to respond.

Saturday, February 6 We give thanks for the people in our lives who have mentored and nurtured us in Christian faith and discipline.

There's a spirit in the air



1. There's a spir - it in the air, tell - ing Chris - tians eve - ry - where:
2. Lose your shy - ness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:
3. When be - liev - ers break the bread, when a hun - gry child is fed,
4. Still the Spir - it gives us light, see - ing wrong and set - ting right:



"Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world!"
 God in Christ has come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day!
 praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world.
 God in Christ has come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day!



5. When a stranger's not alone,
 where the homeless find a home,
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.

6. May the Spirit fill our praise,
 guide our thoughts and change our ways.
 God in Christ has come to stay.
 Live tomorrow's life today!

7. There's a Spirit in the air,
 calling people everywhere:
 praise the love that Christ revealed,
 living, working, in our world.

Alternate tune: Monkland

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: John W. Wilson (1905-1992)

Words: copyright © 1969, 1995 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1979 by Hope Publishing Co.

Word of God, across the ages

AUSTRIA 8787D

Chord progression: Eb Bb Bb7/D Eb Bb7 Eb Ab Eb/G Bb7/D Eb

1. Word of God, a - cross the a - ges comes your mes - sage
2. Sto - ry of our won - drous jour - ney from the shad - ows
3. In the tongues of all the peo - ples may the mes - sage

Chord progression: Ab6 Cm/A Bb Eb Bb Bb7/D Eb Bb7 Eb

to our life, source of hope, for - ev - er pres - ent
of the night, gar - nered truth of sage and proph - et,
bless and heal, as de - vout and pa - tient schol - ars

Chord progression: Ab Eb/G Bb7/DEb Ab6 Cm/A Bb Eb/Bb Bb Bb7/D Eb Bb

in our toil and fears and strife, con - stant wit - ness to God's mer - cy,
guid - ing for - ward in - to light, words and deeds of Christ our tea - cher,
more and more its depths re - veal. Bless, O God, to wise and sim - ple,

Chord progression: Eb/G Ab6 Cm F7 Bb Eb/G Ab Eb/G

still our grace, what - e'er be - fall, guide un - fail - ing,
point - ing to the life and way, still ap - peal - ing,
all your truth of age - less worth, till all lands re -

Chord progression: Ab (Eb/G)Bb7/D Eb Bb /Ab Eb/G Ab6 Eb/G Bb 7 Eb

strength e - ter - nal, of - fered free - ly to us all.
still in - spir - ing, in the strug - gles of to - day.
ceive the wit - ness and your know - ledge fills the earth.

See also: Austria 483

Words: Ferdinand Q. Blanchard (1876–1968), alt Music: Franz Joseph Haydn (1732–1809)

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Music: public domain

Come, thou almighty King

Melody: G4 A4 B4 C5 D5 E5 F5 G5

Chords: G D6 Fm Am7 D G Fm D G

1. Come, thou al - mighty - y King; help us thy
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word; gird on thy
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er; thy sa - cred
 4. To the great One - in - Three e - ter - nal

Chords: C/E G D D G B Dsus4-3 D G D7/F#

name to sing; help us to praise. Fath - er, all
 might - y sword; our prayer at - tend; come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour! Thou who al -
 prais - es be hence ev - er - more! His sov - reign

Chords: G D7 G Am/C F/B Am B B7/D# Em

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 might - y art, now rule in eve - ry heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

Chords: Em /D C C/B Am6 G Am/C C/D D G

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of hol - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Words: anonymous Music: Felice de Giardini (1716-1796)

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