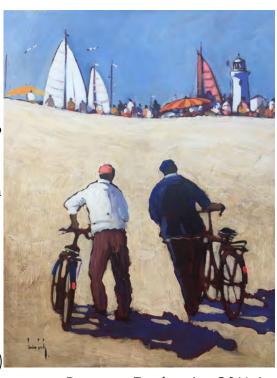


Kensington Presbyterian Church 9n with Out

September 26, 2021

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home. 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)



Deux amis Two friends - OS Verley

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor)......Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca 514-773-4620 Antoinette (families)......Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Announcements

Re-opening: We are now offering a fourth option for worship: Zoom, <u>YouTube</u>, <u>Text</u>, and in the building. If you have not yet received a copy of the guide to the re-opening, please contact your elder or Rev Peter.

Sunday School: is available for those who are interested. It will take place in Kensington Hall (or outside when nice) for the whole service (to help reduce any risk of spreading infections).

Book Study: first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - ex. Oct 6th We are reading through *Liturgy* of the Ordinary, which helps us to see God in our daily lives. This month's link is 'losing your keys'. This is a great opportunity to invite friends who are curious about God. While reading the chapter ahead helps, it's not necessary. Contact Rev. Peter for more details.

Prayer Group: Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

Weather permitting, we will meet both in the courtyard at Benny Farm and on Zoom. Please ask Rev. Peter for zoom details.

Climate Change Conference: October 14 to 16

Our Synod has organized this conference to consider what we can do about climate change. The main speaker will be Dr. Norman Wirzba of Duke University. More details can be found here: www.presbyterian.ca/qeosynod/synod2021.html

The Kensington W.M.S. will not be meeting this fall until the conditions are more favourable for our type of meeting. Howie Dearlove would be happy to pick up any donations that people wish to make to support larger work of the W.M.S.

Discrimination within the PCC: At this years General Assembly a special committee was established to collect the stories from people of non-Euro-Canadian descent within our denomination particularly where they have felt hurt. Stories can be submitted to special.committee.pcc@gmail.com.

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



Approaching God

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

Call to worship

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; there is no end to his greatness.

One generation shall praise your works to another and shall declare your power.

All your works praise you, Lord, and your faithful servants bless you.

They make known the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power.

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

Let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.²

Prayer of Approach Heavenly Father,

we gather this day to worship your grace and mercy. You are the source of all wisdom, the perfect example of faithful love and creator of all the universe. When we feel alone, you offer community. You are the wellspring of grace and goodness.

Yet we often feel isolated in our anger and grudges towards others. We focus on the past, focusing on the wrong things and resenting what others have. We often turn a blind eye to the evil things around us and fail to have the courage to do

We ask for forgiveness, for our jealousies and resentments of others. Free us from the temptations that hurt others and turn us towards your will for all of us.

Gracious God, we seek your path, and by your mercy, we ask you to strengthen our resolve to follow Jesus each day. This we pray in your most precious name.

Amen.³

Assurance of Pardon

Our Father in heaven,

Brothers and Sisters, God sent his son Jesus Christ as a free sacrifice to bring salvation for us. Christ endured death and rose from the dead. Jesus reigns over us, and through his sacrifice, we are forgiven and made new by his wonderous grace. Praise God. Amen.⁴

Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

Just as Jesus Christ taught his disciples how to pray, so too do we follow in their footsteps. Let us take a moment to pray the prayer that

Jesus taught us together.

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
Amen.

what is good and right in your eyes.

based on Psalm 145:3-4, 10-11, 21 Worship Sourcebook T.1.2.1

³ Contributed by our student minister Alex Plante

⁴ Contributed by our student minister Alex Plante



Listening to God

□ Hymn: Saviour teach me.....pg 10 (698) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPySPIOksBw

Prayer for Illumination

O God, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that as the Scriptures are read and your Word is proclaimed, we your Wisdom stir questions in us that help us seek your story.

Amen.⁵

Intro to the readings

- I like all the things going on in this psalm. There's reminders, intensiveness, and invitations. What do you hear?
- How would you like to be with Jesus in our Gospel passage? (no, it's not the crucifixion) How would you feel? What would you do?

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible,⁶ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

Psalm 145: 1-13 Luke 10: 1-9



feeding 5000 - Otto Dix

adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.28

or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

-Sermon: Luke 10: 1-9 - by Jen de Combe Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts.⁷ Amen.

Thank you so much for inviting me here today to lead the sermon time. It's always such a joy to be able to speak with congregations and to share a little bit about the work that I do at the national office.

I have the privilege of working in the department of Canadian Ministries, where together with three wonderful colleagues we get to help congregations in the areas of congregational renewal, evangelism, Christian Education, discipleship, and church planting. We do this primarily through three programs:

- Cyclical PCC a church planting support initiative
- The New Beginnings Process a year-long process that helps congregations hear again where God is calling them and take steps in a new direction
- The Evangelism Network a training and coaching program for congregations looking to share the gospel more fully in their communities

Along with these three programs, we also offer Presbyterian Reads, oversee a granting program and support congregations by helping them finding quality Christian education and faith formation materials.

I began in this role about five years ago and I can tell you that not a month goes by that I don't receive a call from a congregation asking for help. They have reached a point in their congregational life where they don't know which direction to move in; they feel like they have ministry left in them, but just

If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963

Psalm 19:14

aren't sure what God is calling them to do.

It's no secret that the mainline churches are having a hard time. We know the gospel is always relevant, but we struggle to communicate that gospel to our communities in a way that invites them to take part and to embrace a life with Jesus.

What I've noticed in these moments, is that we tend to look for professionals to help out in moments of struggle. If the congregation is vacant, they think that a new minister will solve their challenges. If the congregation has a minister, then they think the answer lies in getting the right youth worker or the right program to get them on track.

I don't want to make light of these concerns. They are real. It is not an easy time for the church in North America and we are all wondering how to build greater bridges with our community and to proclaim the gospel in a world that doesn't seem to care or think God is necessary.

What I love about our passage today, is that it reminds us that while our impulse is to turn to professionals or outside help to help us to build the church, Jesus turns to us.

We are the ones Jesus calls and sends to build the church. In the opening lines of our passage, we are told that Jesus gathered the seventy. Who are these seventy? Up until this point in the gospel, we've heard about the twelve core disciples, the people Jesus specifically chose to follow him, but the seventy are a bit of a mystery. We are never given their identity and are never told what happens to them. There is some speculation that a few of the early apostles we learn about in Acts (Barsabbas and Matthias) were part of the seventy or that the number seventy is attached to the seventy elders that gathered with Moses, but no one really knows for sure. When reading this passage, I am convinced the message is that the ministry of 'being the sent ones tasked with sharing the gospel' is not just the job for a few super

elite disciples who know exactly what to say and do, rather it is the job for all of us who follow Jesus.

While this might be a bit of an overwhelming thought – what? it's up to us? - this shouldn't surprise us; after all, built into the very DNA of our faith is the act of sending. From the very first calling to Abram and Sarai to leave their comfortable family home to journey to the land that God had prepared for them, to the very last words of Jesus telling us to go and make disciples of all the nations, God calls us to go. We are sent people. This is so much a part of who we are that the very first name Christians were known by is "The people of the Way".

We are people on a journey led by Jesus, but we aren't sent out in any old way. Jesus is very specific when he gives the seventy the instructions on how they were to approach their journey.

Carry no purse, no sandals...this short verse hits hard to my planner's heart. Oh my gosh, I can't imagine leaving for a journey without packing my bags or having a clear plan! Just recently, my 8-year-old daughter went on a sleepover at a friend's house that is literally less than a five-minute walk from my house. I made sure she was well packed! She had her warm pjs in case she got cold, her cool pjs in case the house was hot, she had two pairs of socks, a set of clean clothes, and an assortment of stuffies in case she missed home... It's hard to go out without having the stuff around that makes us feel comfortable and confident. We like to go out with a clear plan and directions on what to do when we get there.

That's why we spend so much time planning every last detail of our programs and events. It's why there are schools that equip people for evangelism using a four-point summary of Jesus' teachings. It's why strategic planning and visioning retreat leaders are one of the most sought-after services by churches. We like to know exactly what we are doing. But Jesus tells us to let go of our need to have every last detail figured out and to set out empty handed ready to receive,

ready to be surprised, ready to discover something new.

The seventy are also told not to get distracted along the road, but to go straight to peoples' homes. The most important place for the seventy was to be gathered around the tables of those living in the community and sharing life with them. The same is true for us now, the most important place for Christians to be is in their neighbourhoods, talking with their neighbours, meeting people working in local community organizations and spending time in local establishments.

But we aren't just sent to hang out, Jesus gives us a reason to go and a task to accomplish while we are there. We are the ones entrusted with extending the blessing of peace, offering a ministry of healing, and proclaiming the kingdom.

Now I wish this were the point in the sermon where I could break into a brilliant list of instructions explaining the steps you need to take if you want to bring peace, healing, and proclamation to your communities.

It would solve so many issues if we could just come up with the formula of how to do this, but Jesus doesn't tell the seventy exactly what to do and say and there is no professional or program that can do the same for the church either.

We learn how to speak words of peace, healing, and proclamation by spending time with our neighbours and discerning what peace and healing looks like in their lives and attending to the places where we see God's kingdom taking root their stories.

While I don't know what it will look like, I do know that when you do these things, we can expect to see the following.

Healing

In our medicalized society healing is often understood as finding a cure. This is not the gospel understanding of healing.

I've had a chance to have a few conversations with Rev. Bethany McCaffrey Fox, leader of the Beloved Everybody Church, an ability-inclusive ministry where people with and without intellectual and physical disabilities gather to worship together. What she's noticed in her study of the healing stories in Scripture is that healing in the way of Jesus is never just about the body. Healing happens when the many parts that make up a human life are restored – spiritual life, relationships and societal connections are all healed alongside the physical body. After years of working with the disability community, Bethany believes this healing happens when we meet

people where they are and hear their stories describing what they are really dealing with, when we make space to listen to their hopes and fears. Healing is what occurs when we meet each other and are present to one another and together we walk with one another on a path to wholeness.

Peace

5/12

What is it to bring peace or shalom to our communities, how is this accomplished? Tom Long, in his book on testimony, speaks about shalom, or Christ's peace, as the fullness of the hope that all will one day be well – the very promise we find in Revelations that God will wipe away all the tears and death, dying and

mourning will be no more. When we share shalom, we listen to the stories of others and point to the hope they can have in Jesus.

God's Kingdom

We are also tasked with proclaiming the places God's kingdom can be seen in our communities. So, how do we discern these? God's Kingdom is present when we see places where reconciliation, forgiveness, and boundary crossing is taking place. Have you noticed situations and events where different groups are coming together over a common concern? Have you seen forgiveness happen where there was once hatred or animosity? These are all symbols of Christ's kingdom coming through.

Being with and listening to people is the first and most important step for congregations to take when they want to answer the call to connect with their communities. Let me tell you the story of three congregations who did this and were able to see amazing ministry grow from their conversations.

Heritage Green Family Church⁸

The first is a church replant. The idea of the ministry began when two ministers who were friends started having conversations with families living in the neighbourhood of Stoney Creek. What the



ministers found was that there were so many families looking for ways to become closer. They struggled with many of the issues that families struggle with – too many activities and commitments

that ate up their time and kept them apart from one another. The leaders felt called to start a ministry that drew families together and that really addressed the spiritual needs of the family as a whole. With a strong sense of call and a good understanding of their community, they worked with their presbytery to replant a dying church plant from the 1980's into a family ministry. They began by asking congregations from across their presbytery to send missionary families for a period of a year to help them form the core ministry group and then went out into their community and offered up a place where families could gather and grow stronger. The congregation now provides a place of gathering and worship for over hundred people and more than that, they have created deep ties of friendship with local food markets, elementary schools, and libraries. They have been inspired to do all of this work by listening carefully to the people they share their community with.

The Well Church⁹



The second example is drawn from a recent church plant in the west-end of Toronto. A group of second-generation immigrants connected to an established Korean church realized

⁸ photo: https://www.facebook.com/heritagegreenchurch/photos/a.793279187435384/3664981426931798/?type=1&theater

photo: www.facebook.com/thewellgta/photos/a.297884997530932/312599799392785/?type=3&theater

in conversation with friends that there was a need for to establish an independent worshipping community for second generation immigrants who were all facing a similar struggle with identity. They realized that these immigrants were between cultures – they were neither fully of the culture where they live, nor part of their culture of their origins. They occupied a space in between, a third culture. What the leaders realized was this identity of being in between cultures is very much like being a Christian. We are in the world but not of the world. This causes us to occupy a kind of third culture as followers of Jesus. This group has developed a whole ministry by reaching out to people in this in-between generation helping them to understand their identity through a Christian lens; and what's amazing is that when the founding group began this ministry, they initially thought that they would be forming a church with mostly professional young couples, but what they found was that the communities where they experienced the greatest welcome was with students. Now, a major part of their ministry involves spending a day a week on the McMaster University campus connecting with students and listening to the stories of their lives.

Bread Baking Circle¹⁰

The third story is about a baking circle ministry that I am part of. What I love about this story is that it began not a ministry project of a congregation or even as a new worshipping community with the goal of becoming a full-fledged ministry. This ministry began in conversations taking place between friends sharing a love of bread making. The group began as one person told another about how she was starting to see spiritual meaning in her practice of baking bread. This sparked curiosity and before she knew it a group began together to bake bread and to reflect

on spiritual themes. Three years later this bread group has grown and now once a month a group of us gather, bake bread, and reflect on a variety of spiritual themes related to the stages of baking bread – gathering the grain, adding the yeast, waiting for the dough to

rise, seeing it collapse and then rise again, feeding our families with the loaves....

Three very different ministries all begun by listening carefully to the stories of people living in the communities where these Christians were sent.

I wonder what stories are out there in the NDG area for you to listen to and hear God's movement in. I wonder what tables you might be invited around if you were to go out in the neighbourhood. What stories might you hear? What people might you meet? How might God inspire you to share peace, healing, and proclamation?

I hope these stories have encouraged you and most of all I pray that you feel confident to go out. Jesus is calling all of us to go. We are the sent ones tasked with sharing the good news. We don't need any special equipment, we don't need a fully developed plan, we just need to be open to having conversations and meeting people where they are. And, above all we need to trust, that just as in the gospel passage, Jesus is already out ahead of us making a way for us.

To God be all the glory Amen.

¹⁰ photo: assets.epicurious.com/photos/5e78d84c6c8bb20009817418/master/pass/sourdough_1-v2.jpg

Responding to God

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

Actions: Find out your neighbours hopes and fears. Share yours.

Wonder: Who in our community (local or global) needs listening to?

Memories: "Have you noticed situations and events where different groups are coming together over a common concern? Have you seen forgiveness happen where there was once hatred or animosity? These are all symbols of Christ's kingdom coming through." (from the sermon)

Wonder: Pray & discuss the celebrations and concerns from the community with others at Kensington... perhaps we'll learn where God is calling us to focus

Values: Why is it important to share God's love, hope & healing?

- 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.

*Spirit Sighting

One sign of the Spirit working is the way community supports each other. Here is a picture from a video of our Sunday School sending greetings and best wishes to Peter M, who is still recovering from his cancer treatment. Please continue to pray for Peter and his family, and feel free to send your own messages of support.



Joe Ragbir

? Prayers of the people

Living God;
Your Spirit invited us to join in your community, and we came.
and we thank you for that, and the peace that you bring us.

We thank you for the mystery of you that we can only describe in community: our caring Creator, Jesus the son, and the Holy Spirit... and we thank you for the other communities we live in; with families, and neighbours, and people we haven't met, but share your creation with.

Thank you for the diversity in our communities, and all the ways this can show and share your love...

We thank you for the times we see people come together to help others...

and we pray for the ways our communities are broken.

for families that are struggling...

for tension between neighbours...

for the increase in gun violence here in Montréal,

and the increase in other violence

such as domestic violence...

or violence against people for

being who you created them as...

Lord, as you listen to us, help us listen to others.

This week we will be recognizing the tragic history with the Indigenous peoples. Help us to listen to their stories, to pray with them, and to seek your Spirit as we become more aware of our part in this ongoing journey.

Jesus, you are the Great Physician, and ask for your healing in the relationships we have already brought to you, and in other areas as well, such as the environment.

We thank you for all that is being learned and done,

but help us to do more.

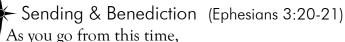
We also thank you for our bodies and minds, and the health that we have.

We thank you for nurses and all the others who work hard to help our bodies be healthy,

and we pray for those who are struggling with physical, mental, or spiritual health...

Please use us to pray,
to seek you
and to join in sharing your love,
hope and healing in our communities.

through Jesus Christ, our Saviour Amen.



listen to your neighbours,

listen for the pull in your heart - listen for the Spirit's leading.

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Amen.



MISSION MOMENT

Sharing Hope Through Presbyterians Sharing

When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we participate in God's mission together, expressing our faith through our actions and decisions. Together, we build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share Christ's love around the



world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when theological students in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana and Beirut graduate, ready to shine Christ's light. On Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, we celebrate the mission and ministry we share together, as we proclaim God's love, hope, faith and grace in the world God loves. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 26 On **Presbyterians Sharing Sunday**, we give thanks for the faithful generosity of congregations across Canada as we share in mission and ministry together through Presbyterians Sharing.

Monday, September 27 We pray for stewardship committees planning fall stewardship campaigns.

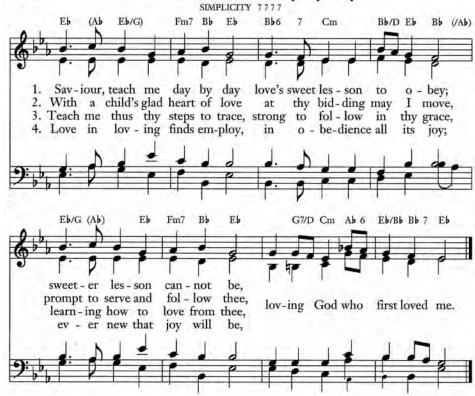
Tuesday, September 28 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Brandon in Manitoba.

Wednesday, September 29 We give thanks and pray for those who are beginning a term as presbytery moderator. May they lead with hope and serve with kindness.

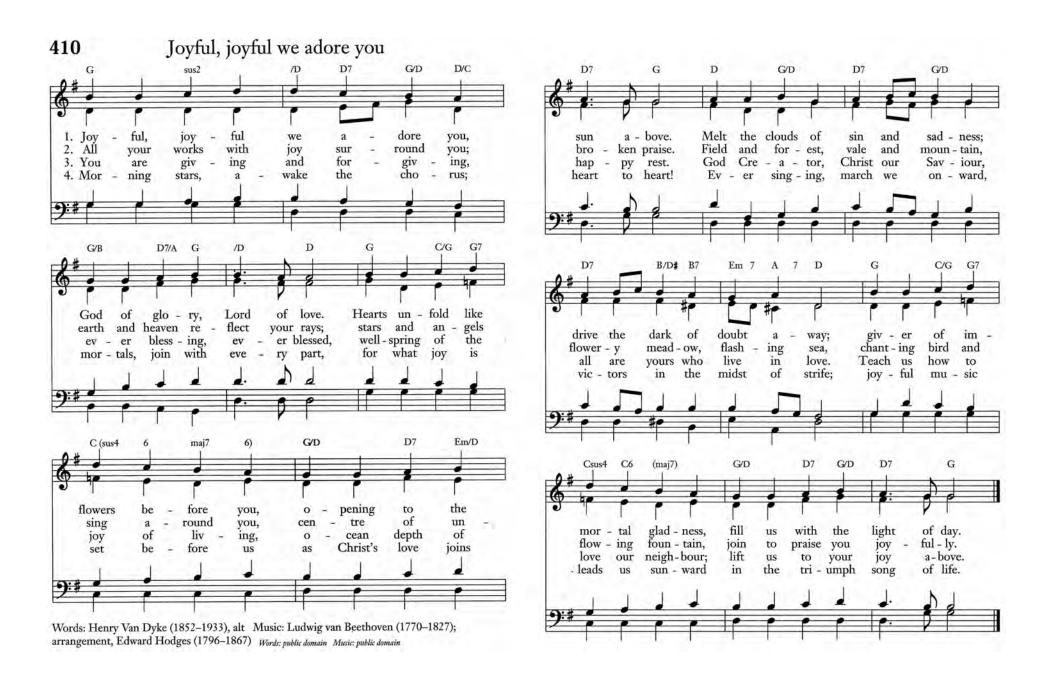
Thursday, September 30 We pray for the wisdom to see clearly the reality of racism and bigotry in the institutions of our country so that we may work to challenge and uproot these institutionalized concepts in ourselves, our churches and our society.

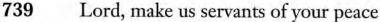
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Saviour, teach me day by day



Words: Jane Eliza Leeson (1807–1882) Music: John Stainer (1840–1901)
Words: public domain Music: public domain







See Also: O Waly Waly 25 224

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936–) Music: English traditional; arrangement, Noël Tredinnick (1949–) Words: copyright © 1983 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: arrangement, copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co.

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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:
- 9:40



"Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv-ing, work-ing, 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!



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

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: John W. Wilson (1905-1992) CCLI #4440603

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