



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *Watching Out*

*November 14, 2021*

**WELCOME**, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.<sup>1</sup> 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)



<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

### *Announcements*

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

**Re-opening:** We are pleased that we will now be able to sing in the building, as well as over Zoom, YouTube, and with the Text.

**Sunday School:** is available every week for those who are interested.

**Prayer Group:** Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. in 3500 Benny Av (off the Benny Farm Courtyard). Please let Rev. Peter if you would like to join with zoom and this can be arranged.

**Christmas Trees:** Please let Peter know if you are interested in decorating our Christmas Trees this year (of it you have nice decorations/lights to donate).

**Art Contest:** Christian Courier is inviting submissions inspired by the words map & mend. This is for all ages (with two categories 19+, 18 and under). Two samples on pgs 8 & 12. To enter, send a photo and some details by Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>. (the prizes look good) Details are found here: [www.christiancourier.ca/contest](http://www.christiancourier.ca/contest)

**New Hope:** is added two new workshops. One on being compassionate with yourself and others. The other is helping artist Carolina Echeverria embroider a creation.

**Calendar:** Howie Dealove is selling church calendars to raise money for the Women's Missionary Society (WMS). Let us know if you're interested.

### *Contacts*

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## *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 (based on Psalm 108:1-4)

Our hearts are ready, O Lord,  
 our hearts are ready!

**We will sing and make melody!**

**We will awaken the dawn!**

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,  
 we will sing praises to you among the nations.

**For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,  
 and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

♪ Hymn: Sing your praise to God eternal.....pg 11 (423)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8Ab6oVKHIU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L8Ab6oVKHIU)



Charles Burton Barber



## Prayer of Approach

Dear Lord,

Your Spirit has woken us up

so that we can see you light shining in the world;  
 and it is glorious the things you have done.

With the miracle of the sun providing energy for all life on earth,  
 and the water system which circulates and cleans water to  
 support the amazing diversity of life you dreamed into being.

The ways your creation works around us,  
 and the ways you work through us,  
 are eye opening... energizing.

Sometimes though we run out of enthusiasm or energy,  
 we don't look after ourselves  
 and we don't look after the ecosystems - the communities -  
 where you have placed us to live.

Please help us to pay attention to how we live,  
 celebrate what we do right,  
 and admit to what we do wrong.

Please forgive us. . .

May your Holy Spirit help us to see with open eyes,  
 and to look to your son Jesus for our energy.  
 so that we may be awake for chances to join in your work.

**Amen.**



## Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words of hope.

The Lord created you and knows you,  
 inside and out;

Jesus loves you;  
 and to all who open their hearts,  
 the Spirit will bring forgiveness.

Know that you are forgiven and live into God's peace.



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

Let us take a moment to pray the prayer that Jesus teaches us.

**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  
Amen.**



### *Listening to God*

♪ Hymn: Come, let us sing to the Lord our Song.....pg 9 (412)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Zs9o82P\\_so](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Zs9o82P_so)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nYwkObWIX0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3nYwkObWIX0) slower



Prayer for Illumination

O God, please open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word is proclaimed,  
we may absorb what you are saying to us today.  
Amen.<sup>2</sup>



Intro to the readings

- As we read through the psalm, what sort of attitude is it suggesting?

<sup>2</sup> adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.28

- Despite being labelled a letter, Hebrews is more of a sermon - and it's now getting near the end. Leading into this passage there's been encouragement to be faithful, and examples. After this they'll hear about things to be grateful for and living that out.
- The gospel reading comes at the end of a series of predictions of coming suffering, and the tender buds of a fig tree. It is the last passage before the story turns to the plot to kill Jesus.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>3</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Psalm 16](#)

[Hebrews 12: 1-13](#)

[Mark 13: 32-37](#)



Sermon: The Necessity of Watchfulness - by Alex Plant

Dear Lord, please bless these words  
and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>4</sup> Amen.

Did you get a good night's sleep last night? One of my favourite moments at the end of a day's hard work is the reunion between myself and my bed. When night has fallen and my body tells me "It's time for bed!", I return once more to the warm covers of my bed, snuggled into a nice deep sleep. But I remember many times, especially when I was younger, when I wanted the exact opposite.

Did you get the chance to have sleepovers when you were a kid? When you asked, begged, pleaded to stay at your friends house for a sleepover? Did you ever get excited spending the

<sup>3</sup> If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963

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

<sup>4</sup> Psalm 19:14

night, playing games, reading comic books, eating junk food, just having a great time hanging out until it was lights out? Did you try to stay awake as long as possible, hoping to squeeze out every single second...only to find yourself falling asleep at just the right moment?

Some of my favourite sleepover moments were at the church, where the youth group would spend the night huddled together in one of the church's many rooms in the basement. The church had a different feel at night compared to Sunday morning. It was eerily quiet, shadows darted across the room as the moonlight shone through the little windows, revealing specs of light as we slept soundly in our sleeping bags in the choir room or the nursery. The church I had sleepovers in had a full indoor gymnasium with a full basketball court, a full-sized kitchen, we had every tool at our disposal to have a blast. We even had pancakes for breakfast the next morning.

Or perhaps you remember the time when you were a student, fresh out of the classroom, diving right into an assignment. Life of a University student can be full of surprises, and the life of a Seminary student is also equally chaotic from time to time. I had my fair share of late nights. When I had to pull all-nighters to get that 20-page essay done on time, or when I would be cooped up in a library until 2 or 3 in the morning. When I was a student at the University of Ottawa, they featured a newly renovated cafeteria that was open 24 hours a day. I'm not ashamed to admit that I've had my occasional midnight snack as I was doing research for a paper. When



the library had their special 24-hour policy during exams, my friends would know where to find me.

Sleep is a delightful thing...when we get enough of it. Of course, get too little sleep and our mood decreases dramatically. Oversleep, and we are caught off guard, hurrying to make it to the bus on time to get to school or work. Today's Gospel reading shows us what happens when we are caught off guard. Get too little sleep and we not only don't have the right mindset to tackle the day, our ability to function takes a hit. Get too much sleep and we miss out on opportunities knocking on our door. Jesus teaches us about the necessity for watchfulness. But what are we watching out for?

There have been many examples over thousands of years to predict the end of the world and the return of Christ. Most famously was 2012, where the Mayan Calender was used to predict the end of the world. Thankfully, we are still standing here today. When we hear mutters of doomsday and Christ's return, we have to ask ourselves...when is it going to happen? Many have tried to predict the day...but Jesus is clear about this. *"But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come."*

We can ask...we can beg...we can plea to Jesus, tell us...when are you returning?!? We can try to guess, try to calculate, spend all of our energy preparing for the moment we think Jesus is coming. But it is not for us to know. It's not even for the angels in heaven...nor the Son. That is some powerful piece of Scripture. Not even the Son gets to know when heaven and earth passes away...when Jesus returns to earth. Only the Father gets to know the precise time. Jesus tells us to beware, keep alert. *"Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come...or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what*



*I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”*

I don't know how many of you have had the opportunity to stay awake all night long. It is not an easy thing to do even when you have the energy and the determination to do so. It may seem easy at first, but once 2 AM comes around, you feel that drop in energy. Sometimes being overtired plays tricks in our head. When our focus becomes blurred and we try desperately to keep awake. If you're lucky, that feeling passes and that feeling gets replaced with a sort of numbness, like keeping focus just long enough to get through the night.

There are multiple examples in the Bible where sleep often prevails over the tired and the weary, often with disastrous results. The most prominent example is when Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane. He finds his disciples sleeping not once, not twice, but three times. He is in a moment of crisis, his death is at hand and his disciples cannot even stay awake with him. Their lives are not on the line, why should they stay awake? Yet we find that Jesus does not wish to be alone in this moment. Many times, he goes off alone to pray, but this time, he wants his disciples to stay with him.

What does Jesus want from us? Does he want us to stay awake with him? He tells us in plain English, or rather plain Greek... therefore...keep awake. We must be prepared, because we do not know when the hour is at hand. We must keep ourselves disciplined, keep ourselves ready at a moments notice. When we are stuck with a deadline that cannot move, do we not keep ourselves working, keep ourselves awake until the task is done? So too must we keep ourselves ready for Jesus.

Of course, we recognize that we cannot avoid sleep. It is in the

way that God designed us. He designed us to take moments of rest, to recharge our energy, and to plainly sleep. So when Jesus says “Keep Awake”, its simply more than staying physically awake. We must keep ourselves spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically awake. But we cannot do all of that ourselves. You try to stay awake all night tonight and see what happens. Very quickly you may find yourself dozing off on the couch or feeling the weight of your head dragging down until you find some kind of surface to rest your head. Its impossible.

That is where we must reach out to Christ. For just as Christ wanted his disciples with him in Gethsemane, so too do we need Jesus in our preparation. To keep ourselves disciplined. That

means...prayer, praise, worship, reaching out to Christ for forgiveness, mercy, and compassion. To make a genuine effort on our parts as Christians, as followers of Christ. *“It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch.”*

Just as the man puts his slaves in charge with a doorkeeper on the watch, so too must we prepare ourselves. We must have those tasks at hand to keep ourselves spiritually ready. That means praying regularly, that means praising unendingly, that means reaching out in every situation. We are not alone in our work. We are a community of worshippers. Each of us, here today, with our blessings and our concerns. We are gathered here together to worship God. The community of believers, like a team preparing the way for Christ's return, we must also support one another in our preparations.

It is impossible for us to keep awake. It is impossible for us to be fully prepared. But through Jesus, all things are possible. With



Jesus, we can be prepared. Keep Awake! For Jesus is at hand. Keep Awake! For only the Father knows the true hour. Keep Awake! For you do not know when the master of the house will come. Keep Awake! For the master will arrive at any moment. Keep Awake! For we must prepare ourselves for his arrival. Keep Awake!

*To God be all the glory.*

*Amen.*



### *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: Lord of Light, whose name and splendour .....pg 10 (769)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVSSuWW4GSc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QVSSuWW4GSc)

💬 FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. This week they are a little more personal than usual. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: Share a time when you waited up late for something,  
or when you couldn't sleep because something was coming up.

Wonder: Imagine together what it was like for the first believers who thought that Jesus would return, literally, any day.

Values: Thinking of the sermon, how do you balance 'keeping awake' and 'getting enough sleep' so that you are ready and able for God's call to you?

Actions: How are you watchful? How do you prepare yourself?

### ✦ Spirit Sighting

After church last week one of you shared a poem with me that witnesses to God working in the world - and perhaps quite appropriate for the end of COP26. It's by Joyce Kilmer.

I think that I shall never see  
A poem as lovely as a tree  
A tree whose hungry mouth is pressed  
Against the earth's sweet flowing breast  
A tree that looks at God the whole day  
And lifts her leafy arms to pray  
A tree that may in summer wear  
A nest of robins in her hair  
Upon whose bosom snow has lain  
Who intimately lives with rain  
Poems are made by fools like me,  
But only God can make a tree

### ✦ 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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

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





## Prayers of the people

Living God,

We thank you for the world;

the amazing diversity in it,

and the way everything works together to support each other.

It is a wonder. . .

Gracious God, hear our prayers.

**And in your love answer.**

We are thankful that COP26 is getting so much attention,

and pray that the decisions made are good ones,

and that they are followed. . .

We pray of politicians, as they try to balance many interests.

May they follow your voice and help bring justice and peace. . .

Gracious God, hear our prayers.

**And in your love answer.**

We thank you for times of sun and times of rain,

which nourish the plants that feeds us.

We pray for farmers, and all those that help us have food. . .

We also thank you for Seasons,

and we pray for those who are not looking forward to winter,

for those whom are dreading the isolation and loneliness. . .

Gracious God, hear our prayers.

**And in your love answer.**

As the days get colder and wetter, we appreciate our homes more.

Thank you for having places that are warm and dry.

and we pray for those who don't have this.

Who are homeless,

or whose homes are plagued with issues,

and may not even be safe. . .

Gracious God, hear our prayers.

**And in your love answer.**

We thank you that we live in a place that is quite safe.

We pray for those needing protection and justice. . .

We also pray for those trying to help. . .

Gracious God, hear our prayers.

**And in your love answer.**

We also pray for those needing healing,

in body, mind or spirit. . .

Gracious God, hear our prayers.

**And in your love answer.**

And may Kensington be a place from which your love, hope and healing flows. Be with our leaders, and all those your Spirit brings, so that we can keep watchful - paying attention to your coming, and joining you in your work.

Through the love of Jesus

Amen.

♪ Hymn: There is a spirit in the air.....pg 11 (764)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qrwSa8tEfU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qrwSa8tEfU)



Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

*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.





## Equipping a New Leader in Nepal

In November 2021, the United Mission to Nepal (UMN) will welcome Dhana Lama as its first ever Nepali Executive Director. In addition to being UMN's first Nepali Executive Director, Dhana will be the 13th Executive Director since its founding in 1954 and the third woman to lead UMN. Outgoing Executive Director, Joel Hafvenstein, said, "Dhana is a strong and forthright leader who is also a listener, with the humility not to fear change or the acknowledgement of mistakes. Her passion for service to Nepal's poorest people is unquestionable." As an international, interdenominational Christian mission, UMN receives funding from partners designated for specific projects, which doesn't leave much for staff salaries. Through Presbyterians Sharing, the PCC will join the Church of Scotland, the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and Asia CMS in financially supporting Dhana Lama during her tenure.



### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, November 14** We pray for wisdom and courage as Dhana Lama begins her tenure as the first Nepali Executive Director of the United Mission to Nepal.

**Monday, November 15** We pray for ministers and worship leaders preparing for Advent and Christmas.

**Tuesday, November 16** We pray for the Racism Working Group of the Caribbean and North American Area Council of the World Communion of Reformed Churches as it seeks to shine the light of God's reconciling love on racism within member churches and our nations.

**Wednesday, November 17** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Carlos Ham, Rector at the Evangelical Seminary of Theology in Cuba, as he provides spiritual and academic leadership.

**Thursday, November 18** We pray for the members of the Committee on Education and Reception as they meet this week with the candidates and ministers who have applied to be received into The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Friday, November 19** We give thanks for programs the church supports through Presbyterian World Service & Development that educate women and children on their rights and provide assistance to people experiencing abuse.

**Saturday, November 20** On **Transgender Day of Remembrance**, we pray for an end to violence and hatred towards trans and nonbinary people in Canada and around the world.

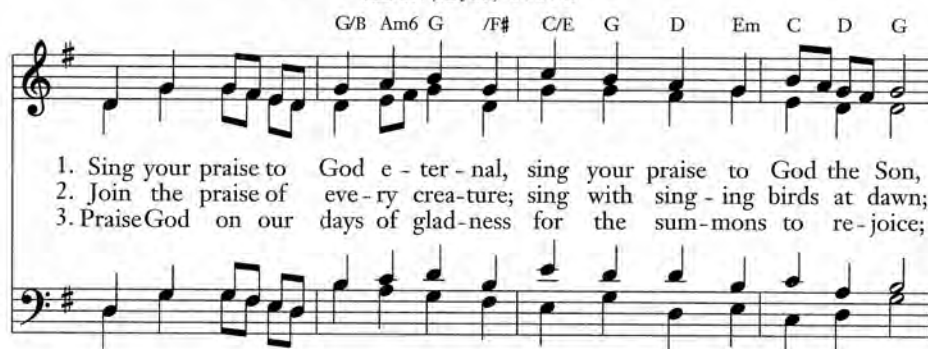




## Sing your praise to God eternal


ARFON (MAJOR) 8 7 8 7 D

G/B Am6 G /F# C/E G D Em C D G



1. Sing your praise to God e - ter - nal, sing your praise to God the Son,  
2. Join the praise of eve - ry crea - ture; sing with sing - ing birds at dawn;  
3. Praise God on our days of glad - ness for the sum - mons to re - joice;

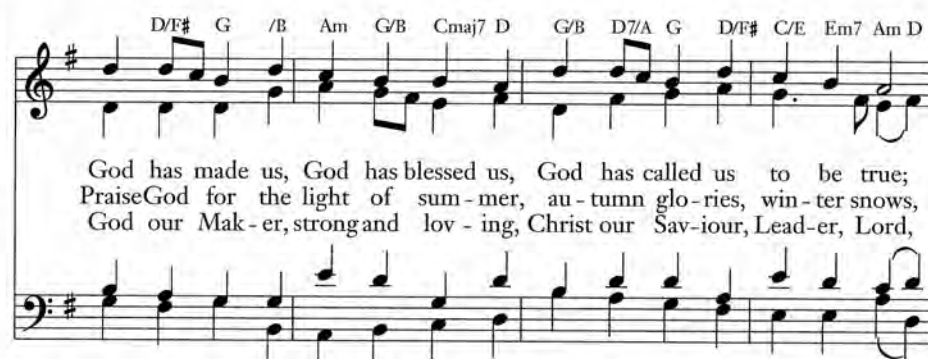
G Em D /C G/B D7/A G /B D7/F# G Am6 G/B C D7 G



sing your praise to God the Spir - it, liv - ing and for - ev - er One.  
when the stars shine forth at night-fall, hear the heaven-ly an - ti - phon.  
praise God in our times of sad - ness, for the calm, con - sol - ing voice.

Words: Robert B.Y. Scott (1899–1987) Music: Welsh melody; arrangement, Stanley Osborne (1907–)

D/F# G /B Am G/B Cmaj7 D G/B D7/A G D/F# C/E Em7 Am D



God has made us, God has blessed us, God has called us to be true;  
Praise God for the light of sum - mer, au - tumn glo - ries, win - ter snows,  
God our Mak - er, strong and lov - ing, Christ our Sav - iour, Lead - er, Lord,

G /F# Em G /F# Am/E Bm/D Em D7/F# G D7 Em Am D G



God rules ov - er all cre - a - tion, dai - ly mak - ing all things new.  
for the com - ing of the spring-time and the life of all that grows.  
liv - ing God, Cre - a - tor Spir - it, be your ho - ly name a - dored!

Words: copyright © Emmanuel College Music: arrangement, copyright © Anglican Church of Canada and United Church of Canada, 1971  
CCLI #4440603

# 769 Lord of light, whose name and splendour

BETHANY (SMART) 8 7 8 7 D

Chords: Eb Ab Eb/G Bb6 Cm Ab Eb/Bb Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb

1. Lord of light, whose name and splendour far out-shine the  
 2. By the faith-ful-ness of work-ers serv-ing you in  
 3. Grant that know-ledge, still in-creas-ing, at your feet might  
 4. By pray-ers of faith-ful watch-ers, nev-er si-lent

Chords: Eb/G Ab6 Bb Eb Cm Bb/D Bb6 Cm F7 Bbsus4-3

suns of space, deign to make us your co-work-ers  
 eve-ry field; by the cour-age where the ra-diance  
 hum-bly kneel; with your grace our tri-umphs hal-low,  
 day or night; by the cross of Je-sus bring-ing

Chords: Bb/Ab Eb/G Ab/C Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb Bb /D Fsus4-3

in the king-dom of your grace; use us to ful-  
 of the cross is still re-vealed; by the vic-to-  
 with your char-i-ty our zeal; lift all na-tions  
 peace to all, and heal-ing light; by the love that

Chords: Eb/G Cm/A Eb/Bb Bb /D Bb7 Eb6 Bb/F F7 Bb

fil your pur-pose in the gift of Christ your Son:  
 ries of meek-ness, through re-proach and suf-fering won:  
 from the shad-ows to the glad-ness of the sun:  
 pass-es know-ledge, mak-ing all your chil-dren one:

Chords: Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb Ab/C Bb7/D Ebsus4-3 Ab C7 Fm Eb/G Ab6 Bb7 Eb

Ab-ba, as in high-est heav-en so on earth your will be done.

Words: Howell Elvet Lewis (1860-1953), alt Music: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

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## There's a spirit in the air

F/A B $\flat$  Dm B $\flat$  F/A C F C6 C F/A C6 Dm Gm Csus4-3

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:

Dm Cm 6 Gm6 Dm/F C/F /E F B $\flat$  /G F/A /B $\flat$  C6 C F

"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.

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

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Rev. Peter Rombeek  
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

## Come, let us sing to the Lord our song

FORNEY 9889

C C/B Am G6 F G

1. Come, let us sing to the Lord our song:  
 2. O thirs - ty soul, come drink at the well;  
 3. You dwell a - mong us and cause us to pray, and  
 4. Des - erts shall bloom and moun - tains shall sing

Em Am Am/G F G

we have stood si - lent - ly too long;  
 God's liv - ing wa - ters will nev - er fail.  
 walk with each oth - er fol - lowing your way;  
 to the de - sire of all liv - ing things.

C C/B Am G6 Fmaj7 G

sure - ly the Lord de - serves our praise, so  
 Sure - ly the Lord will help you to stand,  
 our prec - ious bro - thers and sis - ters will grow  
 Come, all you crea - tures, high and low;

Dm G Am Em F G C

joy - ful - ly thank God for our days.  
 strength - ened and com - for - ted by God's hand.  
 in the ful - fill - ing love they know.  
 let your prais - es end - less - ly flow.

Words: Jim Strathdee (1941-) Music: Jim Strathdee (1941-); arrangement, Jean Strathdee (1944-)

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