



Kensington Presbyterian Church *a Peaceful time of year*

December 5, 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).



Contacts

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¹ 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.

Communion: all who would like to celebrate the Lord's supper are invited to join us next week. If you come in person we have pre-packaged elements for you.

Sunday School: is available every week for those who are interested. For the next two weeks they are practising and recording parts of the Christmas pageant, so everyone can participate even if they can't be there.

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.

Calendar: Due to popular demand, Howie has ordered some more. Please let us know if you are interested.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

'Messy' Church: Dec 17th

Everyone is invited to join in a Messy Church type activity that will combine doing activities at home (with the help of a package available from the church), and meeting online through Zoom. If you're interested, or just curious, please contact Kathryn or Rev. Peter.

Pageant Sunday: Dec 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Blue Christmas: Tuesday Dec 21 at 7:30 p.m.

On the longest night we share a quiet worship service that holds those who are finding this time of year hard.

Caroling: Dec 23rd, meet at the church.

Christmas Eve: Friday, Dec 24 at 7:00 p.m.



Approaching God

♪ Hymn: Light a candle.....pg 11
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vtgd0MdZE (tune only)

🗨️ Call to worship & lighting of the candle²

Hope is a flame that is given by God.

Hope for a new world burns in our hearts.

Hope burns in the message of the Law and the teaching of the Prophets.

Hope is revealed in Jesus Christ.

🕯️ (The first candle is lit.)

Let us pray:

Source of light, burn in our lives and in your world with your renewing hope. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.



Hair
Braiding
Bill Hayes

♪ Hymn: Speak, Lord, in the Stillness.....pg 11 (442)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=l_iuddgnw-c (piano only)

🧎 Prayer of Approach

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,
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

The good news of this Advent season
is forgiveness of sin and new life.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of hope and peace.
**Thanks be to the Advent God,
who comes among us,
setting us free to love and serve.**



Listening to God

♪ Hymn: The Spirit breathes upon the Word.....pg 12 (506)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=XZcjU5kBXlk (organ only)

✦ Prayer for Illumination

Immanuel, as we wait for your return,
help us see your glory and receive your peace
through the reading and preaching of your Word.
We pray in your name.
Amen.³

³ adapted from Worship Sourcebook D.3.1.7

✦ Intro to the readings

- Today's Psalm is full of descriptions of the LORD. What aspects do they describe? What is missing? Why does the poet use these descriptions to lead to the last line?
- How is the description in Isaiah different? What do you like about this description? Can you trust that this will happen?
- Leading into today's Gospel passage Jesus has been telling the disciples that he will be going, but the Spirit will come and she will bring greater awareness. Will this be a time of peace?

📖 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Psalm 29](#)

[Isaiah 11:1-10](#)

[John 16: 19-33](#)



Psalm 23 - Swanson

⁴ 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



Sermon: a Peaceful time of year - by Alex Plant

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

I would like to start with a moment of simple breathing. In... and out. Think for a moment about how that feels. Feel the stillness, the calm washing over you as you take in that breath... and let it out. It is amazing how effective this can be in the right circumstances. I'm sure that many of you have experienced the rush of living in the big city. Living in Montreal, I take the metro and a bus to come here. On a Sunday morning, it's not too crowded most of the time. But take that journey on a weekday during rush hour and it's a different story. Crowds of desperate people trying to catch a bus, metro, or train car home after a long day of work or running errands. So much is on our minds, trying to find a seat, trying to get home on time to get dinner started or to make that appointment.



The crowds of people crammed into public transit as if they were lining up to take advantage of Black Friday sales. It can be a chaotic mess even in the best intended times. Even during non-rush hour

periods, if the city is playing host to tourists on a regular basis, it is a mess. Take the public transit systems of any popular tourist destination like London, Paris, Rome, New York, Toronto, Vancouver, or take countries with massive populations like India and China and you may find yourself waiting a long time just to

find a seat on your journey. Even with the pandemic protocols in place, the demands of the workplace march on and stores continue to sell their goods to as many people as possible.

Imagine what it's like being in a crowd. Whether it's at a music concert, at a bus stop, at a museum, at the grocery store. We city-dwellers know all too well the realities of overcrowding. Now imagine the noise that comes from that crowd, conversations flowing from dozens, hundreds of people, all fighting to get the attention of the recipient. Imagine all those people trying to get to where they need to go, asking for a space, begging for a moment of rest only to be surrounded by the chaos of late appointments and cold lunches. The noise, the people, the sheer volume of chaos all around us. And now...



Seeing Shepherds - Daniel Bonnell

Let us freeze this moment in time. This image, frozen in time. Draw your attention to the two shepherds. See what they are doing. They drop their chaos, they drop their responsibilities,

their thoughts fade away as the chorus of angels hovers above them with a message that will change their world. No longer are they worried about the sheep wandering off, no longer are they concerned about keeping order or keeping themselves safe. For the chaos has moved above them.

Now, look at the angels above them. Imagine what it must be like being up there. There must be hundreds of angels up there, all squeezed together in a burst of light and sound, proclaiming the birth of Christ. But imagine each individual angel, trying their best to play their part. If I was in that crowd of angels, I would worry that my part would go unnoticed. There are so many other angels with their own parts. Sure, it may be harmonized and it is certainly beautiful, but where are the individual sounds. Can you pick out each individual angel in that heavenly chorus? Do we even need to?

When I listen to music, especially a song on repeated loop, I like to pick out the individual instruments and focus on different ones each time I play a song. Especially in an orchestra, where hundreds of instruments are making their own sounds. Strings, percussion, brass, woodwinds, all working in harmony to create a piece of music, but still vying for the listener's attention. Notice me! Listen over here! Of course, we can be overwhelmed by what is around us, but when we take a moment out of the chaos and into Christ, we notice something special.

Isaiah 11:1 says, "*A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.*" Imagine a whole forest of trees and plants, the generations of humans who have roamed the earth. Some trees are massive and impressive. But out of that forest of people, there is a clearing. And in that clearing, a single shoot, a tiny singular shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse. A branch shall grow out of its roots. Something amazing is

happening.



new life after a fire - Craig Hannah

We must focus on what is happening. This week's advent theme is peace. When we are our chaotic selves, when we are struggling, straining to listen to what is right, reach out to God and take a piece of peace. But not just any peace, his glorious peace. Notice his peace. The shepherds are the luckiest men alive. They get a whole chorus and choir of angels brought straight to them to tell them the good news. They didn't have to search amongst their chaos. They didn't have to strain themselves to hear the Good News. It was as clear as day for them.

But we have a tougher job. Our Gospel reading for today outlines the hardships that we face. We will weep and mourn, when a woman is in labour, she is in pain because her hour has come. We will have pain now. But we are in a joyous time because something wonderful is about to happen. The world will rejoice, the woman's labour pain will fade as the joy of bringing a human being into the world takes hold of her, and our hearts will rejoice as if a choir of angels is proclaiming from the heavens that a child is born from the branches of the Jesse tree.

As we continue to live in chaos, as we continue to live in a world that is getting faster and faster, let us take a moment to breathe. Let us take a piece of God's peace and hold it tight. Let us listen for the angel chorus. It is right above us; can you hear it? May the peace of Christ be with you all.

Thanks be to God.
Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Make me a Channel of your Peace.....pg 13 (740)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=2svZhZT6Pro

FaithTalk

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

Wonder: Share how peaceful you are at the moment, and generally at this week.

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 sense that it is what should be; that it is right (righteous in a good way).

Actions: When you are not feeling 'at peace', what do you do that helps?

Etching: Share memories of people you have met who seem to be filled with the peace of God. speculate why they are like that?

Spirit Sighting

Later in the bulletin you can read about how the Body of

Christ is helping bring peace and healing to people's lives as the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) partners with a hospital in Malawi and food baskets in Syria.

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 also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is [Kensington Presbyterian Church](#) and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca. And you can sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also good options, or simply mail or drop off a cheque or cash.



Communion

♪ Hymn: Let us break bread together.....pg 12 (548)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egk-pX_1nHg
www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmcDFmbKg4g (P. Robeson)

Invitation to the table

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls."



Venez à moi, vous tous qui êtes fatigués et chargés, et je vous donnerai du repos.

Prenez mon joug sur vous et recevez mes instructions,
car je suis doux et humble de coeur; et vous trouverez du repos
pour vos âmes.

So, come,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here for a long time,
you who have tried to follow
and you who struggle.

Come, not because you are here:
but because our Lord invites us to "Come".
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.

As we come together before the Lord's table,
let us say together a statement of faith we share with each
other, and Christians 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.



We are all One in Jesus Christ - Soichi Watanabe

 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.

With joy we praise you, gracious God,
because you have created heaven and earth,
the sun and the snow,
the summer and the winter
scampering squires
and us, formed in your image.
Therefore we join our voices with the whole creation
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.⁶

**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 guidance, your 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.**

Wonderful Lord,
even as things can seem to be full of uncertainty, trouble
and suffering,
you continue to be active in the world and our lives,
We ask that those who are suffering:
from disasters (natural or personal), or poverty, or loneliness
or health. . .
That they know your healing and peace.
May your Spirit help us to practice being watchful for your
presence as your kingdom comes.
May your Holy Spirit move in power through us
and over these earthly gifts of bread and juice,
that our sharing of them will make us one with Christ,
becoming Jesus' body in the world,
sharing your justice and love.
and that Jesus will become one with us
giving us the strength to live as Christ.
Until we feast with you in Glory.

In communion with people through years past and future, we
now say the prayer Jesus taught us:
(feel free to use another version/translation)

**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.**



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”
The body of Christ, given for you.

[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 sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi”
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

[take and drink]



The Last Supper - Ivan Guaderrama



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: Comfort, comfort you my people.....pg 14 (113)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1IQkuLw0Gs

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Mw9AGvr_xk (with mandolin)



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.



Supporting Vulnerable Children

Antony Misoya, a 15-year-old orphan from Mitumbira village in Malawi, is HIV positive. He attends a program managed by the Mulanje Mission Hospital where he receives care and support with his antiretroviral medication regimen. Staff began to notice Antony's visits to the program had become less frequent. When asked, Antony told them, "I go around looking for work to support my two brothers and sister; sometimes I miss my treatment because I am working." Program staff visited Antony and his guardian and discovered that it had become difficult for her to provide for all four children, so the team provided them with support that made it possible for Antony to attend the clinic regularly and focus on his studies. This project that provides care and support to orphans and vulnerable children in Malawi is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 5 (Second Sunday of Advent) We pray for peace in the world: in our churches, in our families and circle of friends, and in our spirits as we prepare to welcome the Christ child among us again.

Monday, December 6 We pray for ministries that are exploring new ways to welcome, include and support LGBTQI+ people and families.

Tuesday, December 7 We thank God for those who are engaging in God's mission in the world and finding effective ways to share the Gospel of Christ with neighbours.

Wednesday, December 8 We pray that the light of Christ will shine brightly and provide comfort to all who are ill, struggling or mourning this Advent season.

Thursday, December 9 We pray for the Rev. Chen Hsin-Liang, the new General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

Friday, December 10 (Human Rights Day) We pray for families living in situations of conflict or in exile, and we give thanks for the church's support of Presbyterian World Service & Development programs that protect the rights of refugees.

Saturday, December 11 We give thanks for the education the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation Program provides to raise awareness and support people with disabilities in Ghana so that they can lead fulfilling lives free from stigma.

Food Baskets Provide Assurance

Conflict is on the rise around the world. In places like Syria, Yemen or Ethiopia, these rates are only worsened by climate change and COVID-19. The United Nations estimates that over 88 million people are experiencing hunger due to conflict and instability.

It's been over 10 years since millions of Syrians were forced from their homes due to ongoing civil conflict. Almost six million have sought refuge in neighbouring countries and another 6.7 million are displaced internally in Syria.

Every day is filled with uncertainty.

PWS&D is responding to help alleviate some of these uncertainties by providing 6,000 families with food baskets.

The food baskets provide internally displaced Syrians and their host communities with essential and nutritious foods. Families are able to ensure that their households are fed and food is on the table.

This Advent season help those displaced by conflict strengthen their hearts and bodies on the journey to find peace and security.

** With Canadian Foodgrains Bank, funds contributed to PWS&D for food assistance are multiplied up to four times with the support of the Government of Canada.*

WeRespond.ca



Light a candle bright and tall

G D7/A D/F# G C/E D7/F# G C D/C G/B C G/D D G

Light a can - dle bright and tall For the Peace we wish to know.

G D7/A D/F# G C/E D7/F# G C B7 Em Am7 G/D D G

Peace on Earth for great and small God's Good News to us be - stows.

G D7 Em D/F# D 7 G C D/F# G/B C/E G/D D 7 G

Shine with-in our hearts to-day Come, O Peace, to us, we pray.

Words: David Wood © 2012

Music: Adapted from a Chorale by Conrad Kocher (1786–1872); harmony, William Henry Monk (1823–1889), Carman H. Milligan (1909–)

Words: permission for use in worship settings Music: harmony © Carman Milligan CCLI #440603

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Speak, Lord, in the stillness

CASWALL (BEMERTON) 6 5 6 5

F Csus4-3 Dmsus2-1 A Dm Csus4-3 F

1. Speak, Lord, in the still - ness speak your word to me;
 2. Speak, O gra-cious Mas - ter, in this qui - et hour;
 3. For the words you give me they are life in - deed;
 4. Speak, your ser-vant lis - tens, be not si - lent, Lord;
 5. Fill me with the know - ledge of your glo-rious will;

F/A F Gm C7/E Fsus2-1 C F A Bb6 C F

hushed my heart to lis - ten in ex - spect - an - cy.
 let me see your face, Lord, feel your touch of power.
 liv - ing bread from heav - en, now my spir - it feed.
 let me know your pres - ence; let your voice be heard.
 all your own good pleas - ure in my life ful - fill.

Words: Emily M. Crawford (1868–1927), alt Music: Friedrich Filitz (1804–1878)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

506 The Spirit breathes upon the word

HORSLEY 8 6 8 6 CM

E♭ B♭ E♭ A♭/C E♭ /G A♭ B♭ /D E♭ C♯m B♭/F F B♭

1. The Spir - it breathes up - on the word, and brings the truth to sight;
 2. The hand that gave it still sup - plies the gra - cious light and heat;
 3. Let ev - er - last - ing thanks be thine for such a bright dis - play,
 4. My soul re - joic - es to pur - sue the steps of One I love,

A♭/C B♭7/D E♭ A♭maj7-6 G A♭ 6 E♭/B♭ B♭7 E♭

pre - cepts and prom - is - es af - ford a sanc - ti - fy - ing light.
 God's truths up - on the na - tions rise; they rise, but nev - er set.
 as makes a world of dark - ness shine with beams of heav - en - ly day.
 till glo - ry breaks up - on my view in bright - er worlds a - bove.

Words: William Cowper (1731–1800), alt Music: William Horsley (1774–1858)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

548 Let us break bread together

E♭ /D C♯m F♯m/A♭ B♭ E♭ A♭/E♭ E♭

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

F♯m G♯m B♭/A♭ E♭/G E♭6 F B♭ B♭7

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

E♭/G B♭13/F E♭ B♭/D C♯m7 F♯m/D E♭ F♯m /E♭ B♭7/D

when I fall down on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,

B♭6 - 7 C♯m7 B♭6 A♭maj7 B♭sus2-3 E♭

O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual;
 arrangement, F.R.C. Clarke (1931–)

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Anglican Church of Canada and United Church of Canada, 1971

Make me a channel of your peace

MAKE ME A CHANNEL 8 10 10 8

D

Make me a chan-nel of your peace: 1. where there is ha-tred, 2. where there's des-pair in 4. it is in par-don-

A7

let me bring your love; where there is in-jur-y, your heal-ing
life let me bring hope; where there is dark-ness, on-ly
ing that we are par-doned, in giv-ing to all that we re-

D A7 D Fine

power, and where there's doubt, true faith in you.
light, and where there's sad-ness, ev-er joy.
ceive, and in dy-ing that we're born to e-ter-nal life.

(D7) G D Em

3. O Spir-it, grant that I may nev-er seek so much to be con-
soled as to con-sole, to be un-der-stood as to un-der-
stand, to be loved as to love with all my soul.

Words: Saint Patrick of Ireland (372–466) Music: Sebastian Temple (1928–);
arrangement, the compilers of Praise Ways

Words: public domain Music: copyright © Franciscan Communications Centre, 1968

Comfort, comfort you my people

GENEVAN 42 87877788

F C F C Dm Am B♭ F Dm C F B♭ F C F

1. Com-fort, com - fort you my peo - ple; tell of peace, thus says our God;
 2. For the her - ald's voice is call - ing in the des - ert far and near,
 3. Make you straight what long was crook - ed; make the rough - er plac - es plain;

F C F C Dm Am B♭ F Dm C F B♭ F C F

com-fort those who sit in dark-ness bowed be-neath op - pres-sion's load.
 bid-ding us to make re-pent-ance since the king-dom now is here.
 let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign,

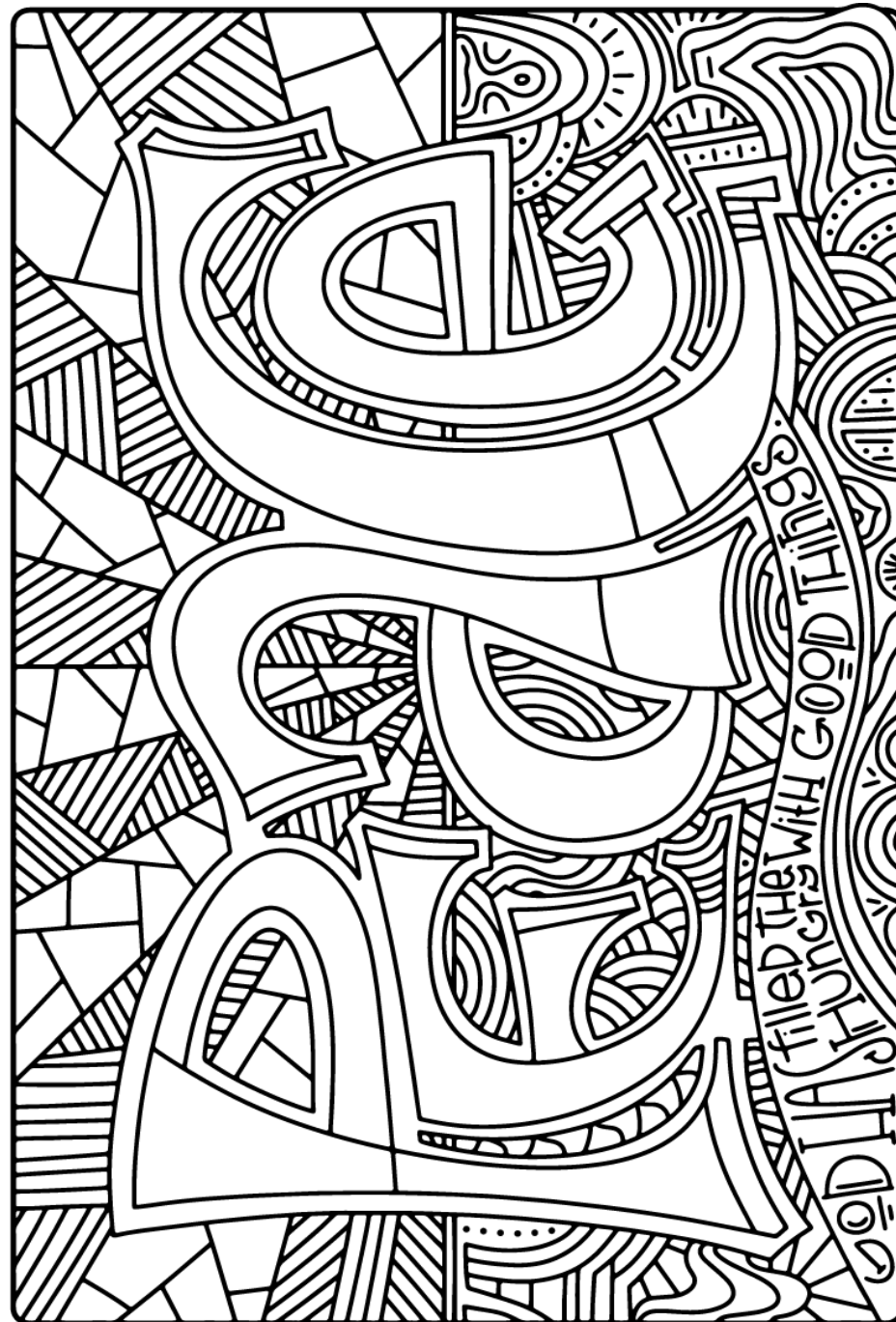
F B♭ F C F F B♭ F B♭/D F C

Speak you to Je - ru - sa - lem of the peace that waits for them;
 Oh that warn-ing cry o - bey! Now pre-pare for God a way;
 for the glo - ry of the Lord now o'er earth is shed a - broad,

F Cm Gm Dm C F B♭ F Dm B♭ F C Dm C F

tell them that their sins I cov - er, and their war-fare now is o - ver.
 let the val - leys rise in meet-ing and the hills bow down in greet-ing.
 and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Re Words: German, Johannes Olearius (1611–1684); translation, Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878)
 fo Music: Genevan Psalter 1551 Words: public domain Music: public domain



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