

# How to respect and serve? April 3, 2022

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)



## Contacts

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#### Announcements

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

**Re-opening:** We are still welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube and a printable PDF. If you have questions, please contact us.

Zoom sound quality: We understand the quality of sound can be frustrating. As we cannot hear the sound over zoom, we appreciate the feedback that we receive. Please know we are doing are best. If you can help by being a host on Zoom please let us know. (This will give our tech person more attention for the sound.)

**Prayer Group:** Thursdays 9 am at Benny Farm 3500 Benny Ave. Common Room beside central courtyard)

**Visits**: If you need a visit or prayer, please contact your elder or Rev. Peter.

The Choir: has started again. II We practice Sunday morning. In preparation for Easter we will also be practising Fridays from 7:30 until 9 pm.

Easter Scavenger Hunt: April 17 after worship. Please invite people.

**Black Cloth:** We would like to borrow some large black cloth to use Easter weekend - perhaps a table cloth. Can you help?

The EMSB has released the second edition of their French podcast.<sup>2</sup> In the email to all parents they thanked Amelie for her help with the research team. Yeah Amelie!

Our thoughts also go out to our dancers who are in competitions this month.

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

soundcloud.com/englishmtlpodcasts/balado-csem-raconte-moi-ton-histoire



# 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<sup>3</sup>

During Lent, we remember that God is revealed in surprising ways and at unexpected times.

All things are under the sovereign care of God's goodness.

None of us ever imagines that God goes to such lengths to show us the height, depth and breadth of God's love.

Christ was even willing to give up his life for us.



Snowdrops P Rombeek Let us pray.

Surprising God,

you constantly come to us in ways that surprise us and redeem all things.

Help us to recognize your guiding and comforting presence as we seek to follow you in our journey to understand the meaning of the life, ministry, death and resurrection of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.



Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you love us,

but we have not loved you.

You have opened your heart to us,

and in our pride we have turned our way.

You have given us all things,

and we have squandered your gifts.

We have hurt you and others, through action, and inaction.

We are not worthy to be called your children.

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we are ashamed

We are sorry for the ways we have not lived for you.

Please cleanse us from our sin and receive us again into your household,

so that we will not wonder from your love but always remain within the sound of your voice.

Amen.4

2/14

from the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

Assurance of Pardon (John 8:12)

Read the good news

Jesus said, "I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

Amen.



# Listening to God

 □ Hymn: When God restored our common life.....pg 12 (87) www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZMXKbsX4vM



Prayer for Illumination

Send your Spirit among us, O God,

as we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

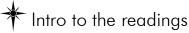
Prepare our minds to hear your Word.

Move our hearts to accept what we hear.

Purify our will to obey in joy and faith.

This we pray through Christ, our Savior.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>



- The Isaiah passage is interesting. The lectionary cuts off the first part of the passage, but you're get the gist of it anyway. It's a list of great things that God has done in the past. The curious part is the flip half way through.
- The Gospel According to John has much longer stories than the other gospels. While it stands alone, it's good to know where today's reading fits in the narrative. The previous chapter was about Jesus' relationship with Martha, Mary & Lazarus (who died and was brought back to life). There's a short scene with the bad guys plotting against Jesus, then our

story. After it is Palm Sunday... which we'll also have next week.



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

Isaiah 43: 16-21 John 12: 1-8 Psalm 126



Sermon: How to respect and serve?

Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>7</sup> Amen.

How to respect and serve God is a good question. God is the one who created all and the one who can heal and save us. How do we respond?

Today's gospel passage is a good example of that, but it's not simple. What's nice is that this depth in the passage can bring more depth to our lives.

One interesting things is that this is one of the few stories that are in all four gospels. There's a number that are shared in Matthew, Mark & Luke, but John often tells different stories.

That said, there are differences. This doesn't mean that the

story isn't true. Instead it reflects the nature of writing back then. There was a stronger interest in telling Truth than reporting on events. Modern examples are the TV shows my kids see, such as Magic School Bus and



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

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

<sup>7</sup> Psalm 19:14

Fraggle Rock. Neither are true reporting of events, but they do tell Truth about how the world works (MSB) and truth about people's emotions (FR). In the case of the Bible, a closer comparison would be a 'docu-drama' in which they tell about real people and events, but might adapt things to make the story clearer - to make sure the message gets through. The writers of the gospels are very concerned with telling us Truth of God seen through Jesus. God is big and each of them show us a different part of the truth found in Jesus.

These differences are revealing in themselves. Luke isn't specific about the location, but Matthew, Mark & John have the story set in Bethany. Bethany is a town on the Mount of Olives, which is a couple of kilometres outside of Jerusalem - and we know what will happen when Jesus gets to Jerusalem. Each Gospel places Jesus at a dinner, but the host differs. Mark (probably the earliest written) and Matthew place Jesus with Simon the Leper. Associating with a leper would be a scandal, but Jesus is showing how Simon is an honourable part of the community. Luke's version has even more scandals. Here Jesus is at a Pharisee's house when a woman with a poor reputation enters, lets her hair down in public (a no-no), and touches a man not her husband (another scandal). Luke also has another scandal going on. For the early Christians the Pharisees were rivals - and Jesus was having dinner with them. Scandals challenging people's ideas of how to behave in the text and out of it - leading back to our question of how to respect and serve God.

In John, there are more layers. Lazarus is the host. This dinner follows on from the previous story that shows how close Jesus was to Mary, Martha and Lazarus. He cries with Mary, Martha gives a strong statement of faith in Jesus, and he raises Lazarus from the dead. The dinner will be followed by the parade into Jerusalem much of which is foreshadowed at this dinner, such as:

- the idea of being a servant as shown through the washing of feet;
- one of the disciples is betraying what Jesus is about (stealing from the purse);
- Jesus points out that the perfume was bought for his burial... and it's being used now;
- and the host of the dinner is resurrected.



Mary Anoints Christ's Feet - Bazzi Rahib

There's also the fuss about the use of the perfume. As is pointed out in Matthew, Mark & John, it was very valuable. Nard would have been imported from Northern India and this amount was apparently the equivalent to a year's income. Doing this was considered foolish - even a contradiction of Jesus' teaching. After all, Jesus spent a lot of time talking about and looking after those needing help. Aren't the people who question this right to ask, 'but what about....'

Personally, it's a question I've asked.
How about you?

What's this saying about respecting and serving God?

I remember being at St. Andrew's in downtown Ottawa when

they had their 175th birthday. As a part of the celebrations they commissioned some art. I was torn by this. I like art - visual, music, dance, cooking... all kinds of art. I like artists. However, that question kept coming into my mind, "but what about the poor?" Being downtown there were definitely people with broken lives who needed help. Would that money not be better spent bringing healing to their lives?



Wouldn't that be better stewardship of our resources?

Have you asked these questions?

It's disturbing that Jesus goes along with the washing of his feet with the perfume. Jesus also responds to the indignant comments with a disturbing line, "you always have the poor with you." This line has been used as an excuse not to help those in need because God says they will always be there, so what's the point. That is both ignorant of a lot of other things that Jesus says, and of the depth in the line itself.

Part of the depth is in the grammatical vagueness - which is a good translation from the Greek. Is it that there will always be 'the poor', or that we should make sure 'the poor' are always around us? Are 'the poor' a part of the world that isn't meant to be solved, or are we to make sure that those are the people we are with?

It's also a reference to elsewhere in the Bible - like a memorable line from Matthew when Jesus is on the cross. He calls out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me." I believe this is what Jesus was feeling, but it's also a quote of Psalm 22. That psalm starts in despair, but then blossoms into hope.

Here, when Jesus says, "you always have the poor with you" he is quoting Deuteronomy (15:11), "Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, 'Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land."

...that changes the meaning doesn't it?

It's definitely more comfortable for those who see Jesus as focusing on the poor, and not on how glorious the temple is.

Now what do we do with the extravagance of pouring the perfume on Jesus? It could be called foolish. A characteristic of the Gospel According to John is the relationships Jesus has, such as with Mary and her family. You could say that Mary's actions show love - an extravagant foolish love ...which reminds me of last

week's story about the father of the prodigal son (found in Luke). Again, Jesus lifts this up as a good thing.

But how do we balance this?
How do we respect and serve God?
Do we use our money to help those in need, or to celebrate Jesus?
What are we supposed to do?

Like this story, the answer isn't short and simple.

Part of it is that there is a time to celebrate.

In the case of each Gospel account, the incarnation of Jesus is being recognized and celebrated. That God came in the flesh and lived among us is something to be celebrated. Is that time done? No. It's not as direct now, but God is working through people here and now. There's famous people like the Pope who has helped bring some healing this week with the apology for the abuse in the Residential Schools. There's also many local people, such as those who serve on our Session. They have been wrestling with many issues on how to support God's work in and out of Kensington. And there's people who would rather just help in the background, like Howie dropping off the tax receipts and Easter letters. There's people like Peggy, Pansy, Grace, Karin & Elizabeth who gather in prayer with celebration and concern. I'm not suggesting we pour expensive perfume on them, but it's important to recognize that God is in us and to celebrate when that is seen.

It's also important to remember that one does not live by bread alone. This week Mike McGregor shared his concern for people who are spiritually malnourished. We can do more to help feed people than just food. There's worship services, and Bible studies like The Chosen that feed both experienced and the casually curious, and there is a space for art - and supporting those with artistic gifts. This is respecting God's creations, and how God shares that act of creating. It helps people serve God and nourish us. I don't know about you, but I find that the arts definitely nourish me, and in ways that are different from sermons. There is a place to celebrate God that also feeds the poor in Spirit.

And there's actually feeding people. The reason schools now offer breakfast is because it's hard to focus on anything else when the basics of food and safety are not being met. As Deuteronomy, and Jesus, remind us - also look after those in need.

Which could be a nice place to end, but some of you may be thinking, 'Peter, you still haven't told us how to decide when to pour the expensive celebration perfume and when to help those in need!'

It's a good point, and there's an answer.

Be like Mary, and so many other good examples. Look first to God. Start with Jesus. Be willing to look foolish and embarrass yourself to those around you. We don't have rules about wearing your hair up, but there are cultural taboos that separate people. Let people into your bubble - people others would not. Respect their needs, ideas and gifts. Pray for the Holy Spirit's confidence in when to celebrate and when to reach out.

...although, perhaps like the father of the Prodigal Son, reaching out and celebrating can be at the same time?

To God be all the glory Amen.



# Responding to God

☐ Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling......pg 13 (371)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GenHMi5B7L4

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: What is an action or art expression that helped you see God more clearly?

Values: How do you balance your investments of money, time, and energy?

Actions: Decide on something to celebrate God this week. It could be artistic (song, dance, knitting, ...), or a recognition of how you see God in someone (please let them know). It doesn't have to be as public as Mary's action, but do let your conversation partner know.

Values: The Bible can be complex. How do you read the Bible and learn about the complexities? How do you not get lost in them?

# 🔖 Spirit Sighting

This week's prayer partner highlight is of the work being done in a hospital supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development in Nepal. This stands out for me because I helped interview Dr. Nick and Becky Bauman to be missionaries through Presbyterian Sharing to a hospital in Nepal. During their two year term they modelled both respecting God and serving through their medical skills and witnessing to God's love. You can find out more through blogs they posted: <a href="mailto:pccweb.ca/missionblog/dr-nicholaus-and-rebecca-bauman">pccweb.ca/missionblog/dr-nicholaus-and-rebecca-bauman</a>

## 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.



#### Communion

Communion Hymn: I come with Joy #1-3.....pg 14 (530) www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGhabxcl5NU

#### Invitation to the table

Jesus said to his disciples: "I am the bread of life. Celui qui vient à moi n'aura jamais faim, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty." Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.<sup>9</sup>

So come, you who carry heavy burdens. Come, you who carry light burdens. For Christ calls us to join together at the Table that he has prepared. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled". <sup>10</sup>

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

#### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

<sup>8</sup> John 6:35

I Corinthians 10:17 (NRSV)

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 5:6 (NRSV)

creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Great prayer of thanksgiving<sup>11</sup>......Alex Plant 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.

Blessed God, we give you thanks for the gift of creation. You who so lovingly called life into being, in such majesty and perfect goodness. We praise your most reverent name, echoing through all the ages. As you have spoken to your prophets, so too do you speak to us through your presence. Your tender mercy touches

each one of us as we bear witness to your power and mercy for us. You grant us your word through the power of the Holy Scriptures, revealing to us your presence among us. You call us to be joined with you in intimate relationships, fulfilling your righteous will for us.

As we offer you our humble thanks and praise, we join with the whole of creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

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

Merciful God, you have granted us these holy gifts of bread and wine. These gifts are brought to us through the sacrifice of your one and only precious son, Jesus Christ. As he took flesh and lived among us, teaching us and healing us through your truth revealed in his fully divine and fully human nature, we give thanks for the love that you have for us. You love us so dearly that Christ was sent to the cross so that we may be granted salvation through his death.

As we joyfully partake in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, we affirm together they mystery of faith:

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

God of power and might, you call us to share in the mystery of

<sup>11</sup> # Prayer is adapted from The Book of Common Worship, 1991.

faith, trusting in your unending goodness for us through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit. You descend upon us with your spirit in order that, by the miracle of your grace in our lives, may be united in Christ's power to be one in body, spirit, and faith.

We are united in praying for your spirit to work not only in the lives of those gathered, but of your people around the world. We pray for those who are suffering in pain, who are in need of your healing power and your merciful hand. We pray for the family of Frank Jackson, may your spirit of peace and compassion descend upon them as they mourn the passing of Frank from this world to the next. We pray for those in war and conflict, bring the spirit of mercy and love to leaders and citizens around the world. We make these prayers with one voice, one spirit, in communion with you.

This we pray in your most holy name. Amen.

And as Christ has taught us to pray, let us pray the Lord's prayer together.

Lord's Prayer (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.



The Last Supper Painting 2 - Ivan Guaderrama



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, saving

"This is my body; it is broken for you."

"Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous" [take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said, "This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me."

"Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon saunt; faites ceci en mémoire de moi"

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. [take and drink]

# rayer after Communion

Eternal God, we give you thanks for the holy mystery of communion. Through the body and blood of Christ, you have freely given yourself to us, granting us salvation from our sins. We thank you for uniting us with Christ through this Sacrament. Grant onto us the strength of your Spirit so that we may proclaim the mystery of faith to others. May your spirit abide with us as go out into the world in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. This we pray in your name.

Amen.

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
Amen.



#### Sunday, April 3

#### MISSION MOMENT

Amerika Tharu is a 52-year-old carpenter from Nepal. In early 2020, he developed a fever, and his face began swelling. Amerika sought help at two different hospitals, where he was misdiagnosed and underwent expensive treatment that didn't address the problem. His poor health affected every area of his life, including his career. Eventually, his son brought him to see a doctor who suspected that Amerika might have leprosy and sent him to the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Shining Hospital. The hospital's medical staff confirmed the diagnosis, and Amerika received the treatment he needed, allowing him to return home and resume his livelihood.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Friday, April 1** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Bob Faris, nominee for Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, as he prepares for the upcoming Assembly.

**Saturday, April 2** (World Autism Awareness Day) We pray for children with autism and related conditions, and we thank God for church programming that supports them and their families.

**Sunday, April 3 (Fifth Sunday in Lent)** We pray for the medical staff at the Shining Hospital in Nepal as they treat illnesses with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

**Monday, April 4** We pray for the ministry of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Fredericton, New Brunswick, as they seek new ways of reaching out to their neighbours.

**Tuesday, April 5** We pray for congregations that have or are seeking Interim/ Transitional Ministry and give thanks for those working as interim ministers.

**Wednesday, April 6** We give thanks for those who work and volunteer with food banks.

**Thursday, April 7** We give thanks and pray for community health workers who help to ensure the people they work with stay healthy and have access to medical attention when needed.

**Friday, April 8** We pray for the people who gather and serve at the house churches in the Cariboo region of British Columbia, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

**Saturday, April 9** We pray for the members and work of the Life and Mission Agency Committee.



Words and Music (NOW IS THE TIME): Brian Doerksen © 1998 Vineyard Songs, admin. in North America by Music Services, Inc.; arr. Diane Dykgraaf © 2012 Vineyard Songs (UK/EIRE), admin. in North America by Music Services, Inc. CCLI #4440603



### When God restored our common life

RESIGNATION 8 6 8 6 D CMD

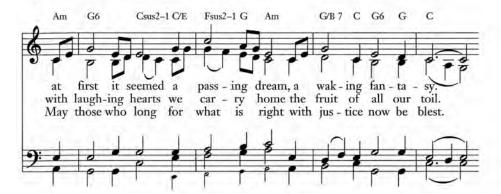
C/E F C C/E F G6 F/A (/B) C

1. When God re-stored our com-mon life, our hope, our lib-er - ty,

G C

- 2. We went forth weep-ing, sow-ing seeds in hard,un-yield-ing soil;
- 3. Great lib er at ing God, we pray for all who are op-pressed.







Words: Psalm 126; paraphrase, Ruth Duck (1947–) Music: American folk hymn, Walker's Southern Harmony 1835; harmony, Erik Routley (1917–1982) CCLI #4440603

Words: paraphrase, copyright © GIA Publications Inc., 1992 Music: harmony, copyright © Hinshaw Music, Inc., 1976 Reprinted with permission.

# Love divine, all loves excelling





C7 Dm C7/E F

Gm

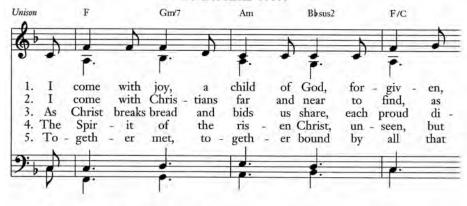
Dm Bb6 Am Gmsus4-3 Bbmaj7 C7sus4-3

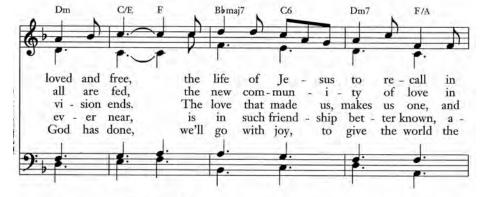
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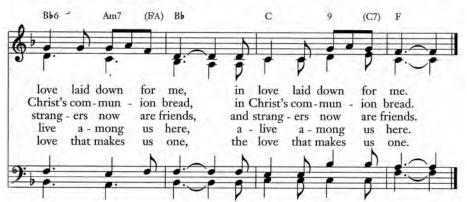
#### 530

## I come with joy

DOVE OF PEACE 86866







Words: Brian A. Wren (1936–) Music: Walker's Southern Harmony 1835; harmony, Charles H. Webb (1933–) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © 1971, 1995 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: harmony, copyright © United Methodist Publishing House, 1989

# The Difference Food Security Makes

Before becoming a member of PWS&D's agroforestry program in Haiti, mother of four, Elimène Joseph, struggled to make ends meet.

"I wanted to start up my own business but couldn't because I didn't have enough money. At times, I didn't even have the money I needed to go down to the market and buy a little food for me and the kids to eat," she shared.

PWS&D's agroforestry program is helping farmers by providing seeds for black bean, pigeon pea and corn crops, which are more resilient to a changing climate. Farmers learn sustainable field management and band together in savings groups to make their earnings go even further.

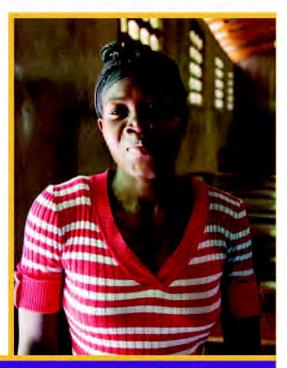
Through the program, Elimène also learned how to pool her resources together with other women. With help from her savings group,

creating chairs and brooms out of palm branches.
Then, with her profits, she began buying and selling avocados. Now Elimène can afford the school uniforms and textbooks her children need to be able to continue their educations.

Elimène started a business

This Lenten season faithfully respond to equip farmers with the resources they need to combat hunger and care for their families.

WeRespond.ca





The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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