



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Hhmmmm

May 29, 2022

WELCOME, to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite those who live with you to join you, or connect with others through the phone or 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)



Ascension - Hanna Varghese

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

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

The Chosen: Join us for this Bible study to explore what Jesus was about, and what it's like to be a follower of Christ. We'll be basing this on Season 2 of *The Chosen*. While you can join anytime, the series is good and worthy of catching up on.

Thursdays April 21 - July 16

7 pm viewing of video over Zoom

8 pm discussion

Ask Rev Peter for the Zoom address.

Drop Box: We are now accepting food donations to help the St. Monica's Food Pantry, AND items to help the young parents program at Head & Hands (ex. clothing, diapers, toys).

General Assembly: June 5 - June 8

This is the annual meeting for the Presbyterian Church in Canada - and will be online for everyone to watch. The opening worship is usually really nice (July 5 @ 2pm).

presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2022

New Hope Senior Centre Annual Meeting: June 8, 11 am

In person (with lunch) and over zoom.

call 514-484-0425.225 to RSVP

NDG Community Council Annual Meeting: June 9th, 2022 at 7pm

Yellow Door Choir: June 4th, 7:30 at the Unitarian Church

Join Anne and others for some high energy show tunes, jazz, and World music. The donations from this concert will help by an [ambulance](#) for use in Ukraine.

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 (Psalm 47: 5-8)

God has ascended amid shouts of joy,

the LORD amid the sounding of trumpets.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;

sing praises to our King, sing praises.

For God is the King of all the earth;

sing to him a psalm of praise.

God reigns over the nations;

God is seated on his holy throne.

♪ Hymn: Hail the day that sees Christ rise.....pg 10 (265)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrWaK5IW8Ag



Ascension of Christ - Michael O'Brian



Prayer of Approach

Loving God,

when our brains are too small to understand

may they be big enough to hold a mystery.

When our science hasn't found the answer yet,

may our faith enjoy the mystery.

When a story seems too difficult to grasp

may our souls wait for mystery.

One of the truths about our journey with you

is that full of unexpected elements

standing on the firm foundation of your love.

Jesus, you know this can be hard for us,

and we turn from uncertainty to find comfort where we can.

We try to add things that we control,

instead of trusting in your providence...

In doing this we ignore your voice,

and bring hurt others, creation and ourselves.

May your Spirit help us to never be scared of what is

uncertain ...mysterious

and may we always be ready to explore

what we do not understand.

In Jesus name

Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Before you were betrayed you talked with your disciples,
and you assured them that even in what was to follow, betrayal
and death, you would not abandon them. These words are
true for all those who believe.

God's love is true, and we are forgiven.



The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

*To help us build a solid foundation, you left us a prayer. Let us know
say/sing The Lord's Prayer*

**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

✦ Children's story

Ascension is the end of Jesus' physical ministry on Earth, until he
comes again. We have several church seasons that celebrate
this. Just to review...

Advent: when we prepare for Jesus coming...

Christmas: celebrating Jesus coming as a very human baby to a
humble family.

Epiphany: recognizing that Jesus is God on earth - and stories
about the amazing teaching and healing Jesus did

Lent: recognizing how the world, and ourselves, are broken so
that we do things that cause pain/hurt. This leads to

Easter: When Jesus dies because of our sins,
but death can't stop God's love, so Jesus comes back
and rejoins his disciples for 40 days, until

Ascension: When Jesus returns to Heaven to help from there

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for becoming a human.

for showing us how to lead lives that are better,

and for sending your Spirit to help us.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: King of Kings.....pg 11 (266)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSEXAFcy9A



Prayer for Illumination

Blessed are you, Lord God,

King of all creation:

You have taught us by your Word.

Open our hearts to your Spirit

and lead us on the paths of Christ, your Son.

All praise and glory be yours forever.

Amen.²



Intro to the readings

- In our first reading we hear words of celebration and hope
- Our psalm mentions floods. While destruction may come to mind, I believe the intent is more the power behind a flood. It is likely they would have been aware that floods bring nutrients to the soil.
- Acts is the sequel to Luke. Luke ends with God having

changed everything with Jesus' resurrection and meeting with the disciples. Like the first listeners to this story, you know what happens next, but still... Now what?



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

[Ephesians 1](#): 15-23

[Psalm 93](#)

[Acts 1](#): 1-11



Scene: Gone by John Murning for Spill the Beans

This is an imagined conversation between a disciple who saw Jesus' ascension, and one who just missed it.

author's note: This script is best done in the style of Monty Python, and with lots of expression and pauses so that it takes some time. There should be lots of exasperation from A and irritation from B.

A: Gone.

B: Gone?

A: Gone!

B: Gone?!

A: Gone.

B: Where?

A: Where??

B: Where?

A: Up.

B: Up?

A: Up!

B: Up, up?

A: Up, up!

B: How?

A: How?!

B: How?

A: Just like that! (lift hands)

B: Just like that! (imitating)

A: Just like that (repeat action)

B: Not like that? (arms flapping)

A: No, not like that. Like that! (lift arms)

B: Like that.

A: When?

B: When??

A: Just now!

B: Now?

A: Now!!

B: Really?

A: Really!

B: No, really??

A: Yes, really!

B: Oh!

A: Oh?!

B: Oh!

C: *People of Galilee, why do you stand looking up to heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.*

³ 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



the Ascension - Catherine Andrews

✦ Sermon: Hhmmm

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

The conversation is funny, but not without a point. What God is doing is ...unexpected. It's confusing. If somebody asked you to meet them on Mount Royal, you wouldn't expect them to float up into the clouds. Sure, they're not Jesus, but the point was made that Jesus was human. Even after his resurrection he ate with the disciples. Floating up into the clouds is not the sort of behaviour they were expecting.

Of course, 44 days earlier they hadn't been expecting Jesus to be arrested, and then executed... and then return from the dead. There were a lot of unexpected and confusing things that have been happening.

Does God always make things confusing by doing the unexpected?

It can look that way.

The Bible tells us that after Jesus teaches, the disciples are often confused. It could be because of the unexpected elements in the stories - such as the reign of God being like a weed, or a *good Samaritan*. Still, you'd think the chosen students would get it.

Of course, they were unexpected too. They weren't priests. They weren't the children that excelled in school and got to have extra Biblical training. They weren't from one group that would always get along - in fact, they included people that probably would not get along (struggling labourers, tax collector who would have made their lives hard, and a freedom fighter!). That

these people became Jesus' disciples was unexpected.

and there are many other examples throughout the Bible...

So, maybe it shouldn't have been unexpected.

Thankfully, there are consistent themes
to this confusing way of doing things.

Yes, God continually calls unexpected people to do unexpected things - and this shows God empowering people who are unqualified to do great things (except through God). Do you ever feel unqualified to do something that needs doing? While the invitation may be unexpected, God continually wants to involve people - involve us.

and it's not just the unqualified God includes, it's people who made mistakes - even those who continue to make mistakes. To make this work, God continually offers mercy and forgiveness. The book of Acts contains a couple of big examples - with Simon-Peter going from denial to a key leader. Then there's Paul going from helping murder them to making disciples for Jesus. Do you ever feel your mistakes exclude you? This can feel unbelievable sometimes, but they don't.

Another consistent theme from the first chapter of the Bible is that God works with individuals for community. Moses had a team with Aaron and Miriam to help him - and more latter. King David seemed more of the 'leader at the top' sort, but again it was about forming a healthy community. Jesus drew together a group of followers into a community - that then grew into many communities. We are not intended to be isolated. We are to support one another.

The biggest theme is love. It's not a promise of happiness, or easiness, or safety. We will not always get what we want. However, God is always with us, and always loves us.

With these themes of invitation, forgiveness, community and love - why would there be confusion?

...Because God's actions and our expectations, or assumptions, don't line up.

Back in Jesus' day the common expectation for when the Messiah came was for this to start the Reign of God, or the Kingdom of God. The details of what that would look like varied.

Some were expecting peace. That didn't happen - at least not on a grand social scale. Many people received peace in their lives as they were restored to the community through being healed. We all know people who have received peace in their hearts from God. This is good, but probably not what people were expecting. There would have been confusion.

Many would have assumed that the Reign of God would have meant an end to the reign of anyone else. No Egyptians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Greeks, Romans, or anybody else - just God. The Chosen People would be free from anybody else telling them how to live - other than God that is. Often this freedom is expanded to include freedom from any oppression - food for all, no money fears, no war or conflict (even between animals that would normally hunt each other).

There's a difference of opinion as to how this would happen, but some people believed the Messiah would arrive like a mighty warlord and lead an army into battle. Recently in the Bible Study we were introduced to Simon the Zealot, one of the twelve disciples. Zealots believed the Messiah would march in with an army, and they trained to be in that army. They even tried to get a head start by killing some people who seemed to be in the way of their assumption to how the Messiah would act. Jesus' ministry

would have been... unexpected.

What are your expectations?

Do you expect Jesus to do it?

Do you expect things to be easy?

Do you expect people to accept our expectations for living?

Do we all have the same expectations?

Do you expect peace for all?

or at least in the church?

Do you expect a little part of the Kingdom now,
and more later?

Have you lost your expectations?

Getting back to Jesus ascending...

We know some disciples were thinking that this might be the time to restore Israel's fortunes. Perhaps some were thinking this would be the time for a grand wave of the arm, or raising an army, or something. I imagine some disciples were thinking that now that Jesus couldn't die he would stay with them forever. If nothing else, perhaps some more teaching like the good old days.

Instead, it's none of these options.

but there is love, forgiveness, and involving us in community.

Were they still surprised when the unexpected happened?

Jesus passes on the torch. The mission will no longer be dependent on him to go around and share the good news, but them. They'll start locally, in Jerusalem, and then spread to the

ends of the earth. They won't do this based on their superior understanding or skills, but because they are trusting, living, in God's Spirit.

Where they scared?

We don't know.

We do know they were left focused on Jesus as he rose up into the clouds. Was it just the shock of seeing that? or the weight of responsibility? or the surprise that Jesus seemed to be gone again?

Perhaps they were wondering if this meant that Jesus was 'out of the game'? But experience would say, "No!" Passages, such as Ephesians, tell of Jesus having gone to rule over all the kingdoms of the Earth. Jesus is more powerful than anything here. (I heard a fun revelation this week from Rich Mullins. He had an experience that really made him appreciate the power of gravity... and the realization that Jesus was more powerful than that.) Not only is Jesus powerful, but also active.

Now, God is likely still doing the unexpected, but in ways that are consistent with involving us (you, me, and the rest of us) to bring love, hope and healing to our neighbours, Montreal, and the World.

To God be all the glory

Amen.



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: Send me Lord.....pg 11 (777)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hefj8FZWvjE

💬 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: If you could ask God anything, what would you ask?

Etching: Try putting into words what your expectations of Jesus are. It may be easier to start with describing Jesus, but don't avoid the hard work.

Values: Reflect on how you respond to mysteries or uncertainties.

Memories: Share a story (TV, book, life, ...) that had a really good twist ending.

Actions: ...pray for God's joy and peace to be with you, and that you might share this with others

✦ Spirit Sightings

There are many ways that the church reaches out to share God's love around the world is through partnership nurtured by PWS&D. One example is through a community rehabilitation program that gave Dominic Anane, who was denied a formal education due to his hearing disability, training and equipment to set up his own dress making business. Not only can he now make a living, but he has learned that he is important and loved.

✦ 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.



ascension - Navajo

🧎 Prayers of the people

While the disciples waited for the baptism of the Spirit,
the prayed - continually.

This is important.

Let us pray. . .

Jesus Christ, you are surprising in so many ways.

We are grateful that you are fully divine and one with God,
and that you are fully human and one with us,
that you experienced the joys and sorrows of life,
and we can be assured that you know what life is like.

While we are grateful for your surprises,
they can also be confusing - even hard.
May your Spirit help us to recognize what you are doing,
where you are leading us,
and how we can help.

God, you made us to live in communities,
perhaps that is why the only way we have of describing you is
as the Trinity, three in one.

We give thanks for those around us,
easily for those we like...
and also for those who we struggle us.

We pray for us and them. . .

We pray for the leaders in our communities:

For the Federal MPs who will be heading back to their last
month before summer, ...

For our local representatives...

and that your issues are raised in the coming election.

For those on the community council...

For the business and corporate leaders...

and for the leaders here at Kensington. . .

may they all be moved by your Holy Spirit,
and inspired to help build your Kingdom.

Jesus, when you walked the earth you saw all sorts of suffering,
violence against the innocent. . .

(we pray for the families effected by the latest mass
shooting in the US, and the daily violence the some
children face.)

suffering due to other conflicts. . .

(Ukraine, ...)

suffering due to social prejudice of race and gender. . .
(especially when it is such a part of a society that
it is not noticed.)

suffering due to finances: poverty, and having too much. . .
(especially those not able to keep up with inflation)

suffering due to illness: physical or mental. . .
(from allergies to COVID and more

from the physical impact, and the stress and other impacts
for those suffering the lose of a loved one. . .

Jesus, you have ascended to heaven and are one with God,
In confidence, we bring our troubles to you.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: O Christ, when you ascended.....pg 12
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jh9f0nyz5wE

✦ 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.



Hail the day that sees Christ rise

LLANFAIR 7474D

G Em G/B C6 D G/B G C/E C6 D 7 G

1. Hail the day that sees Christ rise,
 2. Christ, for you high tri-umph waits,
 3. See the nail-marked hands a - bove, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 4. Christ, for us still in - ter - cede;
 5. Now, though part - ed from our sight,

G Em G/B C6 D G/B G C/E C6 D 7 G

to the throne in par - a - dise;
 lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates;
 signs of God's re - deem-ing love; Hal - le - lu - jah!
 by your suf-fering for us plead;
 in the depths of star - ry night,

Words: anonymous, Thomas Cotterill (1779–1823), Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt
 Music: Robert Williams (1781–1821) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*

Em Dm 6 C Am D G (D/F# G) Em6 D /C

Christ the Lamb for sin - ners given,
 you have con-quired death and sin:
 hark, Christ's words our hearts as - sure, Hal - le - lu - jah!
 near your - self pre - pare a place,
 may God raise us up a - gain,

G/B G Em G/B C6 D /C G/B G Am7 C6 D7 G

en-ters now the high - est heaven.
 en-ter, Sov-ereign, en - ter in.
 "I will send a Com-fort - er!" Hal - le - lu - jah!
 as the first-fruits of God's grace.
 heirs of your e - ter - nal reign.

King of Kings

KING OF KINGS Irregular

① *

Em B7 Em B7 Em

King of kings and Lord of lords, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
Roi des rois, Sei - gneur des sei - gneurs, gloi - re, al - lé - lu - ia!

②

Em B7 Em B7 Em

Je - sus, Prince of Peace, glo - ry, hal - le - lu - jah!
Jé - sus, Prince de paix, gloi - re, al - lé - lu - ia!

* May be sung as a round.

Words: Naomi Batya, Sophie Conty Music: Jewish traditional

Words: copyright © Maranatha! Music, 1980, 1983 Music: public domain



Ascension -
Bagong
Kussudiardja

ev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Send me, Lord / Thuma Mina

THUMA MINA Irregular

Leader (E) All C#m B E C#m

1. Send me, Lord. 1. Send me, Je - sus; send me, Je - sus;
2. Lead me, Je - sus; lead me, Je - sus;
3. Fill me, Je - sus; fill me, Je - sus;

1. - 2. 3.
E F#m /A E/B B E E

send me, Je - sus, send me, Lord.
lead me, Je - sus, lead me, Lord.
fill me, Je - sus, fill me, Lord.

Leader 1. Send me, Lord.
Leader 2. Lead me, Lord.
Leader 3. Fill me, Lord.

Zulu

Leader Thuma mina.

1. Thuma mina,
thuma mina,
thuma mina, somandla.

Leader Seng' ya vuma.

2. Seng' ya vuma,
seng' ya vuma,
seng' ya vuma, somandla.

French

Leader Prends-moi, Seigneur.

1. Prends-moi, Jé-sus;
prends-moi, Jé-sus;
prends-moi, Jé-sus; oui, prends-moi.

Leader Guide-moi, Seigneur.

2. Guide-moi, Jésus;
guide-moi, Jésus;
guide-moi, Jésus; oui, guide-moi.

Leader Change-moi, Seigneur.

3. Change-moi, Jésus;
change-moi, Jésus;
change-moi, Jésus; oui, change-moi.

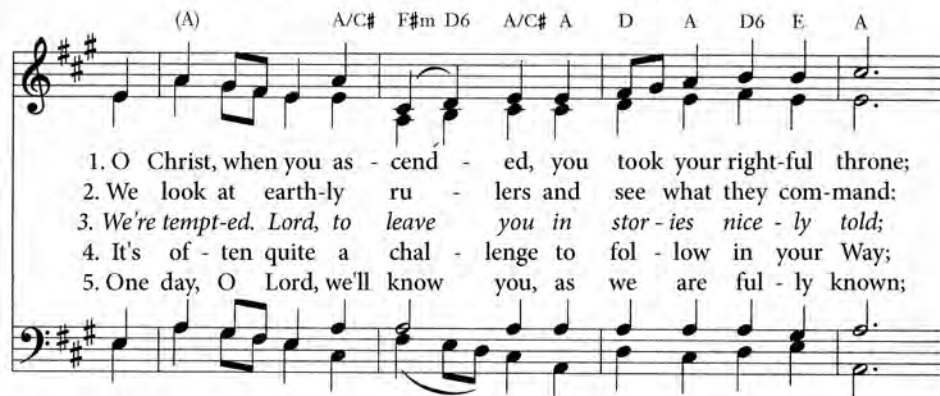
Words: South African (Zulu) traditional; French translation, Joëlle Gouël (1943-)

Music: Anders Nyberg (1955-)

Words: French translation, copyright © World Council of Churches, 1990 Music: arrangement, copyright © Walton Music Corporation, 1984

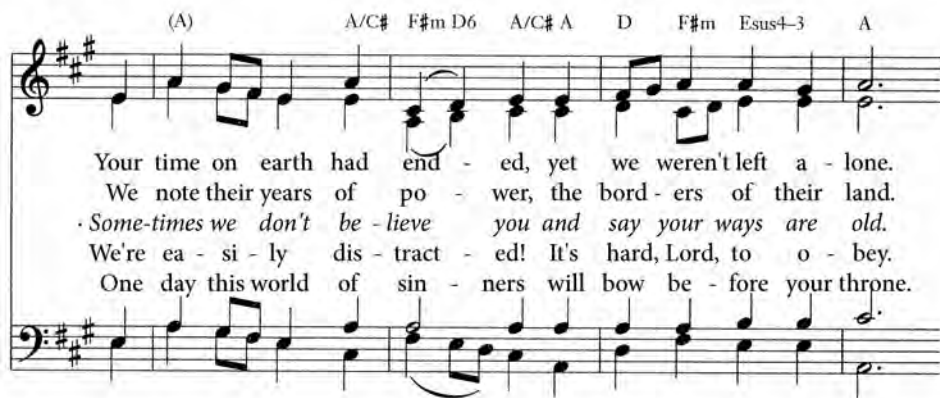
O Christ, when you ascended

(A) A/C# F#m D6 A/C# A D A D6 E A



1. O Christ, when you as - cend - ed, you took your right-ful throne;
 2. We look at earth-ly ru - lers and see what they com-mand:
 3. We're tempt-ed. Lord, to leave you in stor - ies nice - ly told;
 4. It's of - ten quite a chal - lenge to fol - low in your Way;
 5. One day, O Lord, we'll know you, as we are ful - ly known;

(A) A/C# F#m D6 A/C# A D F#m Esus4-3 A



Your time on earth had end - ed, yet we weren't left a - lone.
 We note their years of po - wer, the bord - ers of their land.
 Some-times we don't be - lieve you and say your ways are old.
 We're ea - si - ly dis - tract - ed! It's hard, Lord, to o - bey.
 One day this world of sin - ners will bow be - fore your throne.

A E/G# A D E F#m A E/G# A D E



You reign o'er earth and heav - en; your Spir - it guides our way.
 Yet, Lord, you are not bound - ed by things like time and space;
 Some - times we feel so lone - ly and live in doubt and fear —
 Some - times we give you Sun - days, an hou - r, may be two —
 One day, God's whole cre - a - tion will sing and praise your name;

(A) A/C# F#m D6 A/C# A D F#m Esus4-3 A



Your prayers up-hold your peo - ple; you lead your church each day.
 Your reign is ne - ver - end - ing, you rule in ev - ery place.
 But your as - cen - sion means, Lord, you're pre - sent with us here.
 But your as - cen - sion means, Lord, all life be - longs to you.
 On earth as now in heav - en, we'll ce - le - brate your reign.

Words: Carolyn Winfrey Gillette Music: Mainz Song Book, 1833



Ascension - von Kulmbach

In Ghana, 25-year-old Dominic Anane was born with a congenital hearing disability. Like many in Ghana who have disabilities, Dominic was discriminated against. His family and community denied him formal education as a result of negative cultural attitudes associated with his disability.



One day, Dominic was identified during a survey by a community-based rehabilitation staff member and enrolled in a program where he was provided with a sewing machine and vocational training in tailoring and dressmaking. **Today, Dominic has established his own business and makes dresses for customers in his community.** Dominic expressed his gratitude: "I feel privileged to have benefitted from the community-based rehabilitation program, which has truly made my life meaningful." This livelihood program is supported by the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 29 We pray for people with disabilities in Ghana, who are rising above discrimination and starting businesses with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Monday, May 30 We pray for the members and work of the Committee on History.

Tuesday, May 31 We pray for the ministry of Family Church of Heritage Green as they continue to reach out to families in Stoney Creek, Ontario.

Wednesday, June 1 We pray for the congregations that make up the Central Alberta Shared Ministry. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence as they find new ways to share the gospel of Christ.

Thursday, June 2 We pray for the people who gather and serve at the Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry in Saskatchewan, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

Friday, June 3 We give thanks and pray for Women's Missionary Society President, Cathy Reid.

Saturday, June 4 With **World Environment Day** tomorrow (June 5), we give thanks for the creation that you, Creator, called "very good," and we pray for the flourishing of all creation.