



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *Look at the lilies*

May 22, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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)



P Rombeek

### *Contacts*

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<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

**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).

**CAB:** Camp d'action biblique is welcoming campers this summer. For more information visit their website [cabqc.ca](http://cabqc.ca)

**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 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022 at 7pm

**Yellow Door Choir:** June 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

**Easter Appeal Donations:** We are pleased to share that we raised over \$1895 (some donations are still coming in) to help with the painting of Kensington Hospitality Hall.



## *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>2</sup>

God above us -  
trees, birds and sunshine,  
stars and moonlight-  
**All God above us.**

God beneath us -  
earth, rocks and rivers,  
roots and caverns -  
**God beneath us.**

God around us -  
seas, winds and cities,  
animals and people -  
**God around us.**

God within us -  
hope, tears and laughter,  
love and wonder -  
**God within us.**

God above us,  
God beneath us,  
God around us,  
God within us,

2 from *Iona Abbey Worship Book*

ev. Peter Rombeek  
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

**We celebrate that  
you made us,  
you love us  
and you call us to work and rest with you.**

♪ Hymn: All creatures of our God and King.....pg 10 (433)  
[youtu.be/WtT3SRnnGOI?t=50](https://youtu.be/WtT3SRnnGOI?t=50)



Controluce - Gianluca Benini



Prayer of Adoration

In the live service we will be having a prayer that includes  
photos of creation. You can experience that through YouTube  
[www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w)

Here is a prayer from the Iona Community you can use:



Thank you, God,  
thanks for beauty:  
the twinkle in an older person's eye,  
a child's shout of laughter;  
thanks for greening trees and frozen waterfalls,  
stunning buildings and flowerbeds in summer.  
All Thanks for beauty.

Thank you, God,  
thanks for creativity:  
the skills of a tapestry weaver,  
the imagination of a web designer;  
thanks for bakers and dancers and crossword compilers  
for spiders' webs and city murals.  
Thanks for creativity.

Thank you, God,  
thanks for abundance:  
for seeds and raindrops,  
for grains of sand and infinite galaxies;  
thanks for seagulls, plankton and shoals of mackerel,  
for wriggling worms and golden dandelions.

Thanks for abundance.  
Thanks for your world, God,  
and for our part in it.  
Thanks that you are a maker,  
and that you made us makers too.

Help us to love creation as you love it,  
to take risks to value it as Jesus did,

and draw us into the wildness and wonder  
of your Holy Spirit  
today and every day.  
Amen.



Mermaid surrounded by trash



### Prayer of Confession<sup>2</sup>

In the light of your world  
and the memory of your call to care for creation,  
we come to say sorry, God.

We're sorry for the times we've messed up,  
sorry for bad decisions we've made,  
sorry for people we've hurt,  
sorry for damaging your world.

In the silence, we seek your forgiveness for ourselves  
and healing for the world.

(moment of quiet)

Listen to what God says to us:

'I made the heavens and the earth.

I call you to be good servants and responsible stewards.

Come and work with me.

I will always be with you.'

In Jesus name

Amen.

✧ Assurance of Pardon (Jeremiah 33:8)

Hear the good news through Jeremiah,

I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me,  
and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin  
and rebellion against me.

Thanks be to God.

**Amen.**

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

**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,**

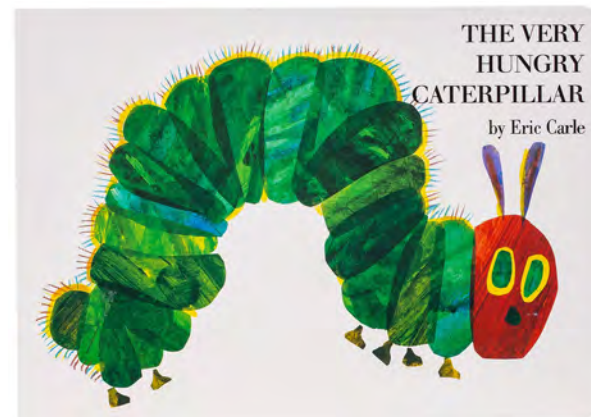
**and the glory are yours Amen.**



## *Listening to God*

✧ Children's story

Elizabeth shared  
the story of the  
Hungry Caterpillar  
through a puppet  
show, and linked it  
with the hymn *This  
is my Father's world*.  
You can watch a  
version of the story  
here:



[www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75NQK-Sm1YY)

and the hymn: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3ZVL0LMRMw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N3ZVL0LMRMw)

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you for the wonder of your creations.*

*It is amazing, and so are you.*

*Amen.*

♪ Hymn: Morning has broken.....pg 11 (814)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0TlnLOJuUM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0TlnLOJuUM)

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,

As your Spirit flows through all things, breathing life into  
creation,

May your Spirit now breath into our hearts and minds  
that we can grow from your word.

Amen.

## ✧ Intro to the readings

- The passages will likely all be familiar, so the challenge is to pay attention for what the Spirit might want you to notice this time.
- Our Matthew passage comes from the middle of the Sermon on the Mount. It's in a section on seeking and trusting God.
- The passage from the prophets talks about the coming Messiah, and offers a vision of what is included when that will happen.
- In case you think everything is about humans, passages like today's psalm may open your eyes.



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.

[Matthew 6: 25-34](#)

[Isaiah 11: 1-10](#)

[Psalm 148](#)



Antoinette

<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

## ✧ Sermon: Consider the lilies

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

In our passage from Matthew, Jesus tells us to look at the birds of the air and consider the lilies of the field. Usually with this passage you get a sermon about trusting God, but today let's consider just these simple instructions.

Look at the birds of the air;  
consider the lilies of the field

The other day Zander and I were walking home from school and we considered the flowers of the ...flower gardens. The ones along the sidewalk. We stopped. We looked at the colours and shapes and patterns. We smelled them. We even felt some.

Have you done that recently? For us, we were blessed with a sense of wonder. Perhaps I had an advantage of a young child who stops frequently to look and touch and wonder about things. It reminds me to do that as well - because it's important. The reason Jesus invites us to consider nature around us is that it tells us about the nature of God.

Job also points this out in a passage that I've always walked past too quickly, never stopping to consider it. Job has experienced his misfortunes and his friends are providing unhelpful advice. Part of Job's reply is that one way to learn about God is to,

*"ask the animals, and they will teach you;  
the birds of the air, and they will tell you;  
ask the plants of the earth, and they will teach you;  
and the fish of the sea will declare to you."*<sup>4</sup>

So, we're going to take a little time to do that this morning.

<sup>4</sup> [Job 12: 7-8](#)





Controluce - Gianluca Benini

I think the first thing is that nature is amazing. The animals, birds, plants, and fish... even rocks are amazing. You can spend time with any of them and be amazed by so much.

One of the FaithTalk questions is to find a plant and spend four minutes considering it. It doesn't need to be a lily. There's the stem, and the pattern of the leaves. Perhaps it has a flower. What's that like? Is it beautiful, or just amazing? There's also the wonder of how it works - taking water and nutrients from the soil and spreading it around the plant. If you put a section under a microscope you'd find all the cells nice and orderly. It uses sunlight to make food!

How amazing is that?

How amazing is the one who created this?

and then a caterpillar or butterfly may come along, or a bumble bee (how do they even fly?). Creations that are more and more complex.

They all show the glory of God.

The word 'all' also teaches us about God. Lilies are nice flowers, but they aren't the only ones we have. God could have just created one plant that serves all the purposes needed, but didn't. Biologists tell us that flowers are about attracting insects. They could all be the same, but they aren't. There's even variety within a species. Red tulips are nice, but the diversity is even more beautiful. Diversity is something that God values.

Which isn't always easy. It can be hard for us to appreciate diversity when it's somebody who has a different opinion that we do. But diversity can also bring wonder into our world. This week I've received some ideas from people about the entrance to the church - and they are different from anything I thought of. This is wonderful. Seeing things we haven't thought of is also a way that nature teaches us about God. Our one view of God is not enough. God is so much more - surprising, amazing, and difficult.

Not to mention that God can be surprising, and different than we expect. This can also be difficult.

One aspect of nature that can be hard is the killing. Death is hard, whether it's a flower or a lion taking down a calf. What does this interdependence in death teach us about God?

I came across some interesting books this week. One is called *Creation and the Cross* by Elizabeth Johnson. She points out that focusing on the cross as atonement or payment for our sins used to be just one of several ways of thinking about Jesus' death. Another is that this is a historical moment revealing God's solidarity with people and nature in the pain of the world as it is.

And the resurrection shows that this is not the end. We tend

to forget that in our attachment to this stage of life.

I also remember visions like the one given to Isaiah.

*“The wolf shall live with the lamb,  
the leopard shall lie down with the kid,  
the calf and the lion and the fatling together,  
and a little child shall lead them.”*

The world is working its way towards a way of living where nothing is hurt.

Mostly I remember that God isn't a killer. Many people have killed in the name of God, but the Bible is full of God inviting people to choose life. God has always been about love and mercy. It's the people that kill.

An aspect of this does bring me back to wonder. Another book I discovered, also by Elizabeth Johnson, is called *Ask the animals* (after the passage from Job). In it she looks at Darwin's *Origin of a Species* and *The Nicene Creed*. One of the things she notes is Darwin's invitation for his readers to remember a spot on a river bank, or somewhere else. To consider all the interdependence that goes on between the various plants and animals that live in that small area.

If we go back to considering the lilies of the field, they need insects to come along and help spread the pollen around. This helps the plants reproduce and have some genetic diversity. At the same time the insect gets nectar, which they can use for food. They depend on each other.

Does this mean that God is dependant on others? I don't think so, but I also notice that we can't describe God without resorting to a community: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We don't believe in three gods, but we still use these three aspects to try and describe God.

The interdependence in nature is also a reminder that we are dependant on others - other people, other parts of nature, and on God. An added part that you can think of when you see a bumble bee on a flower is that while God isn't dependant on us, we are invited to help in creation.

This could be a segue into a sermon on respecting the environment. It is critical that we get over the translation in the first chapter of the Bible of 'dominion' over creation and move to 'stewardship', but I won't preach on that today.

Instead, remember the psalm. Remember how creation praises God. Look for that praise and what creation teaches us about God. See things that are delightful, like birds of the air and lilies of the field. (Remember all the cardinals singing flirtatiously last month?) Appreciate the diversity in creation; the diversity God created; the diversity that shows us different aspects of our Creator. Laugh when something is funny, like the diversity in a platypus (fur, beaver tail, mammal laying eggs... and a duck bill??) Notice the wisdom in nature as different parts of the ecosystem live in balance with each other... unless something invades from the outside.

Oh, and tell somebody about it.



Rombeek

You've heard me talk about the magnolia tree just down the street. One reason I like it is because it's glorious when in bloom. The other is that some years ago I was standing there in amazement when somebody stopped beside me. I invited him into noticing as well. We shared quiet amazement. He is our postman, and now we have a common connection and a relationship that is growing. God opened a door through my sharing of God's glory in nature.

That's a lot to remember.

Perhaps simply remember to take some time to consider a part of nature, and share the praise of our Creator.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*



## *Responding to God*

🎵 Hymn: God of the Sparrow.....pg 11 (307)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDjs7CFpoGo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iDjs7CFpoGo)

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

Etching: Share a time when nature took your breath away.

Wonder: Find a plant, or animal, or use your hand. Spend four minutes examining it. Consider the details.  
Praise God.

Values: Explain why you value the environment?

Actions: Share some things you do to help the environment.  
Come up with something you could add this week

(ex. reduce food from far away, write a letter to the government or a corporation, ...)

Prayer: ...praise God for nature.

## ✧ Spirit Sightings

One way of seeing the Spirit at work through nature is how nature speaks to so many people across so many differences.

## ✧ 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.



Alfonso





## Prayers of the people

Thank you God  
for all things bright and beautiful,  
all creatures great and small

Thank you

for the patterns of a spider web  
and the imagination of a web designer  
for the programming you've done with creation  
that shows such amazing diversity. . .

Jesus, help us celebrate diversity,  
and not to be afraid of our differences.

May your Spirit help us to see you in others,  
and help us break down the walls of fear in our society. . .

As we look at the wonder of creation,  
we see the natural wisdom in ecosystems.

Help us to respect this balance,  
so that we will not bring any more of your creations to  
extinction, silencing their praise forever. . .

This will be hard,  
but you are no stranger to hard.

We saw this in your life as Jesus,  
and we praise you for the wonder that you came  
and lived as one of us  
showing that the world is broken,  
and that you still love us. . .

Help us to remember this,  
and that your salvation includes all of creation. . .

As you know, we still live in a world with sickness and death.  
Merciful Jesus,

we ask for your healing,  
of relationships...  
of bodies...  
of minds...  
and of souls...

so that all may join with the whole creation  
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

*In the name of God: Creator, Son & Holy Spirit - three in one  
Amen.*

♪ Hymn: All things bright and beautiful.....pg 12 (435)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANUS8EGrLKQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ANUS8EGrLKQ)



## Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

The following blessing is adapted from Scotland - where rubber  
boots are called wellies.

May the heavens bless you.

May the sun shine on you.

May the rain dance on your wellies.

May the stars make you wonder and smile.

May the earth bless you,  
and may you bless the earth  
in planting and protest,  
and sharing food.

May creation reveal God to you,  
and you help you reveal God to others.

and

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

*Amen.*



## All creatures of our God and King

Unison Eb (D) Cm Fm7 Bbsus4 - 3 Eb/G Ab

1. All crea-tures of our God and King lift  
 2. Wild rush-ing wind, un-bound-ed, strong, high  
 3. Deep flow-ing wa-ter, pure and clear, make  
 4. Dear moth-er earth, who day by day brings  
 5. Let eve-ry-one of ten-der heart, for  
 6. Let all things their Cre-a-tor bless, and

up your voice and with us sing:  
 clouds that sail in heaven a-long:  
 mu-sic for your God to hear: sing prais-es, hal-le-  
 forth your bless-ings on our way:  
 giv-ing oth-ers, take their part:  
 wor-ship God in hum-ble-ness:

Eb/G Fm6 Eb /D Cm Fm7 Bbsus4- 3 /Ab Eb/G Absus2-1 Eb Cm Bb/D

Words: based on Francis of Assisi's "Canticle of the Sun" (1182-1226), translation, William H. Draper (1855-1933), alt. Music: Auserlesene Katholische Geistliche Kirchengesänge, Cologne 1623; harmony, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958); descant, Christopher Gower (1939-)

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada 1996 Music: harmony, copyright © Oxford University Press; descant, copyright © Oxford University Press

Unison Eb/G Eb /D Cm7 Bb7/D Eb Ab/C Bbsus4 - 3 /Ab

O broth-er sun with gold-en beam,  
 New ris-ing dawn in praise re-joice,  
 Fierce fire, so mas-ter-ful and bright,  
 lu-jah! All flowers and fruit that in you grow,  
 All who long pain and sor-row bear,  
 Praise, praise the Fa-ther, praise the Son,

Harmony Eb/G Bb7/F Eb Ab/C Eb/Bb Ab Eb/G Eb Ab/C Ab6 Bb/Ab Eb/G Fm7 Eb/G

O sis-ter moon with sil-ver gleam,  
 kind lights of eve-ning, find a voice:  
 pierce now the dark with heat and light: sing prais-es, sing  
 let them God's glo-ry al-so show:  
 give God your bur-dens and your care:  
 and praise the Spir-it, Three-in-One:

Unison Ab6 Bb7 Cm Bb/D Eb6 F Bb Cm7 Eb6 Fm Bb7/D C7 Fm Eb/G Ab6 Bb 7 Eb

prais-es, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah, hal-le-lu-jah!

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## Morning has broken

Unison C /B Am /G Dm/F G C6 /D Em Am

1. Morn-ing has bro - ken like the first morn - ing; black-bird has  
 2. Sweet the rain's new - fall sun-lit from heav - en, like the first  
 3. Mine is the sun - light; mine is the morn - ing; born of the

C/E F 6 G6 Am Dm7 G Em Am Dm Em

spo - ken like the first bird; praise for the sing - ing, praise for the  
 dew - fall on the first grass; praise for the sweet - ness, praise for the  
 one light E-den saw play; praise with e - la - tion; praise eve-ry

Am Dm/F Em/G C/E Dm7 G 7 C(sus4-2 - 3)

morn - ing, praise for them spring - ing fresh from the Word.  
 morn - ing, sprung in com-plete - ness where his feet pass.  
 morn - ing God's re - cre - a - tion of the new day!

Words: Eleanor Farjeon (1881–1965), Enlarged Songs of Praise 1931 Music: Gaelic melody;  
 arrangement, John Wilson (1905–1992) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © Michael Joseph. Used by permission of David Higham Associates Ltd. Music: arrangement, copyright © 1983 by Hope Publishing Co.

## God of the sparrow, God of the whale

Unison C G7 Em Am Dm 7

1. God of the spar - row God of the whale  
 2. God of the earth-quake God of the storm  
 3. God of the rain - bow God of the cross  
 4. God of the hun - gry God of the sick  
 5. God of the neigh - bour God of the foe  
 6. God of the ag - es God near at hand

G C/E Fmaj7 6 E7 Am /C Em

God of the swirl - ing stars How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the trum - pet blast How does the crea-ture cry  
 God of the emp - ty grave How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prod - i - gal How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the prun - ing hook How does the crea-ture say  
 God of the lov - ing heart How do your chil-dren say

Fmaj7-6 Em7 Am Dm 7 1.-5. Gsus G 7 6. C

Awe How does the crea-ture say Praise  
 Woe How does the crea-ture cry Save  
 Grace How does the crea-ture say Thanks  
 Care How does the crea-ture say Life  
 Love How does the crea-ture say Peace  
 Joy How do your chil-dren say Home

Words: Jaroslav J. Vajda (1919–) Music: Carl F. Schalk (1929–) CCLI #4440603

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## All things bright and beautiful

ROYAL OAK 7 6 7 6 with refrain

Refrain G G/F# C/E D6 C6 Am G/B G Am D7 G

All things bright and beau - ti - ful, all crea - tures great and small,

G/F# C/E D6 C6 Am G/B G Am D7 G

all things wise and won - der - ful, in love God made them all.

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

1. Each lit - tle flower that o - pens, each lit - tle bird that sings,  
 2. The cold wind in the win - ter, the pleas - ant sum - mer sun,  
 3. The rock - y moun - tain splen - dour, the haunt - ing cur - lew's call,  
 4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

D G B7 Em C6 (E/B) Am D D/C G/B C D 7 G D.C.

God made their glow - ing col - ours; God made their ti - ny wings.  
 the ripe fruits in the gar - den, God made them, eve - ry one.  
 the great lakes and the prai - ries, the for - ests in the fall,  
 how great is God al - might - y who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818–1895), alt Music: English folk melody; adapted, Martin Shaw (1875–1958); harmony, The Hymnbook 1953

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © John Ribble, 1955; renewed 1983. All rights reserved. Used by permission of The Westminster / John Knox Press

**Living Waters is a mission of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough that reaches out to marginalized people in downtown Peterborough, Ontario.**

The Rev. Jonathan Baird regularly visits people living on the streets and invites them to the two drop-in programs that Living Waters Mission runs in partnership with the Bridge Youth Centre. The programs offer meals, support, counselling and Christian fellowship. One woman, who struggles with mental health and addiction, expressed her appreciation: "I come here because it is the only place where I feel loved."



## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, May 22 (Healing & Reconciliation Sunday)** We pray for healing for Indigenous families and communities, both within and outside the church, who are struggling with intergenerational trauma from Residential Schools and other forms of colonial violence. Guide our church and congregations in ways that uphold Indigenous rights and reject anti-Indigenous racism.

**Monday, May 23** We pray for Living Waters Mission, an inner-city mission of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough in Ontario, which brings hope and comfort to people struggling with addiction and mental health.

**Tuesday, May 24** We pray for all those who form and keep our laws. Give them gentleness, wisdom, prudence, restraint and a spirit of courage and equity.

**Wednesday, May 25** We pray for commissioners, young adult and student representatives, and committee conveners as they prepare for the 2022 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

**Thursday, May 26 (Ascension Day)** We give thanks to God for the life and ministry of Christ and the gifts we have all been given to continue it in the world God loves.

**Friday, May 27** We give thanks and pray for faithful women leaders, like Shimy Mathew, Secretary of the Nurses League of the Christian Medical Association of India, who is currently facing many challenges.

**Saturday, May 28** We pray for the people who gather and serve at Winnipeg Inner City Missions in Manitoba, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.