



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Now what... Love

May 8, 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)



Meu Coracao - Amanda Vivan

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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

Drop Box: As The Depot has learned new ways of operating during COVID, we are now accepting food donations to help the St. Monica's Food Pantry. We are also accepting items to help the young parents program at Head & Hands (ex. clothing, diapers, toys).

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 9

7 pm viewing of video over Zoom

8 pm discussion

Ask Rev Peter for the Zoom address.

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

A Conversation about Inclusion: May 14, 2:30-3:30 pm
 with national office staff, Carragh Erdhardt at St. Columba (11 Rodney Ave, Pointe-Claire). She'll answer questions about gender, sexuality, the church's position(s), and responding to the stories that were shared in the Rainbow Communion's final report.

CAB: Camp d'action biblique is welcoming campers this summer.
 For more information visit their website cabqc.ca

Montreal Children's Theatre - Shrek Jr: May 14-15. 2-4 pm
 A musical version of the original movie.
www.montrealchildrenstheatre.ca/events-1



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship (based on Psalm 89: 1-4)

We will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;

with our mouths

we will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.

We declare that your steadfast love is established forever;

your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

Praise the Lord.

♪ Hymn: Now thank we all our God.....pg 11 (457)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk (choir of 5000+)



Miriam's Song - Laura James



Prayer of approach

Gracious and loving God,

In the Easter Season we remember that death could not stop you from bringing us the love of God.

As we retell the stories,

we try to remember what it was like for the disciples to be faced with the costs of discipleship,

and the confusion and wonder of your resurrection.

Because you are confusion, and wonderful, and loving, and so much more.

As we reflect on the depth of Your love for us,

we are conscious that we don't love you as you love us.

So often our understanding of glory

is linked with prestige and power and position.

You understanding of glory, shown in Jesus, was linked to a love that was prepared to go to the uttermost limits of love.

Forgive us when selfish pursuit of glory takes precedence over Jesus' command to love as He has loved us. . .

We also realize we don't love one another as you love us.

We confess our lack of commitment to make Jesus' self-giving love the truly identifying mark of our community of faith.

Forgive us when we only want love to be nice and pleasant. or when we put economic, racial, social or other boundaries on our love. . .

Remind us, O God,
that when our love falters,
Your love remains constant.
You have the power to make all things new.

May your Spirit renew our love for You and for one another.
so that we will glorify you in all we do
and that this becomes how the world will recognize Christians.

This we pray in Jesus' name.
Amen²

✧ Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news,
To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:
We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.
Thanks be to God.
Amen.



Love you forever
Munsch & McGraw

2 adaption of prayer by Jim Wallace. www.churchofscotland.org.uk/worship/weekly-worship/monthly/may-2022/15-may-5th-sunday-of-easter#reading4

🧎 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

- We will be brainstorming things Jesus did. I recommend getting out a piece of paper and creating your own list.

Dear Jesus,
Thank you for the depth of your love,
and all the ways that you showed it.
Amen.

🎵 Hymn: a new commandment.....pg 12 (225)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=485bt72V2o

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

God of life,
your Spirit raised Jesus from dead.
Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.
Your Spirit draws us to Christ
and drew us to this moment.

We ask that you will send your Spirit now
to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope
through the Easter gospel.

Amen.³

✧ Intro to the readings

- Leading into the gospel reading the disciples and Jesus have gathered for their last meal, Jesus has washed their feet, and Judas has just left to betray Jesus. Knowing this, how does Jesus respond?
- In the passage from Acts Peter has been called to account for his acts to the leaders in Jerusalem.
- The psalm has many good lines. Which stands out for you today?

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

[John 13](#): 31-38

[Acts 11](#): 1-18

[Psalm 86](#): 8-15



can you drink the cup
Kiefer

³ adapted from Worship Sourcebook N.3.1.1

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: Now what? ...love

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

Context is important. You know this.

Do you remember when your mother would kiss you good night? That was good. Was there a time when your mother kissing you in front of your friends was embarrassing? ...even though it was still comforting at bedtime?

The context of today is that we are living after Easter.

Christ has died.

Christ has risen.

And while this has been true every day of our lives, today is part of the Easter Season of the church year. The last few weeks we've had Bible stories from soon after the resurrection. The difficulty believing the news of the resurrection. The question of how to respond - what to do next? Today's gospel passage is set earlier - the evening before Jesus' death. It's famous for the 'new commandment' Jesus gives us about love - but the context is important.

As I said, Jesus and the disciples have gathered for a meal - all of the disciples. Jesus washed their feet, even though some protest that this is not the actions of a leader, but a servant. He is willing to be a servant to all of them. He says that this is an example for them of how to live. Then he tells them that one of them will betray him, and encourages Judas to go.

Jesus also knows what will be coming. That Judas will not be the only one. Peter will deny him. The disciples will be afraid and unsure with his death. This is his last chance to tell them what they need to know before he dies.

Does he warn them of betrayals and tell them how to root out the snakes in their midst? Does he tell them how to be morally pure? give them a set of rules like the Ten Commandments to tell when somebody is right and wrong? Does he tell them the secret knowledge they need to have, or how to be theologically correct? Does he give them a statement of faith saying what a true Christian does and doesn't believe?

No.

He tells them to, *"love one another. Just as I have loved you."*

That sounds easy, but what's it mean?

Often love is portrayed as nice. It's nice to be loved, and showing love is being nice. This isn't wrong, but it's not a simple 'nice'; nice as in pleasant. A better way to think of it is that *"Love is... kind"* as Paul reminded the church in Corinth. Being kind can mean having coffee ready for someone when they wake up. It can also mean telling that person when they are being grumpy and need to drink their coffee before talking again. Loving someone means telling someone when they've done you appreciate, and when they haven't. This isn't nice in the usual sense of the world, but it is kind. It can help somebody either improve what they are doing, or discover that God is calling them to do something else. It can help everything work better - which is kind for everyone - which is loving. You can see this in the way Jesus will correct people's perceptions and actions - such as the dramatic cleansing of the Temple.

Paul also reminds us that *"love is patient."* You can see this in the way Jesus repeatedly tries to help the disciples to understand

what is going on, and what will happen. At this point in the gospel they have been travelling with him for three years... and they still don't seem to get it. Like hard conversations, being patient can also be hard. It's not that Jesus was always calm. Again, there's the flipping over the tables incident. But that was righteous anger about separating people from God. That's different from somebody failing to follow through on your love. In other instances you'll find him teaching, telling and showing. Then giving them time to let it sink in, and sometimes opportunities to practice. Then he has to go over it again. He doesn't trad this group of disciples in for a new lot, but shows them love - as seen in his patience.



The part about somebody, like the disciples, repeatedly falling to understand the point would be frustrating. This is another hard part of love. People are always failing. When you fall in love you might put on some rose coloured glasses, but love does not make anyone perfect. The disciples love Jesus, yet they still betray him. Judas turns him over to the priests. We don't know why, but

there's nothing to suggest he hated Jesus or wanted Jesus dead. Then there's Peter, who before the light comes will repeatedly deny knowing Jesus. Was Peter afraid of the consequences of loving Jesus? of the commitment? In both cases Jesus ate dinner with them that night. He washed both of their feet. He knew what would happen - and he loved them anyway.



The Last Supper - Ovide Bighetty

There are other huge examples of the church letting Jesus down. I had a course on the reformation in Seminary - and Christians killed and tortured each other because they were more concerned with the right belief than with love. Then there's the

crusades, and antisemitism, and the participation in the residential schools. Many of the people involved in these events thought there were good reasons, but the pain was not a sign of healing and love. The scars are still present.

Those are examples that involve lots of people. I'm sure you've experienced this in your own life - personal examples. People you love who have let you down, ...failed you, ...even betrayed your faith in them. . .

This isn't new.

This is part of loving one another.

And, when you are honest, you have also let people down, failed them, betrayed their faith in you.

What do we do when faced with a betrayal, or somebody not understanding, or the need for a difficult conversation?

Jesus says, *"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you"*

Back in the book of Leviticus a whole series of instructions are given to the Israelites. This includes *"you shall love your neighbour as yourself... you shall love the alien as yourself."*⁵ Loving one another is not a new concept - it's not even a new commandment. Why does our passage say it is? One explanation is that Jesus is a new covenant between God and the people, and love is foundational to the covenant. Another aspect is that Jesus doesn't say to *'love one another as you love yourself'*, but to *"love one another as I love you"*.

But what's it mean?

How does Jesus love?

⁵ Leviticus 19:18, 24 bible.oremus.org/?passage=leviticus+19

We've already covered some of this. Jesus is patient; Jesus is kind. Jesus invites and serves everyone, even people who will not always act loving. Through teaching and stories Jesus gives people glimpses of what it is to be living with God. He spends time with those others would not. Jesus also heals people - each in their own way, and allowing them to rejoin the community - a powerful act of love.

These are ways we can be loving as well:

- be kind & patient,
- find & share stories that reveal God,
- find people who need someone - and be their friend,
- bring healing. This doesn't require being a doctor, but does require reaching out in love.

And who is included? Jesus says, "*love one another*" to the disciples. That could be read to just include the people in the room, or perhaps the Jews who believe in Christ, such as the original listeners of the gospel. However, I think it's more.

One reason is the famous passage early in John. "*For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*"

God so loved the world.

That is more than the disciples. It's more than the early Jewish followers of Christ - and we heard about some of that tension in the passage from Acts.

God so loved the world
Jesus says, "*Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another.*"
Would that not be great and wondrous? but how to love like Jesus.

How can we do that?

The psalm says, "*Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth.*" Find stories of God's love in the Bible, and out of it. Pray for help and courage - because loving requires sacrifice. I pray you won't face anything like a crucifixion, but you will have to give up parts of your desires as they become God's desires. Opening your heart to love will also open it to pain as well as joy. Still, have the courage to practice love.

I say practice, because like all our other skills and actions, it needs it. There will be times when you don't do so well, and there will be times when wonders happen - when God's healing and grace and love find a channel through you.



One final thought - a last note on the context.

Jesus isn't talking just to Peter, or any one person. Jesus is talking to the collected group. The commandment that we love as Jesus does is not an individual activity; it's a team. Don't try and do it alone. Share your struggles and joys with God, and also with other people. Tell them, and invite them to share in your experiences - share love.

...and they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love. Yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

To God be all the glory Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: We are one in the Spirit.....pg 13 (471)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=bL5bT_Ezeq8

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6Cl4qefRAi4 (Band)

💡 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: How did your mother show love?

Memories: How does it feel to be loved?

How does it feel to love?

Values: How do we take it seriously that love is at the centre of our faith?

Wonder: Why is it so hard to love?

(Who is it hard to love?)

Actions: Together, come up with a way to love more this week

Prayer: for the courage and opportunity to love as Jesus loves you.

✦ Spirit Sightings

This week Alex & others graduated from Presbyterian College.

While the Holy Spirit is at work guiding everybody's learning, we are more aware of her here with the community reflection and prayer that supports them in their studies and practice.



We continue to pray for them as their ministries develop. You

can watch the service here: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le3FanMfsv8

You may have heard on the news that New Hope's bus had its catalytic converter stolen for the second time last week. While it is sad that somebody intentionally targeted a bus run by a charity, we celebrate that a company that makes this part donated one, a private school offered their bus while it gets fixed, and an organization offered money to pay for the installation and a more secure installation cage. We celebrate the way the Spirit works in the community to help us help each other.

✦ 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.

🧎 Prayers of the people

Some things I am praying about today include

- Pansy's daughter and her fight with cancer
- Les Hay and his family as they grieve the death of his wife
- the people hurt in the explosion in Cuba
- places where people are suppressing others instead of supporting them in love - here in Québec and elsewhere
- wars in the Ukraine, Ethiopia, Syria, and the chaos in Haiti

There is none like you among the gods, O Lord,
for your wondrous love endures forever.
Reaching from this world to the next,
and back again.
Reaching into the shadow of our hearts
bringing light to the dark
so that your love may grow in the depths of our souls.
and reaching out to your friends,
and those who have turned away
so that all may know your love.

Help us to be channels of your love.
Give us the wisdom to know how to share your love,
in ways that bring healing and not hurt.
Give us the courage to stand by you,
even when it requires sacrificing what we feel is important.
whether a possession, or our pride.
May your love infect us,
and spread like a pandemic around the world.
Bringing peace in homes, and in nations.
We pray for our leaders here:
Mayor Plante, Premier Legault, Prime Minister Trudeau
and our representatives.
We pray for the corporate leaders,
that they may know and lead with your love.
We pray for your leaders here at Kensington.

We thank you for your patient love,
help us to be patient with others,
and with ourselves
We thank you for your honest love,
help us to show honest love with each other.

We thank you for your forgiving love,
help us to forgive.

Jesus, we thank you that your love brings healing into our lives.
We pray for those who need healing.
- in their relationships
- in their bodies
- in their minds
- in their souls.

May your Spirit continue to bring us closer to you,
and to each other
that we may be so filled with your love
that all our actions reflect you
and bring you glory.

In the name of Jesus, the Christ.
Amen.



♪ Hymn: In loving partnership.....pg 14 (759)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=AvlBfKxnnb0 (this tune)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6Dor2_G-2M (original tune)

✦ 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.



Presbyterians Sharing is transforming lives in Central America and Mexico.

Based in Guatemala, General Coordinator Judith Castañeda and the staff of the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America (CEDEPCA) are empowering women and girls through their ministry of accompaniment. Women learn how to take on leadership roles in churches and their communities through faith-based activities about their personal and legal rights, and the importance of formal education. After completing CEDEPCA's Healthy Relationships course, one woman said, "I feel like a different woman. Before, I used to live locked in my home with a domestic routine, but now I have new friends, we do creative things."



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 8 (Christian Family Sunday) We pray for the health and well-being of families and that the relationships within them are marked by peace, love, trust and care.

Monday, May 9 We pray for the staff of the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Guatemala as they empower women and girls throughout Central America and Mexico.

Tuesday, May 10 We pray for the members and work of the Committee on Church Doctrine.

Wednesday, May 11 We pray for the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families at home and abroad.

Thursday, May 12 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Northern Saskatchewan, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

Friday, May 13 We pray for clerks of Session as they, with ministers and elders, provide leadership and pastoral care to congregations across Canada.

Saturday, May 14 We give thanks for the programs of the Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario, that provide a sense of belonging, care and inclusion for people struggling with homelessness and poverty.

457

Now thank we all our God

NUN DANKET 67676666

F /A Bb 6 F 7 Gm F/A C7 F C7sus4-3 F

1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voice,
 2. Oh may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God who reigns in highest heaven,

/Eb Bb/D Bb F Bb/D F/C Bb6 A Bb6 C7 F

who wondrous things has done, in whom God's world rejoices,
 with ever-joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
 the Father and the Son and Spirit now be given,

C G7/B C F /A C /E F C/E Dm7 Esus4-3 Am

who from our mother's arms has blessed us on our way
 and keep us all with grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom heaven and earth adore,

D/F# Gm D7 Gm F/A Bb6 Dm F/C C 7 F

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now and shall be ever-more.

Words: German, Martin Rinckart (1586–1649); translation, Catherine Winkworth (1829–1878), alt
 Music: Johann Crüger (1598–1662) Words: public domain Music: public domain

A new commandment

A NEW COMMANDMENT Irregular

D Bm Em7 A /G

"A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you
"Je vous com - man - de, mes frè - res, mes soeurs: Ai - mez -

D/F# F#m Bm G 6 A /G D/F# F#m

love one an - o - ther as I have loved you, that you love one an -
vous les uns les au - tres comme moi, j'ai ai - mé. Ai - mez vous les uns les

Bm 7 Em A D G (maj7) A Em (6)

o - ther as I have loved you. By this shall all know
les autres comme moi, j'ai ai - mé. Et tous ver - ront que

Words: John 13:34,35; French translation, Andrew Donaldson (1951-) Music: Anonymous;
arrangement, Lawrence Bartlett (1933-) CCLI #4440603

Words: French translation, copyright © Andrew Donaldson, 1996 Music: arrangement, copyright © from the Australian Hymn Book, 1977

D/F# F#m7 Bm 7 G A/G D/F# Gmaj7

you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an -
vous êtes mes dis - ci - ples si vous ai - mez les uns les

A D G (maj7) A Em (6) D/F# F#m7

o - ther; by this shall all know you are my dis -
au - tres, et tous ver - ront que vous êtes mes dis -

Bm G6 A/G D Gmaj7 A D

ci - ples: if you have love one for an - o - ther."
ci - ples si vous ai - mez les uns les au - tres."

We are one in the Spirit

WE ARE ONE IN THE SPIRIT Irregular with refrain

Fm Cm Fm

1. We are one in the Spir - it, we are
2. We will walk with each oth - er, we will
3. We will work with each oth - er, we will
4. All praise to the Fath - er, from

Cm Fm Bbm

one walk hand in hand, we are one in the
work side by side, we will walk with each
whom all things come, and all praise to Christ

Fm Cm Fm

Spir - it, we are one in the Lord, and we
oth - er, we will walk hand in hand, and to -
oth - er, we will work side by side, and we'll
Je - sus, who is God's on - ly Son, and all

Words: Peter Scholtes (1938-) Music: Peter Scholtes (1938-); harmony, Richard D. Wetzel (1935-)

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Bbm Cm Fm Cm7

pray that all u - ni - ty will one day be re -
geth - er we'll spread the news that God is in our
guard each one's dig - ni - ty and save each one's
praise to the Spir - it, who makes us

Fm Fm7 Db Cm

stored, and they'll know we are Chris-tians by our
land, pride, one,

Fm /Eb Db Fm Fm

love, by our love, and they'll know we are

Bbm Cm Fm

Chris - tians by our love.

In loving partnership

DUKE STREET 8 8 8 8 LM

D A7/E D/F# G A7/E D A/E E7 A D A7/E D/F#

1. In lov - ing part - ner - ship we come; seek - ing, O
 2. We are the hands and feet of Christ, serv - ing by
 3. Lov - ing com - mu - ni - ty we seek; your hope and
 4. In lov - ing part - ner - ship, O God, help us your

G D/F# Em D A D A7/E D/F# D D/F#

God, your will to do. Our prayers and ac - tions
 grace each oth - er's need. We dare to risk and
 strength with - in us move. The poor and rich, the
 fu - ture to pro - claim. Jus - tice and peace be

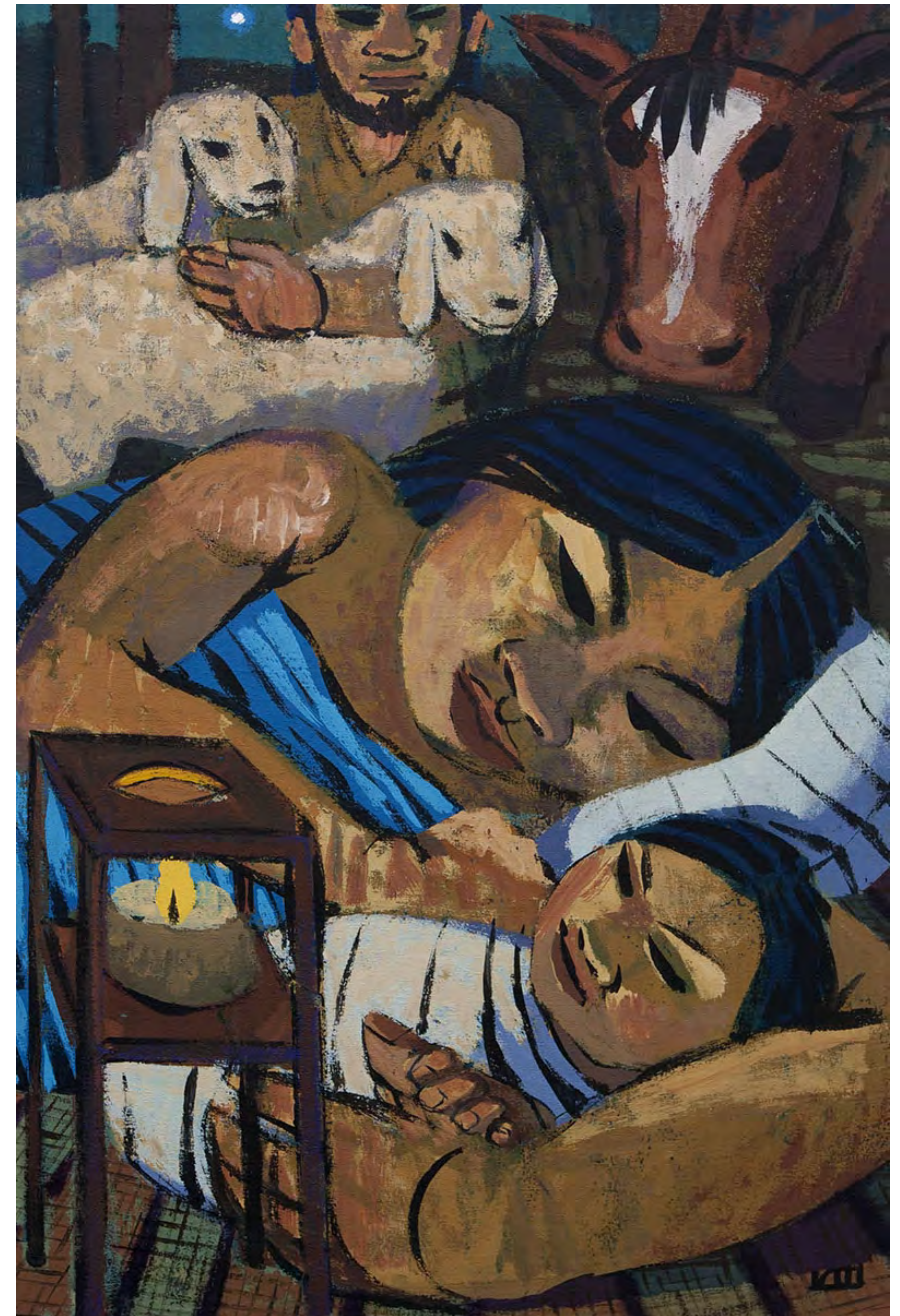
G A7/E D D/A A D/F# G A7/E D D/F# G D/A A A7 D

now re - ceive; we free - ly of - fer them to you.
 sac - ri - fice with truth - ful word and faith - ful deed.
 strong and weak are brought to - geth - er in your love.
 our de - sire, we hum - bly pray in Je - sus' name.

Words: Jim Strathdee (1941-)

Music: John Warrington Hatton (c.1710-1793)

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Pinoy Belem - Wayne Forte 2013