



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Questions and answers?

October 16, 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)



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

Calendar: Howie is selling church calendars to raise money for the WMS (Women's Missionary Society). They support a variety of good works. Please talk to him, or Peter, if you're interested. (He's sold 21 sold already!)

Refreshments: We are offering refreshments and conversation time after worship. To reduce the spread of germs, we will be serving people - which means we are looking for some people to help serve. If you can help, please speak to Rose or Carol.

Pie Baking: Sat Oct 22 @ 4 pm
for more information, contact Antoinette


Movie Night: Friday, Nov 4 @ 6 pm
Monster's Inc: A fun family movie with funny monsters who are invaded by a scary human! Free food.
for more information, contact Antoinette

Choir: would like you to join them. We practice Sunday at 9:15.

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.
Thursday, 3:30 pm at Maté Latte, 5837 Sherbrooke @ Regent
Thursday, 7 pm at 2nd Cup on Monkland

Sunday School Teachers: are needed to help our children know and celebrate God better. If you may be able to help crafts, storytelling, singing or caring, please contact Antoinette.

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).



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship²

We lift our eyes up to the hills
Where does our help come from?
**Our help comes from the LORD,
who made heaven and the earth.**

Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the source of mercy
Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love.
Let us worship the Spirit,
who brings us together.

God in Community, Holy in One,
we lift our hearts to you

🎵 Hymn: Sing praise to God.....pg 9 (327)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoyCWqCxGW4



Prayer of Approach

Holy God,
Your Spirit has gathered us to this time with you,
and we pause now to be open to your presence...
to listen to your words....
to share our lives with you...

Jesus, we thank you that you came to shine The Light on how we
live, and on how to live in your nation.

We believe you actively shaping the world, and us, for the better.

Forgive our unbelief...

We try to do right by those we meet,
and even to help those we haven't met...

Forgive us when we withdraw from helping...

We try to be persistent in living your way.

Forgive us when we fail...

Jesus. Thank you for walking with us,
and for changing the way we walk.

Amen.




Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news

"Your help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth."

"The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life.

*The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore."*³



Listening to God



Children's story

One of our Bible stories today is about Jacob. He tends to try
and trick people to get what he wants. For a long time he's been
running away from the anger this caused. Now he's going home.
He's wrestling with who he is... and on the night before meeting
his brother he wrestles with a stranger all night long. In the end it
seems he was wrestling with God.

Who do you think won?

I invite you to read the passage now: [Genesis 32: 22-31](#)

Who won?

Jacob... maybe.

I say maybe because God has blessed Jacob before, so this isn't new - although I'm sure it was reassuring for Jacob to hear it. I also notice that Jacob isn't walking the same way he used to. Now he has a limp... and he now sees the world differently. He has changed.

Dear Jesus,

*Help us to admit when we've done wrong,
and to try and make things right.*

Help us to see the world with you in it.

Amen.



Fire & Ice on Harris - Darren Cole

♪ Hymn: Unto the hills.....pg 10 (81)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=h-OPPkenXvY

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,
your kingdom is among us.

Open our eyes to see it,
our ears to hear it,
our hearts to hold it,
our hands to serve it.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.⁴

✦ Intro to the readings

- Genesis: Jacob. So very different from his twin brother. Esau went out hunting, while Jacob stayed home and schemed. After tricking his brother & father out of Esau's birthright Jacob ran - afraid for his life. After working for another schemer, Jacob married Rachel and (through cunning) built a flock. He then took his family on the run. His father in law catches up - and they make up. Now Jacob is nervously heading home towards Esau. Is this a good choice? What's waiting for him? How is Jacob feeling as he gets ready to meet his brother?
- We'll be focusing on the Gospel passage today. Leading up to this Jesus has been telling those gathered about the coming of the Kingdom of God, and that the waiting will be tough - like Noah and Lot as they stuck with their faith in God despite what life appeared like to their neighbours.

One commentator I read says he hates today's parable.

- At this time of the year we lift up our eyes to the hills and see beautiful colours and God's glory. When this psalm was written the hills along the roadside were where the bandits came from. When looking at dark possibilities, where does your help come from?



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Genesis 32](#): 22-31

[Luke 18](#): 1-8

[Psalm 121](#)



Sermon: Questions & answers?

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

What's going on in the Gospel passage?

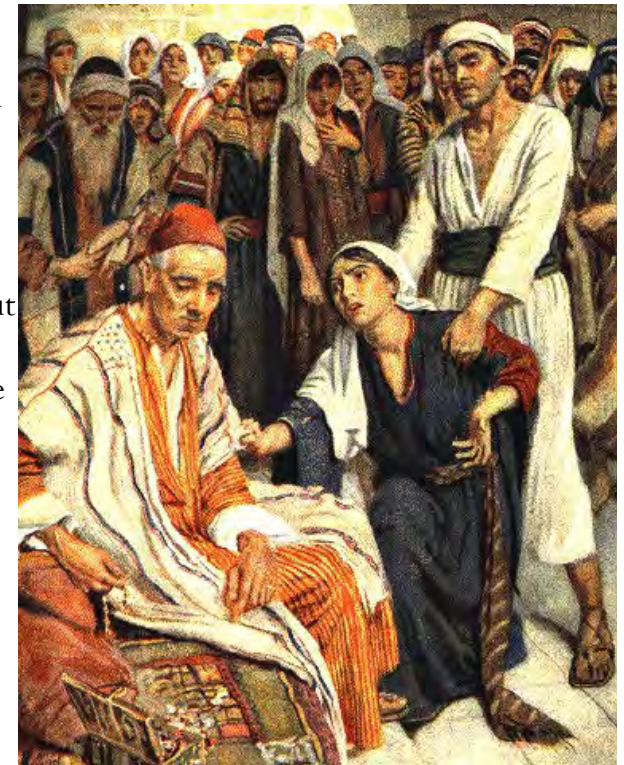
It's a parable, so that's always a good question - and likely there are different answers depending on where you're at.

In the set-up the narrator tells us this parable is about prayer. Is that what's going on? Is it just telling us how to pray? Some writers say it tells us about God. Is that it? One of the commentaries I have thinks these suggestions skip over the characters in the story: the Widow and the Judge. They suggest these characters might be teaching us about ourselves. I'm sure you noticed them, but what did you think of them?

What do you assume about the Widow? Do you imagine her poor and powerless? This is likely the situation, but maybe not. There are various Biblical examples of widows with resources and influence - but also many passages that talk about the need to look after widows. Do you assume that her cause is just? This is likely, but maybe not. We don't know anything about it. Most widows in the Bible are presented as good examples, but they can also be scheming. Do you assume she tried to sort out the conflict first? Hopefully she did, but maybe not. What if instead

of a widow the story was about a prince? or to update it... a CEO of a successful company? or a member of a street gang? They know what they want. They keep after the person who can give it until they 'wear them down' (to quote verse 5). The Greek for 'wear me down' is actually a wrestling term for 'hit me under the eye' or 'give me a black eye'. We just don't say that about widows in the Bible. Do we assume the widow is peaceful while persistent? Hopefully, but maybe not. What's going on?

And what about the Judge? Is it bad that he's not worried about other people? Isn't not being influenced by others a good thing in a judge? The part about not fearing God is seen as good in some other contemporary writings, but I think it should be negative in the Bible. Has he always been unjust? In the parable it doesn't come out until he gives in to the Widow? Is that his problem? What's going on?



widow & the judge - Harold Copping

Amy-Jill Levine suggests that one of the important aspects of this parable is for us to reflect on our assumptions. What do we bring to it? and to everyone we meet? If it's telling universal truths, how does changing the characters, but not the actions,

⁵ 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

change our interpretation? How do you feel when we think of the widow as a rich man? or a criminal?

Personally, I assume that the Widow is honest and the Judge can't be bothered with her case - which is bad.

I think Levine raises a good point. Recognizing that we have stereotypes helps us to see people for who they are. This is good. I also think, and she agrees, that it's not the only point.

What else is going on?

One common interpretation of this parable is to equate the judge with God. There is a Jewish style of debate that was used back then in which you presented an example that's bad to show how much better the good example is. In this case, the judge is obviously bad by not helping the widow right away. We all know that God is good, so how much more will God help people? (the answer is 'a lot more')

Is that what's going on?

They're good points - that God is good and answers prayer. However, the way the parable does it raises some issues.

The problem comes when we pull ourselves out of the Bible and into our life. If it's about prayer and how God gives persistent people what they want... well? is that your experience? Have you ever prayed for something? (It's okay if you have, the Bible encourages it.) It could be for a job? or a relationship? or healing? or a safe trip? or a place to live?

Did you get it?

I suspect the answer is, 'sometimes yes; sometimes no.'
How does that work with this parable?

If you don't get what you ask for, does that mean that God is a failure? Was God not able to do it?

No!

God, the creator of the universe, and you, can do anything. God is still alive and active. God chooses to care and be involved - with the ultimate revelation of this in Jesus. This is very different than the Judge.

If you don't get what you ask for, does that mean that you are a failure? Are you just not persistent enough? If you'd just asked one more time, or a hundred more times, then you would have got what you want? Are you the failure?

No!

We do fail at things, but we are not failures. We are beloved children of God. The Judge doesn't love anyone.

Which raises another issue - what if you get your request? Does God just give in to us children if we ~~whine~~ persist enough? I'm sure you've all see a child in a store whining or kicking up a fuss to get what they want. Do you think the parent should give in? What do you think of parents that do? Was it ever you?

If God were to give in just because we are persistent in our requests, then God becomes something we control. God's not our tool. It doesn't matter if you're as scheming as Jacob or as open as Mary, God cannot be controlled. The Judge - seems to be controlled by the Widow.

So, is God really like the judge?

Not at all.

and thinking this leads to problems.

What's going on?

What if it's about us?

Are we like the judge? Probably; sometimes. Are you ever inclined not to get involved in something you don't have to? Something that may cause a fuss or a headache... or a social black eye? Do we sometimes give in just because somebody is wearing us down? No matter how you interpret the judge, he's not a good role model.

What about the widow?

Can we learn from her?

The first thing we learn about her is that she lives in the city. Then we hear that she keeps going to the judge. She is persistent. This is admirable. In the previous passage Jesus talks about the coming of the Kingdom of God... and that there'll be some waiting. During that time the disciples will need to be like Noah and Lot, waiting faithfully despite the ridicule of their friends and neighbours. The disciples (and us) need to be persistent, and the widow models that.

What is she persistent in? Seeing justice done and being willing to speak up to the powerful to do it.

This teaches us about prayer in two ways - yes, prayer is one of the things the parable is about. One aspect is how the widow received her answer to her persistent prayer. Sometimes we have no ability to do anything at all about what we ask for. Often we do. Here we have a widow, who is usually powerless in Biblical times, find that she does have some power to see that her prayer for justice is answered. We all have more agency than she was likely to have. We can write to leaders. We can choose which companies to support, or not. We can safely raise our voice.

The other part is that the focus of her prayer is on justice. Other passages show us other topics, here she is praying for things to be made right. In the Widow's case, this isn't selfless. She wants justice in her life. That's okay. The prayer asking God to make things right is in line with the larger passage of the

coming Kingdom of God.

Is this what it's about?

being persistent in making the world right. Yes, ...and more

The narrator who starts by asking about prayer ends by asking, "*When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?*" What would Jesus find in the Widow?

Somebody who persists in asking and who stands up to people with power is somebody with faith. You don't keep asking somebody to do something if you don't believe they can. Without faith that God can, and will, act to make things right; it's only up to us. That's an exhausting thought, not to mention impossible. Her faith is something to be admired.



What's the parable about?

For all of us it's about waiting for the Kingdom to come, and there are different lessons depending on what you're going through right now. Perhaps you need a reminder to check your stereotypes. Perhaps a reminder that even reluctant people can 'do right' with enough pressure. Perhaps it's the three aspects of the widow: persistence, acting for justice, and faith.

To God be all the glory Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: As water to the thirsty.....pg 11 (688)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DwTrgFUSFZI

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

Memories: What was something that you prayed for - a lot?

Values: How have what you pray about changed over time?

Values: What is an issue that really bugs you?

Etching: Share a time when you recognized an answer to prayer (what you were asking for, or otherwise).

Actions: In your prayers, how do you balance your desires with other's needs? (How do you balance thanks with concerns?)

Prayer: ...persistently for God's ways of love, grace, and justice to come to everyone.

✦ Spirit Sightings

At one of the Jesus & Java gatherings Kathryn B shared a story of praying and getting what she asked for.

When she was around twelve there was a family visit to the Granby Zoo. It was exciting and fun, until her six year old cousin disappeared. Worry & panic sank into everyone. Kathryn and her sister went one way. Her aunt went another. Then Kathryn had an idea - after all, we should take our concerns to God. She stopped her sister so they could pray for her cousin to be found safe. After praying Kathryn got the idea that they should go back to the gate. As they were walking up a Zoo cart pulled up with her cousin in it.

She ended by saying that not all her prayers are answered like

that, or even answered the way she wants them to be - but Kathryn witnessed God answering prayer.

✦ 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 Living God

There is so much to be thankful for:
companions on our journey
giggling and joy
beauty in autumn leaves
and music, and math, and so
much else

We are especially thankful that you
are persistent in your desire to
help us to a better way to live.

Faithful God

As Jacob wrestled for blessing
and as Jesus urges us to pray
always and not to lose heart,
so in our turn we pray for our concerns,
echoing your love, grace and justice...



For conflicts and wars
in the Ukraine, Ethiopia, Haiti, Iran, and elsewhere...
For people that are being cheated or abused,
by leaders, governments, partners, or strangers
may there be healthy relationship & healing...
and may those in power be guided by your Spirit...
For those in need of physical or mental healing
bring health...
For Kensington and our neighbourhood,
that we can help each other...
and for other things that your Spirit
has placed in our hearts...

God, Holy and Living:
Maker of heaven and earth,
Healer of creation,
Breath and fire of Life:

As Your world turns on its way
and all its people pass from night, into day
and back into night again,
may the prayer of Your people never cease
and Jacob's struggle for blessing
and the widow's demand for justice continue,
until every voice in heaven, on earth
along with the whole of creation
sings Hallelujah!

Until that day,
we will join our voices to their persistent chorus
in the prayer of Jesus: (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.**

♪ Hymn: How firm a foundation.....pg 12 (685)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA4bTqCjLQw

✦ Benediction
*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
Amen*



327 Sing praise to God who reigns above

MIT FREUDEN ZART 8787887

D A7/E D/F# G /B D /C B Em D/F#

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a - bove, the God of
 2. The an - gel host, O King of kings, your praise for -
 3. What God's al - might - y power has made in mer - cy
 4. Then all my glad - some way a - long I sing a -
 5. All you that name Christ's ho - ly name, give God all

A /G D/F# Em7 Asus4-3 D A7/E D/F# G /B

all cre - a - tion, the God of power, the God of
 ev - er tell - ing, in earth and sky all liv - ing
 God is keep - ing; by morn - ing glow or eve - ning
 loud your prais - es, that all may hear the grate - ful
 praise and glo - ry: all who con - fess Christ's power, pro -

D /C B Em D/F# A /G D/F# Em7 Asus4-3 D Bm

love, the God of our sal - va - tion; with
 things be - neath your sha - dow dwell - ing, a -
 shade, nor slum - ber - ing nor sleep - ing. Wher -
 song my voice un - wear - ied rais - es: be -
 claim a - loud the won - drous sto - ry. Cast

C#sus4-3 F#m Bm A/C# E A /G D/F# A7/E D /C#

heal - ing balm my soul is filled, and eve - ry faith - less
 dore the wis - dom which could span, and power which formed cre -
 e'er God rules in sov - ereign might there all is just and
 joy - ful in the Lord, my heart; both soul and bo - dy
 eve - ry i - dol from its throne, for Christ is Lord and

Bm E7 A /G D7/F# G Em A /G D/F# Em7 Asus4-3 D

mur - mur stilled:
 a - tion's plan:
 all is right: to God all praise and glo - ry!
 bear your part:
 Christ a - lone:

Words: German, Johann Jakob Schütz (1640-1690), translation, Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812-1897), alt
 Music: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge 1566

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: public domain

Unto the hills around

SANDON 10 4 10 4 10 10

F Bb/F F C7 F/C C F Dm Gm/Bb C7

1. Un - to the hills a - round do I lift up my long - ing
2. He will not suf - fer that thy foot be moved: safe shalt thou
3. Je - ho - vah is him - self thy keep - er true, thy change - less
4. From eve - ry e - vil shall he keep thy soul, from eve - ry

F F Bb/F F C7 F/C C F Dm

eyes: oh whence for me shall my sal - va - tion come, from
be. No care - less slum - ber shall his eye - lids close, who
shade; Je - ho - vah thy de - fence on thy right hand him -
sin: Je - ho - vah shall pre - serve thy go - ing out, thy

Gm/Bb C7 F C (C7 F/C C7 C) F/A (C7/G F C)

whence a - rise? From God the Lord doth come my cer - tain
keep - eth thee. Be - hold, he sleep - eth not, he slum - bereth
self hath made, and thee no sun - by day shall ev - er
com - ing in. A - bove thee watch - ing, he whom we a -

F F/A Bb F/A C7/G F Bb6 F/C C7 F

aid, from God the Lord who heaven and earth hath made.
ne'er, who keep - eth Is - rael in his ho - ly care.
smite; no moon shall harm thee in the si - lent night.
dore shall keep thee hence - forth, yea, for - ev - er - more.

Words: Psalm 121; paraphrase, John, Duke of Argyll (1845–1914) Music: Charles Purday (1799–1885)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

As water to the thirsty

OASIS 7 6 7 6 6 6 4 4 6

1. As wa - ter to the thirst - y, as beau - ty to the eyes, as
 2. Like calm in place of clam - our, like peace that fol - lows pain, like
 3. As sleep that fol - lows fe - ver, as gold in - stead of grey, as

F6(maj7) F6 F6(sus2) Gm7 F#sus4 - 3

strength that fol - lows weak - ness, as truth in - stead of lies, as
 meet - ing af - ter part - ing, like sun - shine af - ter rain, like
 free - dom af - ter bond - age, as sun - rise to the day, as

G#msus4 C F#maj7 Dm Em7 A A7 Dm

song-time and spring-time and sum - mer-time to be,
 moon-light and star - light and sun - light on the sea, so
 home to the trav - eler and all we long to see,

Gm C#sus4 - 3 Am7 D#msus4 - 3 Bbmaj7 - 6 C#sus4 - 3

is my Lord, my liv - ing Lord, so is my Lord to me.

Am D#msus2 - 1 Gm C#sus2 - 1 Bb F/A Gm7 C7 F

Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-) Music: T. Brian Coleman (1920-) CCLI #4440603

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 Division of Education & Youth. All rights reserved. Used by permission of Hope Publishing Co.

How firm a foundation

ST. DENIO 11 11 11 11

G C Am D Em G/D D 7 G

1. How firm a foun - da - tion, ye saints of the Lord,
 2. "Fear not, I am with thee; oh be not dis - mayed!
 3. "When through the deep wa - ters I call thee to go,
 4. "When through fi - ery tri - als thy path - way shall lie,
 5. "The soul that on Je - sus hath leaned for re - pose

C Am D Em G/D D 7 G

is laid for your faith in God's ex - cel - lent word!
 For I am thy God, and will still give thee aid;
 the riv - ers of woe shall not thee o - ver - flow,
 my grace, all - suf - fi - cient, shall be thy sup - ply;
 I will not— I will not— de - sert to his foes;

D/F# G (/B) G Em G/B D

What more can God say than to you hath been said,
 I'll strength-en thee, help thee, and cause thee to stand
 for I will be with thee, thy trou - bles to bless,
 the flames shall not hurt thee; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - our to shake,

B Em Am D Em G/D D 7 G

to you that for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my right-eous, om - nip - o - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to thee thy deep - est dis - tress.
 thy dross to con - sume and thy gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er— no, nev - er— no, nev - er for - sake!"

Words: K in Rippon's Selection of Hymns 1787 Music: Welsh hymn

Words: public domain Music: public domain

In Pakistan, after repeated and prolonged droughts, Rano and her husband, Jeevo, were left with land that was unable to produce a harvest. As they were contending with worries about how they would feed their family, the situation turned worse when Jeevo's mother died, and they had to take on significant debt in order to pay for the funeral expenses. Jeevo went to Karachi to work, while Rano purchased food and necessities for the family on credit. Unfortunately, Jeevo's earnings were only enough to pay their debt and nothing else. Things finally improved when Rano and Jeevo's family were selected to be part of a Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) food assistance project, where they received food packages of oil, wheat, rice, sugar, tea and salt. **As a church, our Christian response to hunger is put into action through PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank.**



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 16 (Students and Colleges Sunday) We give thanks to God for our three theological colleges—The Presbyterian College (Montreal, Quebec), Knox College (Toronto, Ontario) and St. Andrew's Hall/Vancouver School of Theology (British Columbia)—and we pray for the students as they prepare for ministry.

Monday, October 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty) We pray for an end to poverty, as well as for guidance and strength for those who are working to eliminate poverty and helping meet the needs of all who are experiencing it.

Tuesday, October 18 We pray for guidance and creativity for the Women's Missionary Society Council Executive and the 2024 Planning Team as they meet at the national office of the PCC from October 17–19.

Wednesday, October 19 We pray for the members and work of the Life and Mission Agency Committee.

Thursday, October 20 We pray for the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan and for Nancy Lin, Ecumenical Relations Program Secretary, as she recovers from a medical condition.

Friday, October 21 We give thanks and pray for those working in nursing and long-term care homes and hospitals as they provide care to people, often in understaffed facilities.

Saturday, October 22 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Edmonton Urban Native Ministry in Alberta, and we give thanks for their ministry.



Hallelujah - M Moyers