



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Power of the King

November 20, 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)



Rombeek

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

Church Building will be closed on Wed, Nov. 23rd, due to city water work being done.

Maisonneuve Presbyterian Church Celebration: Nov 27, 2:30
Join the Presbytery for a joyous celebration of this ministry - including multiple choirs from around the world.
1606 Av. Letourneux (a bit below the Big O)

Advent Party: Saturday November 26th at 12pm.

Come celebrate the start of a new year with crafts, treats and more. Please let Antoinette know if you're coming.

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 Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton
Thursday, 7 pm at 2nd Cup on Monkland @ Old Orchard

Hats, scarves, mitts, socks: We are accepting donations for people in the community.

Drop Box: We are 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).

Vaccinations: Flu & Bivalent COVID Dec 6th
Here in our building. No registration required.

Christmas Presents: Are you wondering what to get friends and loved ones who don't really need something more? We're setting up a Giving Tree that will allow you to donate to a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (including PWS&D and Canada Ministries projects) to a project that you think would be most appreciated by the person you are giving the gift for/to.
presbyterian.ca/donate/giving-tree-kensington-presbyterian-church-montreal

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 24:7-8, 10)

Lift up your heads, O you gates;
be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

Who is this King of glory?

**The LORD Almighty—
he is the King of glory.**

♪ Hymn: Oh worship the King.....pg 9 (313)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbOpnnJGZs4



Adam and Eve - Wenzel Peter



Prayer of Approach

We give you thanks, O God, for revealing your love in creation:
we bless your holy name.

For human beings made in your image
and called to live in your communion,

we bless your holy name.

For the promise of your reign in justice and peace,
in holiness and charity,

we bless your holy name.

For the revelation of your kingdom in our midst
through your Son, Jesus Christ,

For his humble birth and his holy life,

for his words and his miracles,

For his sufferings and his death,

for his resurrection and his entry into glory,

we bless your holy name.

For your church,

called to be a place of communion for every human being,

we bless your holy name.

For the coming of your kingdom within us

by the gift of the Holy Spirit,

we bless your holy name.

We celebrate all of this,

and admit that we do not always live as if this is your world.

We bow down to other ideas and people,

that we make more important than you

and your priorities

Please forgive us.

We are part of choices that don't prioritize helping
those who need it most.

Please forgive us.

We are part of choices that hurt others and the environment.

Please forgive us.

We fail to appreciate how you rule and use your power
in such unlikely ways.

Please forgive us.

Loving God,

We thank you that you never give up on anyone,
and always invite people to follow you.

Please help us as we pray.²

Let us say the prayer Jesus teaches us...



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.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news

To all who turn to live under God's reign,
this is God's Word of grace:

We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

This gift we have from God.

² portion adapted from Worship Sourcebook P1.2.9

Thanks be to God.

Amen.³



Listening to God



Children's story

This Sunday is called: Reign of Christ. This is not rain of Christ, but reign. It refers to how a ruler, like a king, rules. You could think of it as Rule of Christ Sunday.

Can you think of any stories about kings? Perhaps Shrek? or King Arthur?

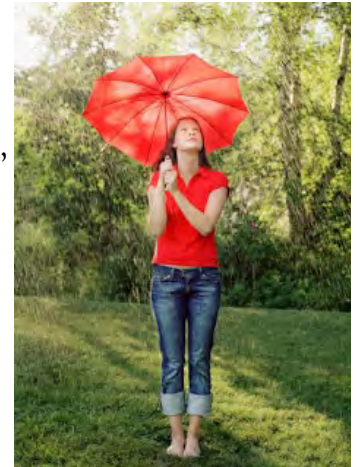
Kings have the right and power to make all the rules and demand that people do what they want. When the people do not obey, the king has the right to punish them. Good kings use this power and right well. Bad kings do not. Jesus is the very best king ever. Jesus has all the power and chooses to use it to take care of people. Even when his people disobey him and hurt others or creation, he forgives them and invites them to live better.⁴

Dear Jesus,

Thank you that you are our King of everything and everyone.

Please help us to understand and follow your rules.

Amen.



³ Worship Sourcebook 2.4.39

⁴ adapted from worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2016/10/year-c-christ-kingreign-of-christ.html

♪ Hymn: Lord of the Dance.....pg 10 (250)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7mgvzwXTpM4



Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,
we wish to see Jesus.
By your Spirit's power, may we see him as he truly is.
Through Christ we pray,
Amen.



Intro to the readings

- We will start with an early reading from Luke. This is the song Zachariah sings when his baby son is named John - though much of it is about what another baby will be like. We will be using it as our responsive psalm today.
- The passage from the letter to the Colossians gives us more of what God is like. What stands out for you?
- and then there's the image of our great leader in Luke 23.



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

[Luke 1](#): 68-79 (responsive 'psalm')

[Colossians 1](#): 11-20

[Luke 23](#): 33-43



Sermon: Power of the King

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

Today is Christ the King Sunday, or it was. Now it's usually called the Reign of Christ Sunday. Why the change? Driving

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

home the title of King can be seen as needlessly lifting males up above females - or worse, excluding non-males. Having a king also implies a kingdom, which reminds some people of colonialism and all the suffering this caused. Hence the shift to Reign of Christ - the focus isn't on a king or kingdom/territory or how to expand that territory into the individuals... but on how Christ rules. This is a good focus.

A shift in focus is actually why Pope Pius XI started this tradition. It was 1925. After the nationalism that was tied into World War One the Pope wanted to remind the leaders of the nations that they were not the ones in charge. That their territories/kingdoms were not the ones that mattered. That there was a higher power.

It's a good reminder, though I'm not sure they noticed. I'd be quite surprised if today's leaders notice.

and since none of us are leaders of kingdoms, why do we bother?

Because it's good for us to be reminded that God/Jesus is not only our leader, but what sort of leader God is? and what it's like to live under God's reign?

Jesus actually had a name tag that read, "This is the King of the Jews." It was placed over his head on the cross as the charge against him. It could also be showing how pathetic the king of the Jews is compared to the might of Rome.

That said, he didn't act very pathetic. Despite being tortured, he appears calm. He's even asking that they be forgiven! This doesn't seem like someone who's defeated, or broken, or resigned to events. It seems like he's in control - even telling one of the criminals he will be with Jesus in paradise.

Difficult and painful situations do not scare our leader, our

God. Jesus is a leader that will go right into them and doesn't let them change the mission.



The mission is what got Jesus nailed to the cross in the first place. The two criminals he's with have an inkling, but neither are quite right.

Let's look at the second one first. He's generally thought of as the one who understands who Jesus is - but he doesn't; not entirely (and honestly, who does?). He calls Jesus innocent, but Jesus isn't. He's as guilty as they are. The charge against Jesus is treason, as it was for them. They were all pushing for another kingdom then Rome - which gets the death penalty. It is likely

that the other two were fighting for a Kingdom of Jews. Jesus was going around talking about the Kingdom of God. This was insurrection - and he was guilty.

Jesus was innocent of other things.

He was innocent of violence. He didn't fight off what they were doing to him. He didn't call down the Heavenly Hosts (army). He didn't even raise his voice. He did say, "*Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.*" Who is Jesus forgiving? The grammar is very open. It could be the criminals beside him, or the soldiers looking running the executions, or the people condemning him, or those who fail to recognize him as the Messiah, or those who fail to recognize how God's Messiah works.

This is where the first criminal gets it wrong - and all of us at some point. He identifies Jesus as the Messiah, and then asks for Jesus to "*save yourself and us!*" By the grace of God, Jesus does bring salvation, but not by avoiding hardship and pain. God's grace is to help us through it to the Reign of God. We're not spared to hardship; we're not to passively accept it; we're not to inflict pain fighting it; ...and we're never alone. Jesus is saving us from the rules of the world we live in, and leading us to the rules of the world God is bringing into being.

The first criminal thinks that being saved means being taken off the cross and returned to his life. Jesus is a leader who isn't about saving himself, but about giving himself. He is willing to give everything he is to be with people and show them what God's reign is like.

Which is reflected in his entire ministry. How does the reign of a king start? with a coronation. You could think of Jesus' baptism as his coronation. It's interesting to note that Jesus is one of many being baptized. That when the Holy Spirit descends on

him, Jesus is the only one to notice. There's no pomp and circumstance. Jesus is not made the centre of attention. Throughout his ministry Jesus is definitely noticed and draws a crowd - but the focus isn't on the famous King Jesus being there shaking hands and cutting ribbons. It's Jesus showing through teaching and healing what the Reign of God is like - even to be painfully executed.

That's quite a leader we're following.

Imagine if all our leaders were that self-giving?

(political & business)

How can we follow?

It's a good question to ponder.

I would suggest it involves giving, rather than saving - not blindly, but in ways that support the Reign of God.

What's God's way like?

Jesus doesn't show vengeance. We can see that Jesus lives what he preaches about forgiving those who persecute and curse you. What would it take for you to respond with violence or a curse? What would it take for everyone to be safe?

In God's reign we hear of a wasteful son who is embraced by the loving parent before they can even apologize. It doesn't change that those opportunities have been wasted and are gone, but he is able to rejoin the community. How do we accept people? help people? respect people - as God does?

We hear, and see in Jesus going to the cross, of the Shepherd who will search and search until the lost sheep is found. Our leader will look for everyone not seeing The Light. Can we help? Can we be helped?

We are told how the Reign of God grows like the smallest of seeds into what most would call a weed - and provides shelter to

all kinds. What weeds do we see in society that are providing shelter to those in need? What small ideas are trying to get attention inside you? How could we help them grow?

We hear about a rich man inviting any who would come to fill his banquet hall for a celebration - even the poor and the lame.



Life of Jesus - J. Le Breton

What's all this say about the Reign of God?

It's a place that accepts everyone who will come with open arms. It's a place of diversity. It's a place that might seem like a weed - growing from what seems like nothing. It's a place where everyone is saved.

Anywhere this happens, we see the Reign of God. We practice here at church, but it's not the only place. Look around you. It may not be perfect, but look for glimpses of the Light.

and the leader of this revolution, our leader, is someone who gave up the Throne to be born in a stable - and will go to the cross looking for people to save.

In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Holy and One.

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.....pg 11 (356)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=U2058cXH3C0

💬 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: Who is somebody you really admire for some leadership they showed? Why?

Values: What would you describe as good leadership?

Wonder: What seeds of God's reign are germinating in you? in Kensington? outside Kensington?

Actions: Write a letter or email to a leader (political, corporate, sports, arts, ...) and challenge them on their leadership, or compliment them - or both.

Prayer: ...for our leaders

✧ Spirit Sightings

In a bit of coincidence, I was asked this week who the Session is. It's a good question, because while we meet most months to pray and work on how we see God leading us... we tend to do things without drawing any attention to ourselves. Your ruling elders are: Anne Blott, Carol Miyamoto, Damien Convie, Elizabeth Macdonnell, Kathryn Baldwin, Masa Fukushima, Mike McGregor, Rose Ngo Mbenoun (Clerk), Stewart Blott, Yuka Fukushima & the Rev. Peter Rombeek



✧ 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

Lord of creation,

We thank you for the wonder of creation.
From the patterns of frost on the windows,
to glee children have with new snow
to the ingenuity you've gifted us with
that allows us to live in comfort in Montréal.

Help us to respect creation,
and to show leadership in looking after the balance required
to protect the environment.

Lord of lords,

While your style of leadership is so different
from what we see on TV stories and in the news.
We do thank you for modelling healthy leadership.

We pray for our leaders:

Prime Minister Trudeau, Premier Legault, Mayor Plante
for business leaders, community leaders,
and for our church leaders.

Help us to lead and like you do.

Mighty and tender God,

You could snap your fingers,
and wipe this world out in favour of your Kingdom,
removing the brokenness from this world.
But you choose to use your power differently,
to walk with us
offering peace, love, and hope through the brokenness.
inviting us into your Reign.

We pray for all those in need of peace and love, including those
in war zones,
in family conflicts,

and struggling with internal conflicts;
all needing your peace.
We pray that everyone may see you with them,
and that your love will help them through to safety.

God of life,

May we see you and your Reign around us, and in us.

In Jesus name

Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Blest be the God of Israel.....pg 9 (752)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ctmDmBITJYM

✦ Sending & Benediction

This week look for new ways to make Jesus your Leader
in all the strange/revolutionary ways the Spirit leads.

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



Oh worship the King

TRANSCRIPTION BY J. J. J. J. J.

1. Oh wor-ship the King, all glor-ious a - bove; oh grate-ful-ly
 2. Oh tell of God's might, oh sing of God's grace, whose robe is the
 3. The earth, with its store of won-ders un - told, Al - migh - ty, thy
 4. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the
 5. O meas-ure-less Might, un-change-a - ble Love, while an - gels de -

sing God's power and God's love, our Shield and De - fend - er, the
 light, whose can - o - py space; whose char - iots of wrath the deep
 power hath found - ed of old, hath stab - lished it fast by a
 air; it shines in the light; thy mer - cies, how ten - der, how
 light to hymn thee a - bove, thy ran - somed cre - a - tion, in

An - cient of Days, pa - vil-ioned in splen-dour and gird-ed with praise.
 thun - der-clouds form, and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.
 change-less de - cree, and round it hath cast, like a man-tle, the sea.
 firm to the end, our Ma-ker, De - fend - er, Re-deem-er and Friend.
 glo - ry a - blaze, in true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to thy praise.

Words: Psalm 104; paraphrase, Robert Grant (1779-1838), alt. Music: William Croft (1678-1727);
 descant, Alan Gray (1855-1935) Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Cambridge University Press CCLI #4440603

Blest be the God of Israel

MERLE'S TUNE 13 13 13 13

Unison G /B C D Em C Am D

1. Blest be the God of Is - rael, who comes to set us free,
 2. Now from the house of Da - vid a child of grace has come,
 3. On those who live in dark - ness the sun be-gins to rise,

G /B C D C G/B Am7 D G

who vis - its and re - deems us, who grants us lib - er - ty.
 a Sav-iour who will lead us to our e - ter - nal home.
 the dawn-ing of for - give - ness up - on the sin-ner's eyes;

C/D (Bm/D) Am/D (Bm/D) G/D Am G/B C6 Dsus4 - 3

The proph-ets spoke of mer - cy, of res-cue and re - lease;
 Be - fore him goes his her - ald, fore - run-ner in the way,
 to guide the feet of pil - grims a - long the paths of peace.

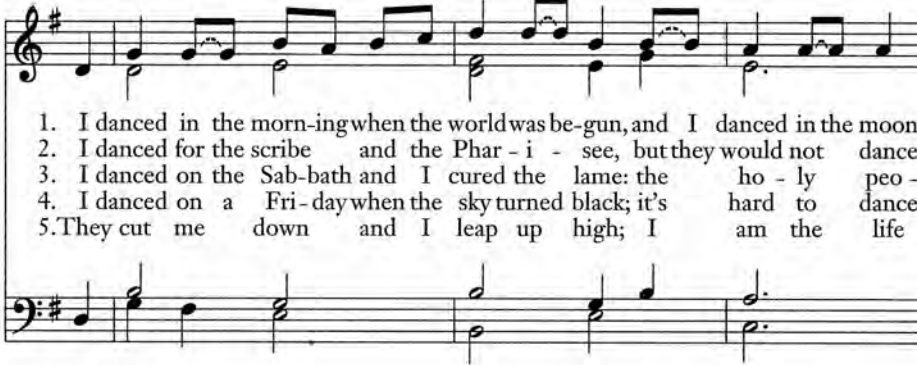
G /B C D C G/B Am7 D G

God shall ful - fill the prom - ise to bring the gift of peace.
 the proph-et of sal - va - tion, the mes-sen-ger of day.
 Oh bless our God and Sav - iour with songs that nev - er cease!

Words: Luke 1:68-79; paraphrase, Michael Perry (1942-1996) Music: Hal H. Hopson (1933-)
 Words: paraphrase, copyright © 1973 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1983 by Hope Publishing Co. CCLI #4440603

I danced in the morning / Lord of the dance

G Em Bm Em Am



1. I danced in the morn-ing when the world was be-gun, and I danced in the moon
2. I danced for the scribe and the Phar - i - see, but they would not dance
3. I danced on the Sab-bath and I cured the lame: the ho - ly peo -
4. I danced on a Fri-day when the sky turned black; it's hard to dance
5. They cut me down and I leap up high; I am the life

D G Em

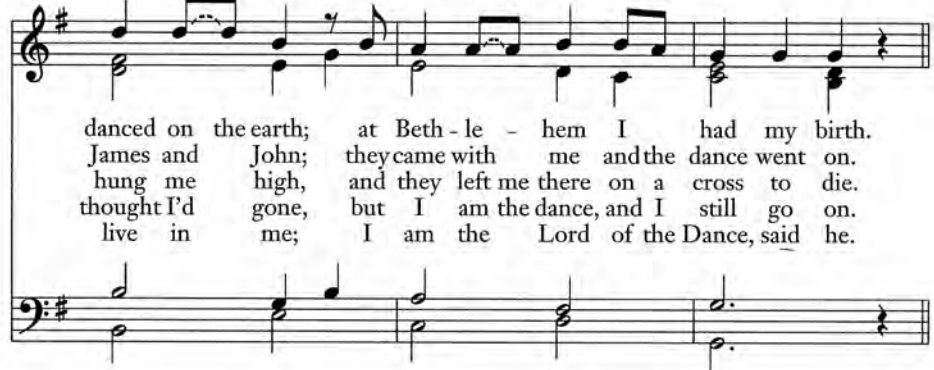


and the stars and the sun, and I came down from heav-en and I
and they would-n't fol-low me; I danced for the fish-er-men, for
ple said it was a shame. They whipped and they stripped and they
with the de-vil on your back. They bur-ied my bo-dy, and they
that -'ll nev-er, nev-er die; I'll live in you if you'll

Words: Sydney Carter (1915-) Music: 19th century, Shaker tune; adaptation by Sydney Carter (1915-);
arrangement, John Birch

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Bm Em Am D 7 C/G G



danced on the earth; at Beth-le - hem I had my birth.
James and John; they came with me and the dance went on.
hung me high, and they left me there on a cross to die.
thought I'd gone, but I am the dance, and I still go on.
live in me; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he.

Refrain D6 Bm Em G Am7 D /C



Dance, then, wher-ev-er you may be; I am the Lord of the Dance, said he, and I'll

G/B C G/D D/C G/B Am7 D7 G C G



lead you all, wher-ev-er you may be, and I'll lead you all in the dance, said he.

356 You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd

PARADOX 8 7 8 7 8 7

Gm Dm Gm Eb Cm6 D Gm F Bb/D Eb6 F 7 Gm

1. You, Lord, are both lamb and shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
 2. Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
 3. You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
 4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

Dm 7 Eb Gm Eb6 F Bb/D Eb Cm Dsus4 - 3

prince and slave, you, peace-mak - er and sword - bring - er
 on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 at God's side, You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory.

Gm Cm6 Dsus4 - 3 Gm Dm/F Eb

of the way you took and gave, you, the ev - er -
 beg - gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er -
 have a love that reach - es wide, you, the ev - er -
 Wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er -

F Cm6/Eb D Gm Cm/Eb Dsus4 - 3 Gm (G)

last - ing in - stant, you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are both gift and cost.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are our death and life.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993) Music: John Van Maanen (1958–)

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Through Presbyterians Sharing, many people share their gifts to support the mission and ministry of the PCC. Congregations and individuals use their time and skills to develop educational resources, lead conferences and webinars, and provide coaching and mentoring. Teachers are preparing leaders to serve the church, leaders are helping renew and grow ministries, and mission staff are accompanying and encouraging international partners. Volunteers are ensuring that programs run smoothly by guiding study groups, sharing their experiences and insights and much more! **Generous gifts of time, talent and treasure allow us to continue Christ's ministry, in Canada and around the world.**



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 20 (Reign of Christ) Almighty and everlasting God, wrapped in glory; as you are compassionate, make us like you; as you are just, make us doers of justice; as you are one, unite us in the name of Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Monday, November 21 We give thanks and pray for the members of the Assembly Council who are meeting at Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre in Puslinch, Ontario, from November 20–22.

Tuesday, November 22 (National Housing Day) We give thanks and pray for those who work to provide food, shelter and housing for people in need.

Wednesday, November 23 We give thanks and pray for congregations as they continue to faithfully support the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada through generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing.

Thursday, November 24 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Northern Saskatchewan, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Friday, November 25 On the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, we pray for all women who are survivors of violence and for those who have lost loved ones to gender-based violence. We pray that we, as a society, commit to working toward achieving safety for all women and an end to misogyny.

Saturday, November 26 We pray for the members and work of the Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations Committee.



Book of Kells