



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in faith and sharing God's love
 since 1786

What's it about?

May 21, 2023

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

Church Office: 514-486-4559info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 514-773-4620
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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

Zoom Prayer Group: Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

You may use the worship login details

[us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

[pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 773 730 107

Password: 7864826

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

Pizza & Movie Nights: Fridays at 6:30

May 26: —

June 2: Lion King

Please let Rev. Peter know if you want to come.

Interfaith EcoAction Day: Monday, May 22, 10 am - 1 pm,

at Parc Monseigneur J. A. Richard

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/11th-interfaith-ecoaction-day-journee-](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/11th-interfaith-ecoaction-day-journee-interconfessionnelle-ecoaction-tickets-617721931927)

[interconfessionnelle-ecoaction-tickets-617721931927](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/11th-interfaith-ecoaction-day-journee-interconfessionnelle-ecoaction-tickets-617721931927)

Artificial Intelligence: online Wednesday May 31st 4:00 PM - 5:30

Join the Faith & Life Sciences Reference Group of the Canadian

Council of Churches for the first of a series of webinars on AI

[www.eventbrite.ca/e/is-intelligence-enough-exploring-human-and-](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/is-intelligence-enough-exploring-human-and-artificial-intelligence-tickets-619849746277)

[artificial-intelligence-tickets-619849746277](https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/is-intelligence-enough-exploring-human-and-artificial-intelligence-tickets-619849746277)

New Hope Fundraising Walk: June 17th

Join the walk/role to NDG park and back for lunch. You can sign

up or donate by calling 514-484-0425, or through their website:

newhopendg.com.

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry.



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

In the beginning
before time, before people,
before the world began,
God was.

Here and now
among us, beside us,
enlisting the people of earth
for the purposes of heaven,
God is.

In the future,
when we have turned to dust
and all we know has found its fulfillment,
God will be.

Not denying the world, but delighting in it,
not condemning the world, but redeeming it,
through Jesus Christ,
by the power of the Holy Spirit,
God was,
God is,
God will be.

² from iona community Wee Worsip Book 4th ed.

Let us worship God

♪ Hymn: God and parent of all people.....pg 13
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jgKUUZanF94 (organ only)



Prayer of Approach³

In you, gracious God,
the isolated finds a companion,
the orphaned find a parent,
the fearful find a friend.

In you,
the wounded find a healer,
the repentant find a guide,
the burdened find a counsellor.

In you,
the stingy find a beggar,
the despondent find a laughter-maker,
the legalists find a rule-breaker.

In you, Jesus Christ,

³ from iona community Wee Worsip Book 4th ed.

we meet our Maker,
and our match.

And if some need to say, 'Help me'
and if some need to say, 'Save me'
and if some need to say, 'Hold me'
and if some need to say, 'Forgive me'
then let our hearts whisper these words to you now
in confidence that you will hear.

...

O Christ,
in whose heart is both welcome and warning,
say to us,
do to us,
reveal to us
the things that will make us whole.

And as we wait,
We will join together in praying the prayer you teach those who
want to dream with you.
Let us, together, say the Lord's prayer.



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 these comforting words:

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.⁴



Listening to God



Baptism

Baptism is not of our doing or deserving.
It is a gift from God.

Maintenant nous allons célébrer un baptême.
Ce n'est pas parce que c'est mérité.
C'est un présent de Dieu.

Remember the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost: "Repent
and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ,
for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of
the Holy Spirit,
for the promise is to you and your children
and to all that are far off,
everyone whom the Lord our God calls" [Acts 2:38-39].

Hear the words of the risen Christ:

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” [Matthew 28:18-25]

Jésus a dit, “Allez, faites de toutes les nations des disciples, les baptisant au nom du Père,
du Fils
et du Saint-Esprit,
et enseignez-leur à observer
tout ce que je vous ai prescrit.
Et voici, je suis avec vous tous les jours,
jusqu'à la fin du monde.”

Obedying the command of Jesus Christ
and believing in God's promises, the church baptizes those
whom the Lord, our God calls.

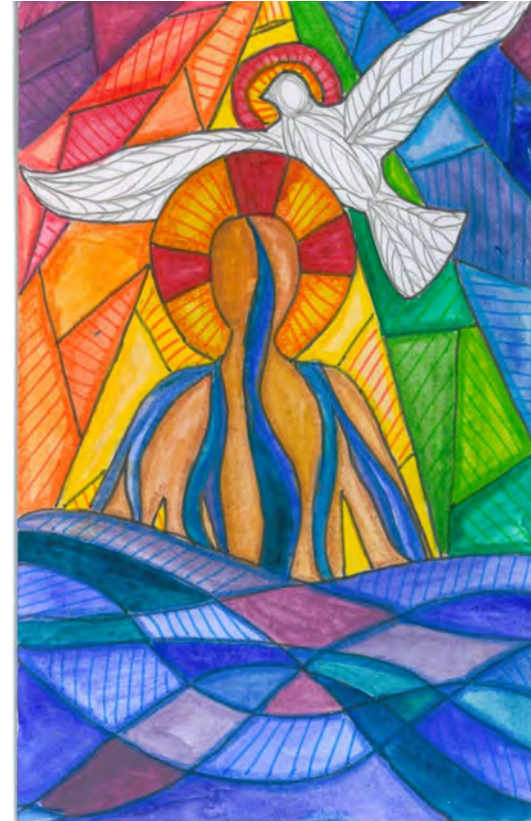
This sacrament is not so much something we do, as it is a
celebration of what God (in Christ), has done for us.

God acts for us in baptism as God has acted for our salvation
from the beginning of time. God is not dependent upon us
and the truth of God's promises does not depend upon age
and understanding.

God comes to us and to our children through God's
gracious choice.

Faisons confiance à la fidélité de Dieu,
l'amour de Jésus,
et l'activité du Saint-Esprit
ici et maintenant.

Let us move forward
trusting in the faithfulness of God,
secure in the love made known in Jesus Christ &
confident that the Holy Spirit is acting now
to free us from sin and death
and to lead us to a new life of love and service
in union with Jesus Christ.



***Who comes to receive the gift of Baptism?**

On behalf of the session, I (Rose) present Calum Michael
MacLeod, son of David MacLeod & Catherine Brisebois to
receive the sacrament of baptism.

***David est Catherine,**
Désirez-vous que Calum soit baptisé?
do you desire that Calum be baptized?
(We do)

(Questions to parents)

As parents, I will ask you to signify your understanding of the responsibilities connected with Calum's baptism by asking you the following questions:

1. In presenting Calum for baptism do you: confess your faith in God as your heavenly creator, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your teacher and guide? (I do)
2. Do you promise, with God's help, to raise Calum in the knowledge and love of God, teaching him the truths and the responsibilities of the Christian faith? (I do)
3. Do you promise to make a Christian home for Calum, so fashioning your lives that he may come to know Christ as Lord and Saviour and participate in the life and mission of the church? (I do)

(Question to Congregation)

As a congregation, we are also involved in the Christian upbringing of all children.



We are called to assist parents in their task as members of God's covenant of grace.

Do you, on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to guide and nurture Calum (and his parents) by example and counsel, with love and in prayer, encouraging them to follow the way of Christ and to be faithful members of God's church? (We do).

Prayer

We give you thanks, O gracious God for the gifts of water and your Spirit. In the beginning, when your Spirit moved over the waters, you gave order and life to your planet earth.

By the waters of the Flood, you cleansed the earth and established a new covenant with Noah and his family and a new beginning for all people.

In the time of Moses, you led your people out of slavery through the waters of the sea, making a covenant with them in a new land.

In the fullness of time, you sent your son, Jesus Christ, who was formed in a mother's womb. In the water of Jordan, Jesus was baptized and anointed by your Holy Spirit. In his ministry, Jesus offered living water to the woman of Samaria, washed the feet of His disciples and sent them forth to baptize all nations by water and the Spirit.

River - J Swanson

And now, with your people of all times and places, we wait with eager longing as we look for the city of God from which will flow the river of life for the healing of the nations.

Loving God, by the sign of this water, we recognize that Calum is grafted into Christ's body. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon him that he may have power to do your will and continue forever as a servant of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever. Amen.

Act of Baptism

Calum Michael MacLeod

I baptize you in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Je te baptise au nom du Père,
du Fils et du Saint Esprit
Amen

♪ Aaronic Blessing.....pg 14 (619)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VclhmSeBzlw

Walk introduction

♪ Hymn: Amigos de Cristo.....pg 15 (476)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ley_edlhtzY



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, please open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that we may hear what you are saying to us today.
Amen.⁵

⁵ adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10 & 23



Intro to the readings

- The psalms were songs 2½ thousand years ago. Like today, they were about love, suffering, life. They are also about God. We'll alternate parts, and as we do, listen for what the singer feels about God and their relationship.
- Over the years God has tried to send people messages. When someone has a message to deliver from God we call them a prophet. The prophets show up when the world looks really bad. We'll hear a passage from the prophet Jeremiah in which God acknowledges the past and shares a dream for the future.
- The last passage is from the gospel according to Luke. In it Jesus is asked what the most important thing to do is. You can probably guess his answer... but what would you say?

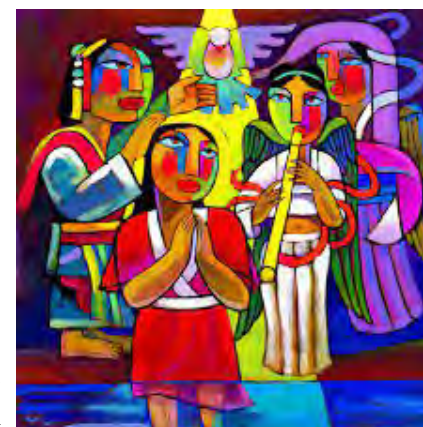


Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁶ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Psalm 139](#): 1-6, 13-18

[Jeremiah 31](#): 31-34

[Luke 10](#): 25-28



Baptism of Jesus
He Qi

⁶ 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: What's it about?

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

I'm glad you were all pulled here today. There's various ways you could have felt that pull:

- a chance to celebrate with family and friends,
- the desire to support Catherine & David,
- help to balance your week or think outside yourself,
- help with your struggles,
- looking for a sense of God's love, hope & healing
- ...

It's all a bit like gravity.

I don't know how much you remember physics. It's been a few decades for me, but I remember that everything produces gravity. The more massive, the more gravity. All those things I mentioned, and whatever flashed through your mind, are important - they have weight - and they pull on you.

I think the biggest pull, though, is God. (I'm sure you were expecting me to pull God in, but don't drift away now.) I believe that all those things that brought you here come from God. God created us as social beings. God helps us balance our lives for the better. God is the source of love. However, before all that comes my belief that God is real - like gravity.

Everybody experiences gravity (the whole universe really). We know gravity is keeping you in your chair, and have the math to



describe that. That said, I haven't heard of any way to actually see gravity.

Seeing God is also problematic, but there are lots of ways to describe God. Many people have shared how God has impacted their lives. God is more complicated than gravity as we haven't been able to mathematically predict God's actions... still, I don't think that denies God's existence.

The gravity comparison works well for God, because God definitely pulls us into things. I remember a cartoon in which 'Bob the angry flower' accepts Jesus into his heart so that he can get to heaven... and then starts feeling this urge to be nice and help people. It ends with Bob yelling at Jesus that 'this wasn't part of the deal', and Jesus (on the cross) shrugging his shoulders.

In a real life example, when William Willimon was a chaplain at Duke University he received an angry visit. The parents of a woman graduating to be a doctor were irate. Their daughter had top marks from this prestigious school. She could get an equally prestigious job... and instead announced that she was going to join Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). They blamed him for corrupting their daughter. Willimon listened, and then calmly asked if they'd had her baptized. They were indignant that he'd even consider them not having her baptized. 'Well,' he replied, 'then it's your fault. You invited God into her life.'

Now, you can resist. With gravity, you can move against its pull. You could stand up and walk out. With enough work, we can blast off and leave the pull of the Earth's gravity. Likewise, you can resist God's pull.



There is a weakness in the comparison. Unlike gravity, God is alive and loves you. Gravity just tried to pull you in. God tries all sorts of ways to pull you back - and you often only realize them when looking back. What's God trying to pull you into? A loving hug (remember the best hug you ever had) - and to help you walk/jump/dance into the best future for everyone.

And God never stops. It doesn't matter what you have done or said, God still reaches out. The psalm we said reminds us that. God knows how you were made - what went into making you you. Have you ever known someone so well you know what they're going to say before they say it? God knows you better than that. You don't have any secrets with God - and nothing will stop God from reaching out.

This week someone shared with me a line psychiatrist Paul Jenkins recommends you say to your kids every day. "I love you no matter what, and even if..." The reason is that sometimes children don't realize that their parents will love them "even if..." - and sometimes parents struggle as well. God's love is always there. The passage from Jeremiah includes that bit about how the people keep breaking their relationship with God, and that God doesn't give up. God tries a new thing, and shares a dream of a better future. The church way of saying this is that God is faithful.

Now, just because God always loves us doesn't mean we should just do whatever we want. This is part of what we promised to help Calum realize as he grows up. Just doing what you want can hurt you, others, and the world in ways you can't imagine. Take the impact of plastics not breaking down... and that when they do they still cause problems.

Jesus summaries it all down for us. "*You shall love the Lord your*

God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself." God promises to always love us, and we are to love God and our neighbour. With love as our first priority, all the rest will fall into place.

Loving God means trusting God to be there. It doesn't mean everything will be as we want it. It doesn't mean life will always be easy. It does mean that you are never alone, and that things are working towards a better future for all.

Loving our neighbour is part of building that better future. Instead of thinking just about ourselves, we think about others. We resist the urge to just grab. We do this for the people we live beside, and our families, and more. In the next part of the passage from Luke Jesus tells a story that shows our neighbour can be the person we want nothing to do with. It's not easy, even when we like the person. But imagine a world where everyone loves each other - where there is no discrimination, nobody wondering how to pay rent or food, everybody receives the help, and love, they need...

That's the dream.

And we're not alone in it - that's part of what's going on here. As Bob the Angry Flower discovered, and we recognized in the baptism, God is with us. The Holy Spirit is working inside us - and pulling at us with more determination than gravity to help us into relational orbits that will help bring about the Kingdom of God - that dream of love.

Which could be a good spot to end, but you might be wondering how to get there. How do you become more open to this love? How do you see God?

Jesus (of course) gives us a clue. At one point he tells the disciples "*Truly I tell you: unless you turn round and become like*

children, you will never enter the Kingdom of Heaven.”⁷ Sonja and Lola are going to share an imagined conversation that explores that.



A simple question by John Bell & Graham Mull

Peter: Eh ... Jesus ... ?
Jesus: Yes, Peter ... ?
Peter: Eh ... can I ask you a simple question?
Jesus: As long as you don't expect a simple answer.
Peter: Eh ... well, it's about a certain statement you made the other day, much to the displeasure of certain people.
Jesus: Would these 'certain people' wander about the Galilean countryside with only a stick and one set of clothing?
Peter: Eh ... perhaps ...
Jesus: So, I've upset the disciples again ... eh?
Peter: Well ... I'm not one for gossip.
Jesus: All right, what did I say?

⁷ Matthew 18: 1-3

Peter: You said we've to become like children!
Jesus: You were listening, Peter ...
Peter: More than that, you said we wouldn't get into the Kingdom unless we became like little children.
Jesus: So?
Peter: So ... what did you mean?
Jesus: Well, Peter, how would you describe children?
Peter: (Slowly)
Naive ...
innocent ...
harmless, I suppose ...
oh, and a bit foolish sometimes!
Jesus: ... innocent, harmless, foolish...
Peter, how many kids do you have?
Peter: Jesus, thanks to you
I've hardly seen my wife for three years.
But at the last count, we didn't have any.
Jesus: Then the quicker you have some, the better.
You'll soon find out that they're not innocent, naive or harmless. Anyone who thinks differently has never been in a nursery.
Peter: So, what are they like?
Jesus: Use your memory, Peter,
Thank of the children we've met.
Peter: We haven't met any.
Jesus: What about the ones in the temple...?
Peter: Jesus, they sounded like the cats' choir
and you sounded ridiculous saying
they were 'perfecting God's praise'.
Jesus: Peter,
our musical tastes may differ,
but I don't think you can deny that they were really

enthusiastic.
 Peter: Not like the Pharisees - eh, Jesus?
 Jesus: Not like a lot of adults
 who think that God's only pleased when you like an
 undertaker's dummy.
 Peter: So... we're to be enthusiastic.
 Anything else?
 Jesus: Think of a girl, Peter... Jairus' daughter.
 What do you remember of her?
 Peter: Well, when we met her she was ready for the undertaker...
 Jesus: That's right.
 But she trusted me.
 I said 'get up' and she got up.

How may adults take me at my word...
 including 'certain people' wander about the Galilean
 countryside with only a stick and one set of clothing.

Peter: So, we're to be enthusiastic and trustful.
 Is that it to being like a child?

Jesus: There's more, Peter.
 Remember a field...
 over five thousand people...
 all needing to eat...?

Peter: Oh, you mean the little kid with his lunch?

Jesus: Yes. And what did he show?

Peter: ??

Jesus: ...beginning with 'g'...

Peter: oh... generosity.

Jesus: Peter, you should try crosswords.

Peter: So to be like children
 we should be enthusiastic, trustful and generous.

Jesus: There's something else.

Peter: There always is!

Jesus: Do you remember the crowd of men who surrounded me,
 wanting to ask me very cultured questions ...
 do you remember who came through the crowd?

Peter: You don't mean the little girl with jam on her face?

Jesus: I most certainly do.

Peter: Do we have to get jam on our face to get into the Kingdom
 of Heaven?

Jesus: No.
 But think of what her mother said when she came to take
 her back. She was all apologetic. She said, 'I'm sorry, mister,
 she's awful curious.'

Peter: So, is curiosity one of the things
 we should learn from children?

Jesus: Yes ...
 and in that department, Peter,
 you get ten out of ten.

*To God be all the glory
 Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Be thou my Vision.....pg 16 (461)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSIRcs

🗣️ 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 was somebody important to you when you
 were growing up?

Memories: Tell about a friendship you had where you could finish each other's sentences.

Wonder: Imagine what the world would be like if everybody watched out for each other? Pick an issue and image the details (ex. housing, food, isolation, mental health, ...)

Values: What is most important for you? How do you live that out?

Values: What would you most want Calum to know? to feel?

Prayer: ...for help in loving of God & neighbour.

✧ Spirit Sightings

This week one of the people who popped into Jesus & Java stopped by my office and shared how the experience reminded him of taking physics. In school he wondered what the point was, then when he started training for his career he found all sorts of applications. He found reading about Christianity an interesting, but sitting in a coffee shop and talking about faith & life showed how it can be alive.

Praise God for the Holy Spirit working through people gathered and looking.

✧ 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

Dear Lord,
You created atoms and solar systems,
all spinning in such an intricate dance
that we are still trying to learn the moves.
You created each one of us,
not on mass, but with individual love and care.
Knitting us together in our mother's womb,
then inviting us to come out and join that dance.
You put us into the orbits of family, friends, and strangers
to help us learn the moves.
Thank you
for those that have helped us find our way here today.
Thanks for all that we have in common...
and for the variety of skills and experiences -
all that makes us distinct/different.

Jesus, you lived among us.

You know that difference can be hard.
We pray for those who feel threatened and strike out,
and for those who are struck.

May your Spirit bring love.
We pray for places of open conflict:
 such as Ukraine & Cameroon.
May your Spirit bring peace.
We pray for people who are oppressed
 in places like Afghanistan, and here in Canada.
May your Spirit bring Freedom.

And these are only some of the concerns we have with the state
of the world. Lord, we are also concerned with the condition
of the environment: fires blazing in Alberta, floods in Italy,
and temperatures always surprising us with their highs and
lows.

We worry for the present,
and the future that our children will live in.

More personally,
we pray for those we know who are sick or suffering.



Please give us your hope,
and help us to have faith
We thank you for coming as Jesus;
showing that nothing can stop you,
not even death,

and also showing us how to live a life of love.

Help us to change the world
starting with ourselves
and sharing your love with our neighbours
...all of them.

We also pray for scientists, politicians, corporations & churches
that we may all work together to help
So that everyone and everything
may be healed
 physically, mentally, socially, spiritually, ...
So that all may live the most beautiful life ever.

*In Jesus name
Amen.*

♪ Hymn: I'm gonna live so.....pg 14 (648)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_t5u3lcK1AI

✦ Sending & Benediction

There are many things pulling on you, other than gravity:
family, safety, love... God is alive and always trying to pull you
into a best possible orbit - one that is good for everyone. What
are some ways that you can figure that out? Try and be like a
child: enthusiastic, generous, curious, and trusting in God.

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



God and Parent of all people

The musical score is written on four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The time signature is 4/4. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with notes corresponding to the lyrics below. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each with four numbered verses. The first line of lyrics is: 1. God and par - ent of all peo - ple, mak - er of both heav'n and earth, 2. Je - sus Christ, e - ter - nal Sav - ior once a child on Mar - y's breast, 3. Ho - ly Spir - it, sent a - mong us bind - ing earth to heav'n a - bove, 4. God, be pres - ent in our wor - ship wel - com - ing the one(s) we bring; The second line is: praise and grat - i - tude we of - fer for the world you brought to birth. born to save the saint and sin - ner, des - tined to re - veal God's best, you in - spire that self - less beau - ty seen where peo - ple share their love. as we bap - tize, through your Spir - it seal the grace of which we sing. The third line is: Na - ture in its fin - est cloth - ing, sci - ence in its rich - est find, you found praise in chil - dren's voic - es, you blessed ba - bies by your touch; For the fruits of hu - man pas - sion in the womb, the world, the heart, Let our prayers and heav'n's in - ten - tion hal - low wa - ter, sign, and vow; The fourth line is: wit - ness your sur - pas - sing good - ness meant to nour - ish hu - man - kind. you de - clare for ev - 'ry in - fant how God loves each one so much. we ex - press, as Christ's own fam - 'ly, grat - i - tude in ev - 'ry part. bless *your child whose life is of - fered to em - bod - y your life now.

1. God and par - ent of all peo - ple, mak - er of both heav'n and earth,
2. Je - sus Christ, e - ter - nal Sav - ior once a child on Mar - y's breast,
3. Ho - ly Spir - it, sent a - mong us bind - ing earth to heav'n a - bove,
4. God, be pres - ent in our wor - ship wel - com - ing the one(s) we bring;

praise and grat - i - tude we of - fer for the world you brought to birth.
born to save the saint and sin - ner, des - tined to re - veal God's best,
you in - spire that self - less beau - ty seen where peo - ple share their love.
as we bap - tize, through your Spir - it seal the grace of which we sing.

Na - ture in its fin - est cloth - ing, sci - ence in its rich - est find,
you found praise in chil - dren's voic - es, you blessed ba - bies by your touch;
For the fruits of hu - man pas - sion in the womb, the world, the heart,
Let our prayers and heav'n's in - ten - tion hal - low wa - ter, sign, and vow;

wit - ness your sur - pas - sing good - ness meant to nour - ish hu - man - kind.
you de - clare for ev - 'ry in - fant how God loves each one so much.
we ex - press, as Christ's own fam - 'ly, grat - i - tude in ev - 'ry part.
bless *your child whose life is of - fered to em - bod - y your life now.

**Sing "each child" when more than one is being baptized.*

Text: John L. Bell, b.1949; © 2017, WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent
Tune: HYMN TO JOY; arr. from Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770-1827, by Edward Hodges, 1796-1867

Aaronic Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine up - on you, and be gra - cious - un - to you; the Lord lift up his coun - te - nance up - on you and give you - peace.

Music Lowell Mason (1792-1872)

The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious unto you;
the Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.

Numbers 6: 24

648

I'm gonna live so God can use me

I'M GONNA LIVE Irregular

1. I'm gon-na live so (live so)
2. I'm gon-na work so (work so)
3. I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
4. I'm gon-na sing so (sing so)

God can use me an - y - where, Lord,
an - y - time! (an-y-time!) I'm gon-na live so (live so)
I'm gon-na work so (work so)
I'm gon-na pray so (pray so)
I'm gon-na sing so (sing so) God can
use me an - y - where, Lord, an - y - time! (my Lord,) (an - y - time!)

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual; arrangement, Wendell Whalum (1932-1987) Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © the estate of Wendell Whalum CCLI# 4440603

476 Amigos de Cristo / Friends of the Lord

AMIGOS DE CRISTO Irregular with refrain

Refrain

F **C**

A - mi - gos de Cris-to; we're friends of the Lord;
we've been for - giv-en, and we've been re-stored; a -

C7 **1. F** **2. F** **Fine** **Last time**

mi-gos de Cris-to; we're friends of the Lord. For Lord. Lord.

F **Bb** **F**

1. Friends of the cov - e-nant re - newed each morn;
2. Born of a fam - i - ly, the young and old,

F **G7** **C**

bap - tized and lov - ing it, we've been re - born.
we'll be on hand to see new life un - fold.

F **Bb** **F**

Gift of the dove is ours for - ev - er - more. A -
We un - der - stand the need to be made whole.

Bb **F** **Bb** **F** **C7** **F** **Refrain** **D.S.**

mi - gos de Cris-to; we're friends of the Lord. A -

Words: Latin American traditional Music: Traditional

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Be thou my vision

SLANE 10 10 10 10

Unison

Eb /G Ab Bb /Ab Eb/G Ab Fm6 Eb
 1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom; be thou my true word,
 3. Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain earth - ly praise,
 5. High King of heav - en, when the bat - tle is done,

Bb Fm (/Eb) Bb/D Eb /G Ab Eb/G Eb6 Bb /Ab Eb/G
 naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 be thou my ar - mour and be thou my might;
 thou my in - her - it - ance, through all my days;
 grant heav - en's joy to me, O bright heaven's Sun;

Words: Irish anonymous, 8th century, translation, Mary Byrne (1880–1931), paraphrase, Eleanor Hull (1860–1935), alt Music: Irish traditional; harmony, Erik Routley (1917–1982); descant, John Wilson (1905–1992) CCLI No. 4440603

Words: translation, paraphrase, copyright © Chatto and Windus Ltd. Music: harmony copyright © 1975 and descant © 1983 by Hope Publishing Co.

Ab Ab/Eb Eb Bb/D Cm Gm7 Ab (maj7) Bb/Ab
 thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 thou my great Fath - er, thine own may I be,
 thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tower,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Eb/G Eb (/D) Cm Eb/G Ab6 /C Eb
 wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 raise thou me heav - en - ward, O Power of my power.
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art!
 still be my vi - sion, O rul - er of all.

When Esther was 13 years old, she got her period for the first time—just one day before the Malawi national primary school examinations, which would determine whether she would be admitted to secondary school. Esther was instructed by the older women in her village to not leave home and remain indoors for the next seven days in adherence with village customs. Caroline, an outreach volunteer for girls' rights, learned about Esther's situation and enlisted the help of the village's chief to speak with Esther's parents about letting her leave home isolation to write the exam. Esther was permitted to write her exam, allowing her to advance to secondary school. **With Presbyterian World Service & Development's support, local partners are raising awareness about the importance of girls' education for a successful future.**



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 21 (Healing & Reconciliation Sunday) We pray for healing for Indigenous families and communities, 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 22 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development's partners who work hard to ensure a quality education and a better future for girls in Malawi.

Tuesday, May 23 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Hummingbird Ministries in Vancouver, British Columbia, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Wednesday, May 24 We pray for the Rev. Jeanie Lee, former Ecumenical Accompanier, as she shares stories and advocates for justice and peace in Palestine and Israel.

Thursday, May 25 We pray for the members and work of the International Affairs Committee.

Friday, May 26 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Brampton in Ontario.

Saturday, May 27 We pray for commissioners of the 2023 General Assembly as they prepare to consider, discuss and make decisions about the ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.



Prodigal Son - Kristi Valiant