



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

Out on a limb

November 10, 2024

WELCOME, we come to you from the un-ceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

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).



Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

Singing Time: join Zoé for some singing Sundays at 10 am

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

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

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

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

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

Fri Bible Study: pizza at 6:30, episode of *The Chosen* & discussion

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry, diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands.

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



handing out Izzy Dolls

Therese Tollette's funeral: Nov 16th, 1pm at Briarwood Presbyterian

National Presbyterian book club for advent

reading *Ponder these things* by Rev. Rowan Williams (previous archbishop of Canterbury). You could join the national discussion, and/or we can have our own group.

presbyterian.ca/2024/11/07/ponder-these-things-an-advent-study

Contacts

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Ceremony of Remembrance

Invitation to Remembrance

This is the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day, and so before we gather to worship God, you are invited to remember those who have sacrificed to allow us to live in this freedom, to search for truth, and to enjoy life.

Pipes:

While the poem 'In Flanders' Fields' is very meaningful, Peggy and I were talking about how Canadians have served in many conflicts since. Today we'll remember the legacy of Master Corporal Mark "Izzy" Isfeld. He served as a peacekeeper in the United Nations Protection Force in Croatia. While there he was moved by the suffering of the children and asked his mom to make him some pocket sized dolls to pass out. His job clearing landmines took his life, but his friends continued to pass out 'Izzy' dolls. Over 1.3 million Izzy dolls have been distributed by soldiers serving to help make lives a little better.



www.warmuseum.ca/remembrance-day-resources/the-izzy-doll

Last Post

Moment of Silence

Pipers Lament

Poem: They shall not grow old.....Peggy Wegrich
Reveille/Rouse

♪ O Canada.....pg 16 (833)

Pipes



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

From the desert wilderness to the bustling city,
from the dryness of drought to the lush forest,
from complete silence to overwhelming noise:

**in every place, God is,
in every place, we seek,
in every place, we worship.**



Hymn: Great is thy faithfulness.....pg 9 (324)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dTKlqmdfHSk>



Prayer of Approach

Lord of hosts³

Lord of compassion.

We bow our heads before you

in respect for your power

and your compassion

your passion to be with us

and help everyone into a beautiful and full life.

You give us the Bible

that is full of stories about those who must depend on you
and their needs are met.


Jesus, help us to trust you to provide what we need,
and forgive us when we don't,

² from *Spill the Beans* #20


³ hosts - army of angels!

when we take without thinking about you
or having compassion on others...
and like Isaiah last week,
we also confession on behalf of our fellow humans
who are hurting others to take more than they need...

May your Holy Spirit inspire people to put aside not just their
wants, but their needs and fears to help others as they can
and to trust you to provide
to trust your compassion.
and Jesus, Lamb of God, help us to help you.
starting with the prayer you teach your disciples. . .

 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...
All who turn from sin in sorrow,
All who turn to God in hope,
this is God's word of grace:
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Amen.



Listening to God

Children's Time

Compassion is an aspect of our Bible reading today.
Compassion is made out of two words. Passion (caring a lot) and
Com (Latin for 'with'). So, compassion means 'caring a lot with
someone'.

This means trying to be with another person and see the world
as they do. To know how they are feeling, and to care so much
that you will do whatever you can to help.



No one in the world is illegal - Durán Itzaina⁴

What could this look like? Helping when you see that
somebody is hurt. Maybe it's a fall (send somebody for help and
then help them). Maybe it's a bully (tell somebody and stand with
them). Maybe they are lonely (you could invite them to join you).

It's important to remember that this can be hard and takes
practice - which does make it easier.

⁴ <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/video/9.6498614>

Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, help us to have compassion for others
to see how we can help, and to have the courage to do something.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: When the poor ones.....pg 10 (762)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSF8M2TvSA

🕯️ Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that trust you into uncertainty.

Amen.

✨ Intro to the readings

Today's passage is going to take us north, away from Jerusalem into the kingdom of Israel. Like in the southern kingdom of Judea, the kings in Israel were living in ways that did not respect God.

We're also going back in time from the prophet Isaiah to the prophet Elijah. He's a mythical figure, like somebody out of a fairy tale. Some see him as a model for Jesus - and when Jesus asks the disciples about who people say he is, one of the answers is Elijah. Personally I tend to see the differences, like Elijah ordering his vanquished opponents killed and Jesus sacrificing himself. That said, you'll hear similarities in today's story.

It's interesting that today's story is the first appearance of Elijah. He just shows up in the Bible without an introduction. You should know that it's also not the beginning of the story. In the previous chapter we're introduced to King Ahab and his wife Jezebel. She comes from Sidon and instead of converting to worship the God of Israel Ahab joins in the worship of Baal. God doesn't approve, and this gives them unfortunate legacies. (Ahab as partial inspiration for Captain Ahab of Moby Dick, and calling

a woman a Jezebel to criticize her morals.⁵) Their looking elsewhere than God also sets up the events we'll hear about.

Two quick things before Jennifer shares the reading.

The term 'wadi' is used. This refers to a stream bed - likely a little valley. There may, or may not be, water.

What would you be feeling as the different characters in the story?

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

[1 Kings 17: 19-29](#)

[Psalm 146: 1-17](#)



Elijah and Widow - A Ivanov

5 I heard in the news that there were Trump supporting Christians calling Kamala a Jezebel - and upsetting her non-Christian supporters.

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: Out on a limb

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

I don't think it would matter which of the characters I was in the story, I would feel fear at various points.

Fear is a familiar feeling. It often comes when we are faced with something outside our familiar experiences. We don't know what to expect. Will we be hurt? And we're complicated enough to know being hurt isn't just physical. It can include interior feelings, or outside relationships.

You can probably think of a time when you disagreed with those in authority. I don't mean a distant government policy, but someone you have a direct connection to. It could be a boss, or the head of the family. Did you have the courage of Elijah to tell them they were wrong? Were you afraid of how they would respond?

There can be fear of people who have no authority over us. It might just be someone walking over to talk with us. We can be worried about what to say, or what the relationship will ask of you. It doesn't need to be like when the widow has a man walk out of the wilderness and start talking to her. Imagine how he would have looked (and smelled) after living in the wild. Imagine a life in which you have no support and you and your son are about to starve to death. Imagine being a woman, weak with hunger and lacking in hope, and a strange man confidently walks up to you and starts demanding things. Hopefully you haven't been in situations like the widow, but perhaps you've felt fear of the unknown with a stranger.

We can even be afraid of ourselves, or at least our own abilities. Elijah delivered God's words about a drought, and it

happened. Imagine thinking you have such powerful abilities? In our case we are more likely to fear losing abilities, such as our balance or memory. There's the fear of not knowing when it will fail. How will we adapt?

When we move to a new location, there can be fear as to whether it will work out - and it doesn't need to be as uncertain as Elijah going to a new country and living by a stream, or later to the homeland of the evil queen. We might just be moving to a new neighbourhood. You may be excited, and feel fear.

One more intense fear that's in the passage - that of survival. The widow is literally down to their last meal. This is past the question of who will eat today. There is no hope of more. And then later her son is sick... and dies. He is the end of the family, and he's more. He's her son. She's filled with grief, and the fear that it is because of something she did.

Fear.

It can come from many directions, or rather, many sources can bring it out in us. I guess that's why a common phrase in the Bible is "*Do not be afraid.*"⁷ While God's word to power through Elijah is that there will be bad consequences for living apart from God, God's word to the suffering is reassurance. "*Do not be afraid.*"

It's not that there aren't good reasons to be afraid. All those things I said a minute ago are good reasons. They can have a big impact on your life. They can hurt you and those you love. Into this God shows compassion. It doesn't make everything easy. However God, through Elijah, gives her hope. She learns that God cares, and is present.

That's us relating to the Widow. What if you were invited to

⁷ I didn't find a definitive answer, but including variations it's over a hundred. You could look up fear and afraid in a digital Bible and see what you find. (This would include being afraid, and not.)

put on Elijah's sandals? You might feel passionate enough to speak truth to power - to deliver a prophet warning to those making decisions that don't promote God's love, hope & healing. In Canada we can do that without much fear - the postage is even free. You probably wouldn't be jeopardizing a personal relationship, and they can't legally come after you for disagreeing with them.

What about the part with the widow?

What if you went outside your normal places? What if you met outsiders in their places, accepted their hospitality, and shared your hope/life/faith? Would that raise your anxiety? fear?

There can be a lot of uncertainty. How do you meet people on their territory? If you accept their hospitality, what if you don't like it? What if you offend them when you refer to God?

Two thoughts on meeting people. You could consider joining something new where you would meet new people. You could also consider people already around you that you haven't shared your faith with yet. This risks offending someone you know, but also gives you a head start (in my experience, that counts for more).

The part about accepting their hospitality can be seen as joining them where they are. What are their concerns and issues? Listen for how God connects with them. We recently did a food drive with some of the church neighbours - and while they didn't need the food, they saw that God was caring about those in the neighbourhood who did. It's the start of a connection. Since before COVID I've been attending the Community Council Round Table. When I first arrived they were very suspicious of Christians and me. Over the years I've listened and earned trust. I don't force God on them, and they respect our views.

Which relates to the sharing about God. There's a line in one

of our important church documents, *Living Faith*.⁸ It says we should address others "in the spirit of humility, as beggars telling others where food is to be found, we point to life in Christ." You can practice this with the FaithTalk questions that are presented every week in the PDF.⁹ The more you practice seeing the connections between life and God the easier it will be for you to humbly share that.

And if this still raises some fear that you might jeopardize your relationship with a neighbour or friend... remember that the Holy Spirit is already active in them - like God going ahead of Elijah to prepare the widow to receive him.

Going into unfamiliar situations can bring out some fear. As can sharing things that are important to us, like our faith. These actions can also bring life, hope & joy to both those we talk to - and ourselves.¹⁰ We might even find that, like with the widow, we will hear somebody come to believe in God.

*and to God be all the glory
Amen.*



New Yorker 2021-05-24

⁸ *Living Faith* 9.2.1 presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od

⁹ You can find others online at: kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities/

¹⁰ This reminds me of the Magic Penny song. The more you give it away the more you end up having more.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: All my hope on God is founded.....pg.11 (462)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W2oYTtyBSxk>



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: Can you share a time when you had no choice but to depend on God. What brought you to this point? How did it work out in the end?

Values: In this story the king and queen of the chosen people are out of sync with God, but a powerless outsider is. How can this shape our values?

Wonder: While this wasn't in the sermon, it is in the passage and throughout the Bible: How could we live into the idea that God will provide abundantly, rather than the marketing that we live in scarcity? How does this relate to those struggling to have enough food?

Actions: What are we doing to seek out the widows and orphans in need of grace and good news? Do we go to them or wait for them to come to us?¹¹

Prayer: ...that we will have the courage to join God in situations that challenge us.



Spirit Sightings

Over the last month I've led several funerals and seen the Holy Spirit at work in many ways. One of them is through participants asking me where God is. They didn't ask this because of the death of their friend, but because of the state of the world.

¹¹ Several adapted from Pulpit Fiction www.pulpitfiction.com/narrative-notes/309

Mostly because of the wars and conflict that dominate the news.

The answer is here in today's passage. God is using people to speak truth to power - and they are often ignored. God is also using people to help those who are suffering. I've heard about Christians who risk themselves to go into territories like Gaza, Ukraine, and other conflict areas. They bring medical aid, food, techniques for clean water, and as soldiers to protect the vulnerable. They do this because God wants us to look after the vulnerable. And it's not only Christians, God is working through outsiders as well.

Compassion isn't something that comes easily to many people, but it does come through the Holy Spirit. When you see it, this is a sign that God is there.



Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: kensingtonchurch.ca. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also 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

Today we are going to use the following hymn as our prayer. I invite you to pause between the verses and allow topics to pull on your attention - and to pray for them.

Some of the topics I'll be praying for include

- Canadian soldiers will be kept safe as they keep others safe
- the war in Ukraine, around Israel, central Africa, ...

- that those suffering from the decisions of leaders will find hope and life.
 - and that leaders will see God's light and path
- that Kensington will continue to share and celebrate the good news of God's love as we know it through Jesus Christ
- for healing for our bodies, minds and souls

♪ We lay our broken world.....pg 10 (202)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvmXNG6VXJU

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us.....pg 12 (647)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGsvbqErM2A

✦ **Benediction** (2 Corinthians 13:13)
*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
 the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
 be with you all.*
Amen.



MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, November 10**

Najua Osman recalls not being prepared to leave her home in Al Gezira, Sudan. However, as the war intensified, she had no choice but to seek refuge in South Sudan. Najua fled with her two children and was pregnant when she arrived in Renk. She delivered her twin babies safely but lacked basic items such as food, soap and mosquito nets. Because she didn't have enough to eat, she couldn't produce enough breastmilk to feed her twins. As Najua felt hopeless and depressed, she was approached by PWS&D's local partner, who registered her for a project where she received cash assistance. "The money helped me to buy food, which improved the production of breastmilk; I also bought mosquito nets and soap," she said.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 10 We pray for the people in the spiritual care of Indigenous ministries in Kenora, Saskatoon, Mistawasis, the lower mainland of BC, Winnipeg, Edmonton and the Cowichan First Nation in BC, that they may be lifted up in a spirit of hope for healing in all aspects of their lives that seem hopeless.

Monday, November 11 (Remembrance Day) We pray for all who mourn and suffer as a result of conflict and war. We ask God to protect and guide peacekeepers and those who serve in the Armed Forces.

Tuesday, November 12 We give thanks for the life and witness of generations of faithful people in the church, that we may continue to be inspired by the way their lives reflected their faith in Jesus Christ.

Wednesday, November 13 We pray for students in all denominations that have come to study at The Presbyterian College, Montreal. May the college community grow in its intent to be and to build Christian community in an increasingly ecumenical student body.

Thursday, November 14 We pray for the Rev. Sumarme Goble, Chaplain at St. Andrew's Hall, who cares for students and represents the PCC as part of the UBC Multi-Faith Chaplaincy team.

Friday, November 15 We pray for the Sabeel Liberation Theology Center as it hosts the "Challenging Religious Extremism" conference in Bethlehem and Jerusalem amid rising intolerance and violence in the Middle East.

Saturday, November 16 We pray for Atlantic Mission Society groups as they encourage congregations to support the Advent gift projects.

Great is thy faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS 11 10 11 10 dactylic

E♭ **aug** **Abmaj7** **Ab6** **B♭7** **E♭/Ab** **E♭**

1. Great is thy faith - ful-ness, O God my Fath - er;
 2. Sum - mer and win - ter and spring-time and har - vest,
 3. Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth,

Ab **E♭/G** **(B7/F)E♭** **F/C** **C7** **F7** **B♭**

there is no shad - ow of turn - ing with thee;
 sun, moon and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 thine own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide,

B♭7 **E♭** **Fm** **E♭/G** **Abmaj7** **Ab6**

thou chang - est not; thy com - pas - sions, they fail not;
 join with all na - ture in el - o - quent wit - ness
 strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row:

Chinese (Mandarin)

Nǐ de xīn shì guāng dà, wǒ Shén wǒ Tiān Fù!
 Zài Nǐ yòng yuán méi yǒu zhuān dòng yīng ér,
 yǒng bù gāi biàn Fù Shén měi tiān shì lián mǐn.
 Wú shì wú zhòng Shàng Zǐu shì en bù jīn.
 Refrain
 Nǐ de xīn shì guāng dà. Nǐ de xīn shì guāng dà.
 Qīng chén fù qīng chén gēng jīng lì xīn en,
 Wǒ suǒ xù yòng Nǐ en shǒu fēng fù yù bèi.
 Nǐ de xīn shì guāng dà, xián zài wǒ shēn.

Words: Thomas O. Chisholm (1866–1960) Music: William M. Runyan (1870–1957)

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Adim **E♭/B♭** **B♭7** **E♭**

as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
 to thy great faith - ful-ness, mer - cy and love.
 bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!

Refrain **B♭** **Ab/E♭ E♭** **C7** **Fmsus4-3**

Great is thy faith - ful-ness; great is thy faith - ful-ness;

B♭7 **E♭** **E♭m6** **B♭** **E♭/F** **F7** **B♭**

morn - ing by morn - ing new mer - cies I see;

B♭7 **E♭** **Fm** **E♭/G** **Abmaj7** **Ab6**

all I have need - ed thy hand hath pro - vid - ed;

Adim **E♭/B♭** **B♭7** **E♭**

great is thy faith - ful-ness, Lord, un - to me.

When the poor ones

EL CAMINO Irregular

Unison Dm A7 Bb

1. When the poor ones who have noth ing - share with strang-ers,
 2. When at last all those who suf-fer find their com-fort,

D7 Gm C7 F

when the thirst-y wa-ter give un - to us all,
 when they hope though e-ven hope seems hope-less-ness,

F E7 A7 Dm

when the crip-pled in their weak-ness strength-en oth - ers,
 when we love though hate at times seems all a-round us,

Refrain Bb A7 Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us,

D7 Gm A7 Dm Gm Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
 when our lips can speak no words other than true,
 when we know that love for simple things is better,
 Refrain:
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance
 when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
 when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour,
 Refrain:

202

We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet

GARELOCHSIDE 6 6 8 6 SM

G/B C G 7 Am G/B C G/D C/E Cmaj7 F

1. We lay our bro-ken world in sor - row at your feet, haunt -
 2. Here hu - man life seems less than pro - fit, might and pride, though
 3. We bring our bro-ken towns, our neigh-bours hurt and bruised; you
 4. We bring our bro-ken loves, friends part - ed, fam - ilies torn; then

Dm /F G C/E C6 G/B G7 Am C/E Gsus4-3 C

ed by hun - ger, war and fear, op-pressed by power and hate.
 to u - nite us all in you, you lived and loved and died.
 show us how old pain and wounds for new life can be used.
 in your life and death we see that love must be re - born.

5. We bring our broken selves,
 confused and closed and tired;
 then through your gift of healing grace
 new purpose is inspired.
6. O Spirit, on us breathe
 with life and strength anew;
 find in us love, and hope, and trust,
 and lift us up to you.

Words: Anna Briggs (1947-) Music: Kenneth G. Finlay (1882-1974)

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All my hope on God is founded

MICHAEL 8 7 8 7 3 3 7

1. All my hope on God is found - ed who does still my
 2. Hu - man pride and earth - ly glo - ry, sword and crown, be -
 3. God's great good-ness reigns e - ter - nal, deep in wis - dom,
 4. Dai - ly does Al-might-y Giv - er boun - teous gifts on
 5. Still from earth to God e - ter - nal sac - ri - fice of

trust re - new; through all change and chance God guides me,
 tray all trust; what our care and toil es - tab - lish,
 pass - ing thought; light and life are all God's splen - dour
 us be - stow, God's de - sire our soul de - light - ing,
 praise be done, high a - bove all prais - es prais - ing

on - ly good and on - ly true. Love un - known,
 tower and tem - ple, fall to dust, but God's power,
 bring - ing beau - ty out of naught. Ev - er - more
 pleas - ure lead - ing where we go. Love will stand
 for the gift of Christ, the Son. Hear Christ call

God's a - lone, calls my heart to be God's own.
 hour by hour, is my tem - ple and my tower.
 from God's store new-born worlds rise and a - dore.
 at God's hand; joy will wait on God's com - mand.
 one and all: you that fol - low shall not fall.

Words: German, Joachim Neander (1650–1680), translation, Robert Bridges (1944–1930), alt
 Music: Herbert Howells (1892–1983)

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Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

MANNHEIM 8 7 8 7 8 7

Eb Bb/D Eb Ab Bb Ab/C(D) Eb Cm Ab Eb/G Cm Eb/G Bb7 Eb

1. Lead us, heaven-ly Fath-er, lead us o'er the world's tem - pest-u-ous sea;
 2. Sav-iour, breathe for-give-ness o'er us, all our weak-ness thou dost know;
 3. Spir - it of our God de-scend-ing, fill our hearts with heaven-ly joy,

Ab/Eb Eb Eb7/G Ab /Eb Eb Bb/D Bb Eb Cm Bb/D(Eb) F 7 Bb

guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee,
 thou didst tread this earth be - fore us, thou didst feel its keen - est woe;
 love with eve - ry pas-sion blend-ing, pleas-ure that can nev - er cloy;

Eb/G Eb Bb/DEb Ab Bb Ab/C(D) Eb Cm Fm Bb/DEb /Bb Bb7 Eb

yet pos-sess-ing eve - ry bless-ing if our God our guide shall be,
 lone and drea-ry, faint and wea - ry through the des-ert thou didst go.
 thus pro-vid-ed, par-doned, guid-ed noth - ing can our peace de-stroy.

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window in Jewish Museum, Berlin