



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

## Christmas Eve

December 24, 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, as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.<sup>1</sup> If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite others to join you. Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site.

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

**Christmas Day:** Pot-Luck breakfast and Carol Sing at 9:30 am

### Activities returning in January

#### Prayer Groups:

Wednesday 6:30 am over zoom

Thursday afternoon in person (ask for details)

**Bible Study:** Wednesday 7-8 pm over zoom and in person

**Jesus & Java:** Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

A casual discussion about life and God Jan 9

**Friday pizza & movies:** 6:30 pizza followed by movie

RSVP with Peter appreciated Jan 10: Cool Running

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Heavenly Host - M Moyers

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

**Online courses:** Mondays Jan 6-Feb 3, Feb 10-Mar 17  
 with the Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality  
[www.osts.ca/courses.htm#Winter](http://www.osts.ca/courses.htm#Winter)

### Workshop with Rev. Dr. Pat Durrher-Walls

#### Biblical Foundations for Narratives of Hope

online - Sat., Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m

register here: [presbyterian.ca/2024/11/25/online-workshop-biblical-foundations-for-narratives-of-hope](http://presbyterian.ca/2024/11/25/online-workshop-biblical-foundations-for-narratives-of-hope)

## Contacts

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## *Approaching God*

🗨️ Call to worship<sup>2</sup>

We gather to celebrate the birth of Christ, the Prince of Peace.

**With each candle we light, we commit ourselves to seeking hope, peace, joy and love.**

We light the Christ candle to shine into the world, reminding us of the new life promised through Jesus' birth.



(Light the Christ Candle)

🎵 Advent Song Chorus

May the warmth and light of Christ comfort all people, bringing courage to the weary and strength to the oppressed.

**Holy One, by the power of your Spirit, help us to shine your light brightly to the world. Affirm within us the conviction to show hope, peace, joy and love throughout our lives.**

**In Jesus' name we pray,  
Amen.**

🎵 Hymn: Angels we have heard on high.....pg 11(147)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN_Y)



Prayer of Approach

adapted from a prayer found in *Fifty Prayers* by Karl Barth

Lord our God,  
you have humbled yourself that we may be exalted.  
You became poor, that we may become rich.  
You came to us, that we may come to you.

<sup>2</sup> provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development

You lived a human life like us,  
that we may join in your eternal life.  
All of this from your freely given grace;  
all this in your dear Son, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.



Nativity - Rembrandt

We are gathered here, in view of this mystery and wonder,  
to pray to you, praise you, and to hear your Word.  
But we know that we cannot do these things  
under our own power.  
When we try on our own,  
we so easily become focused on ourselves  
or our accomplishments, or our failures.  
We forget that we can - *must* - turn to you.  
Please forgive us...



## *Listening to God*

### Children's Time:

A couple of times last week I heard about children asking a good question. They figure out that Christmas is Jesus' birthday. Then they wonder why, if it's Jesus' birthday, we get the presents and we don't give presents to Jesus.<sup>3</sup>

One story I heard involves a sister and brother, Hannah and Nicholas. They not only figured out about the birthday, but had been told that the Christ child would visit on Christmas eve.

Hannah, who always thought deep thoughts, said to Nicholas, "If Jesus comes, what if Jesus comes to us? Maybe we should have a gift for him."

Nicholas was the practical one, "That's a good idea, but how would we recognize him... and what would we give?"

Hannah suggested, "We could get three presents, that way one will be good."

Still not knowing what to get, they asked their mom what a baby needs. She told them, "When babies are born they know they are loved." So they took all the fabric they found in the sewing bin and made a colourful blanket.

Then they asked their dad. He suggested that it's good to be able to see where you're going, so perhaps a flashlight. So they took their money down to the dollar store and found a wind-up flashlight - that way it would always be ready.


Wondering about the third gift, they decided chocolates were nice. So they re-wrapped a box of chocolates they'd been given

<sup>3</sup> The first time was from somebody at the New Hope lunch. The second was looking through the book *Dirt, Mess and Danger* ed by Glendon Macaulay. What follows is adapted from 'A Christmas Story' by Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton

and help us to remember that it is you who free us to lift our hearts and thoughts to you.

We thank you for your Holy Spirit,  
that opens a path for us that we may see your light come into the world, and that our lives may indeed be witnesses to you.

We ask your Spirit to help us to live into the prayer you give 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 (Matthew 1:21)

Hear the good news  
She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him the name Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.  
Amen.



(one they hadn't started yet).

All ready, they started wondering about how to find Jesus to give the presents. Just then, the doorbell rang - but it wasn't baby Jesus. It was Mme Miriam from across the street. Their furnace had died and they were wondering if they could borrow a heater to stay warm. Hannah and Nicholas offered their blanket. She was very grateful.

That night they went to church for Christmas Eve. This, they figured, would be a good place to find Jesus. On the way they passed a broken car. Somebody was trying to see the problem with the engine - so the children gave the flashlight. They were very grateful.



Northern Nativity - W Kurelek

At church Hannah and Nicolas were a little disappointed they only had one gift left - and then they heard that the Kim's had their house broken into and all the presents stolen. This was sad.

Their son, Seo-jun, was in Nicolas' class at school. He looked at Hannah and she nodded her agreement, so he offered their last present to them.

Afterwards the worship time they shared with the minister their idea and disappointment that they hadn't met Jesus, and no longer had any presents to give anyway. The minister told them about something Jesus said when he was grown up. "Whenever you give gifts to somebody who needs them, it's the same as giving gifts to me." ...and they had given their gifts to Jesus.

#### Prayer

*Dear Jesus, Thank you for coming, being in us,  
and help us to look out for others this Christmas.*

*Amen.*

♪ Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem.....pg 12 (164)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKPYOf2aSF0>

#### 🧘 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we see you born in our world.

*Amen.*

#### ✦ Intro to the readings

We have four books about Jesus' life in the Bible, the Gospels, and they focus on his life, and how it leads towards his death and resurrection. However two of them also include stories of his birth - how the Son of God came into the world. Matthew focuses on Joseph and the Magi. This year we're going to focus on Luke (from now until after Easter). Luke starts by telling us about how both John the Baptiser and Jesus were conceived.<sup>4</sup> John has been

<sup>4</sup> You can look this up in the service from December 15. [kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities](https://kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities)

born in a highly unlikely situation.

As Rose reads about Jesus' birth we will also hear from some of the characters in the story.

### Luke 2: 1-5

<sup>2:1</sup> In those days Caesar Augustus ordered that all the world should be registered. <sup>2</sup> This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. <sup>3</sup> Everyone went to the towns they came from to be registered. <sup>4</sup> So Joseph went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Bethlehem in Judah, the city of David, because he was a descendant of David. <sup>5</sup> He went with Mary, his fiancée, who was pregnant.

### Joseph

Can you believe it?

Caesar wants to make a list of everybody. Everybody! Does he really think he rules the whole world? It would be laughable except that Mary is so close to giving birth. To make his list for tax wishes he turns our wishes upside-down.

How come he gets to upset our lives like this?

What's this say about God?



Dream of St Joseph - Mengs

### Luke 2: 6-7

<sup>6</sup> While they were there, the time came for Mary to deliver her child. <sup>7</sup> And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth and laid him in a manger, because there was no place in the guest room.

### Mary

Can you believe it?

It started with God picking me to birth his son into the world. That was crazy. I'm a nobody. When Joseph and I finish getting married I'll have a connection to King David through him - but I'm no princess, and we don't have money or comforts. We don't even have experience raising kids. And still, God picked me.

And now... Jesus has been born. The Son of God. The Saviour. Born just like any other baby... except the Son of God is sleeping in a food trough in a barn.

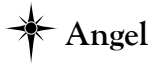
What's this say about God?



### Luke 2: 8-14

<sup>8</sup> Now in that same region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. <sup>9</sup> Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. <sup>10</sup> But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid, for see, I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: <sup>11</sup> to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. <sup>12</sup> This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger." <sup>13</sup> And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

<sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest heaven,  
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!"



## Angel

Can you believe it?

God's chosen people are being squeezed by the Romans, especially the common people, and God sends in the army of angels.

And what military manoeuvres we get to perform.

Not fighting, but delivering the greatest news ever. The people shouldn't be afraid because the Saviour has come - and I don't mean us. This is fantastic - a great joy for everyone.

To help prove the point, we don't go to the leaders, but to the people. God doesn't descend on a cloud or ride in on a horse, but was born a human baby - not behind palace walls or in the Temple sanctum, but down with everyone else. It's so awesome that we raise our voices and sing of peace on earth.

What's this say about God?

## Luke 2: 15-20

<sup>15</sup> When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see what has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us." <sup>16</sup> So they quickly went and found Mary and Joseph and the



child lying in the manger. <sup>17</sup> When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child, <sup>18</sup> and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them, <sup>19</sup> and Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. <sup>20</sup> The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, just as it had been told them.

## Shepherds

Can you believe it?

Angels! Talking to us!

We were a bit terrified. Us shepherds, we live off the grid. Life's easier when the leaders don't notice you. Having a spotlight from the heavens light up your life is... a bit terrifying.

But then we got the message.

Don't be afraid because everything's going to become good - so good we'll be filled with joy... and not just us, but everyone can be included.

Which may seem upside-down, mighty angels telling common shepherds about how God is saving the world. You'd think it'd be the priests or kings - but this message is for everyone.

We can't not check it out - and everything's just as the Lord shared with us. And you could tell. There's just something about the baby. Helpless, but peace and joy just come out of him - like the glowing of a candle.

This must be what God's glory looks like.

It was wonderful. So wonderful, we couldn't contain the good news and ran around telling everyone.

What's this say about God?

Shepherds - John Swanson





What's this say about God?

It's one of the questions we always ask when reading the Bible.

The angel's message is not only in the middle of the passage, but says a lot about God. It starts with '*Fear not.*' I talk with a lot of people, and there's a lot of concern about... lots of things. The environment, expenses, landlords, health, governments trying to limit freedoms, or having leadership issues, or civil wars, or wars with neighbours. Biblically speaking, 'concerned' is used in relating to something. (ex. from Jonah when God says, "*Should I not be concerned about Nineveh?*") When talking about something that troubles or distresses you, the word 'fear' is used. So, while we might say we are 'concerned' about \_\_\_\_\_, this is 'fear'.

God sends a message. "*Fear not.*"

What's this say about God?

That God knows we have reasons to fear (or be concerned), and that God invites us to trust that things will be okay. There is "*good news of great joy for all the people.*" This '*fear not*' message isn't just for the shepherds, it's for us too. We are part of "*all the people.*"

As is everyone else. It's no surprise. This has been part of the narrative we've been hearing through the Older Testament. God includes the powerful and the ordinary, the chosen and their enemies, those who live good lives and those who don't. Nobody is a nobody for God. You, your neighbours, and people you think are crazy. Everyone is invited to share *the good news of great joy.*

and what is this "*good news of great joy*"?

The Saviour has been born in Bethlehem and is lying in a

manger.

How is this good news?

It shows that God is very different from other leaders, such as Caesar. Jesus wasn't born in Rome, the capital of the Empire, or Jerusalem, the local capital and centre of Jewish faith. Jesus isn't born in a palace, or even a house. The Son of God is born in Bethlehem and is lying in a manger.

Caesar orders that the lives of everyone in 'all' the world be disturbed so they can be shaken down for more taxes and for labour for his projects. A common labourer in Galilee may not know, but Caesar should know that he doesn't control all the world. The Ethiopians, Picts, and others were definitely outside his influence. Still, it says something about his leadership and priorities.

God doesn't try and bend the world to serve him. Jesus comes to serve - and shows this by arriving in the most humble of ways. There's nothing glorious or honourable about being born to a common family (which includes being poor) - in a stable - out of wedlock. God arrives needing help, and Jesus grows up seeking to help people who are lost. It doesn't matter whether they have done things to separate themselves from community with God, or been separated from their community due to some sort of illness or behaviour... Jesus reaches out to help them back - to help turn their lives around - to help them repent.

You get a similar message about leadership with the host (Biblical for army) of angels. Rome has an army and uses it to enforce their will. God has an army of angels, and uses it to sing about the "*good news of great joy for all the people.*"

This is a very different type of leadership. It tells us that God humbly looks to help. God could use force, but doesn't. God

inspires people to join in sharing the good news - to bear it into the world.



Tent City Nativity - Kelly Latimore

Which says something about God.

Though is it good news?

It is if you value a leader/Lord/Saviour who knows there are reasons to be afraid. Who respects you, wants to include you - to involve you in saving the world - in bringing joy and peace to all who want to live in God's realm.

Which is good news of great joy.

Can you believe it?

*To God be all the glory*

*Amen.*



*Responding to God*

♪ Hymn Sing: This is a time when we sing several hymn requests.  
You can join in on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/channel/UC\\_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz\\_w](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w)

🗣️ 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: Share fond memories of Christmas.

Values: Thinking of Caesar and God both bringing their values into people's lives in the Christmas story... which values do you choose to embrace? How would you describe them? Why? How do you live them?

Wonder: How would you explain this news of great joy for all people to someone who doesn't go to church?

Visions: A baby in Bethlehem is a small thing. What is a small thing that would make the world better now?

Visions: Can you imagine the enthusiasm of the shepherds? When have you felt that irresistible urge to tell everyone about something?

Prayer: ...that we will have opportunities to both see God grow, and share the good news with the enthusiasm of the shepherds.

### ✨ Spirit Sightings

This week I heard about Collective Kitchens.<sup>5</sup> They started in Montreal in the 1980s, and there are now many throughout Québec. While they function separately the gist is the same. Families pay a small amount for a Christmas dinner... but they have to come and help prepare it. This provides a meal they could not afford, and teaches cooking skills, builds community, and creates a good family experience.

The article didn't mention church or God - but the way the program reaches out to people, gives them skills, meets needs,

<sup>5</sup> [www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-collective-kitchens-1.7409889](http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/quebec-collective-kitchens-1.7409889)



and builds community... I see the Holy Spirit working. I just pray they also see God.

## ✦ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: [kensingtonchurch.ca](http://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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

## 🧑 Prayers of the people

Dear God,

You came to us,  
showing that we can come to you.  
You came humbly and honestly,  
with the joys of a child  
and their scraped knees.  
and you invite us to come to you with our joys,  
and our scrapes.

Dear God

you are the King of kings & Lord of lords,  
and we pray for all the kings and lords  
of peoples and companies  
That they may learn from your leadership  
to be humble  
to listen

to recognize the fears of those in their care  
and to reach out to help them...

Jesus our Saviour  
**hear our prayer**

We pray tonight for peace,  
peace in places where  
there is anger and war  
and fear ...

We pray for peacemakers  
and peacekeepers, for  
rulers,  
for politicians, for older  
people and children ... for  
all who are caught up in  
conflict, in bitterness and  
in danger ...

We pray for peace with  
integrity and with justice.

Jesus our Saviour  
**hear our prayer**

While we didn't hear about it tonight,  
as a child your family became refugees fleeing persecution.  
We pray for all who are travelling,  
but especially for refugees,  
and those without a home...

Jesus our Saviour  
**hear our prayer**



Birth of a Saviour - Kestly

We remember our health -  
that we can be here tonight celebrating the gift of you.  
We pray for all who are sick,  
and for those who care for them...

Jesus our Saviour  
**hear our prayer**

We remember the miracle of your birth as an ordinary baby,  
and the miracle of all births.  
We pray for the babies born into this world and for their families.  
We ask your blessing on their lives ...

Jesus our Saviour  
**hear our prayer**

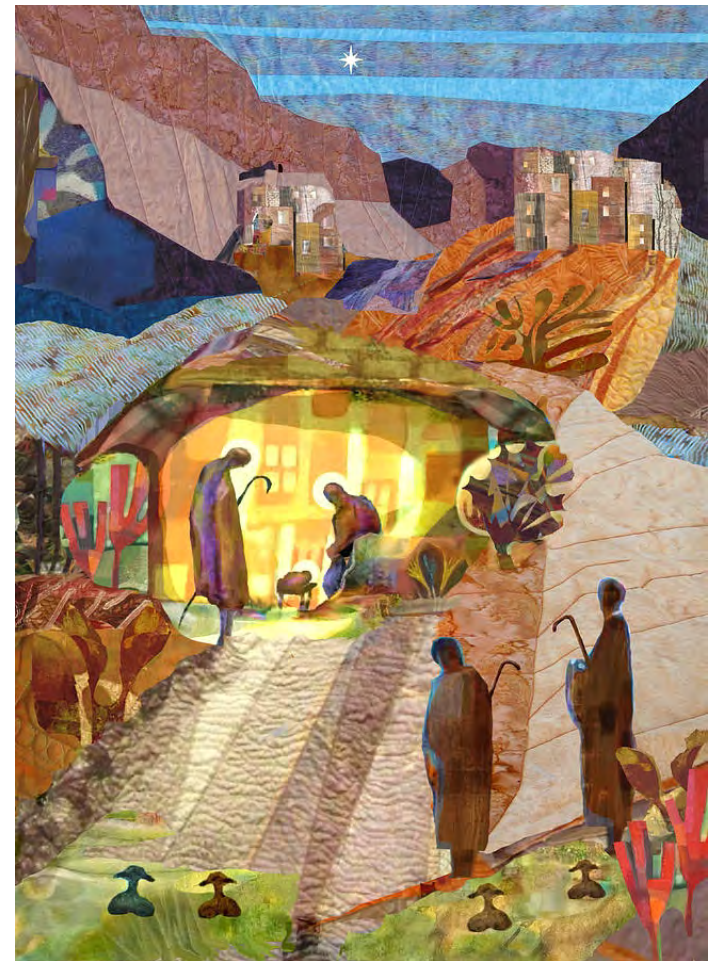
May we see your love made real in our world, your world,  
so that we are so excited we can't not tell others.  
May you bless our community here at Kensington,  
and those you are preparing for us to build community with.

Jesus our Saviour  
**hear our prayer**  
In Jesus name  
**Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain .....pg 13 (133)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9o7bv7enYI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9o7bv7enYI)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfDUkWy3IW8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfDUkWy3IW8) (gospel)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_GgZsUyzHA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_GgZsUyzHA) (banjo & fiddle)

✦ Benediction  
*The joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,*

*the perseverance of the Magi,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.  
And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.*  
Amen.



Shepherds at Bethlehem - Michael Torevell

## Angels we have heard on high

IRIS (GLORIA) 7 7 7 7 with refrain (9 9)

**1** An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,  
**2** Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro - long?  
**3** Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;  
**4** See him in a man-ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad-some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven-ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend-ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

**Refrain**

**Glo**

Words: Luke 2:6-20; traditional French carol Music: traditional; arrangement; Martin Shaw  
 (1875-1958) from Oxford Book of Carols

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Oxford University Press, 1928

**1** ri - a (1st) in ex - cel - sis De - o.  
**2** ri - a (2nd) in ex - cel - sis De - o.

ri - a

1. Les anges dans nos campagnes  
ont entonné l'hymne des cieux,  
et l'écho de nos montagnes  
redit ce chant mélodieux.  
Refrain  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Bergers, pour qui cette fête?  
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?  
Quel vainqueur ou quel prophète  
méritent ces choeurs triomphants?  
Refrain
3. Ils annoncent la naissance  
du libérateur d'Israël  
et pleins de reconnaissance  
chantent en ce jour solennel:  
Refrain



## O little town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN 8 6 8 6 D CMD

D/F# G C G/B Am 6 G Em D Em Am G/B C6 D 7 G

1. O lit-tle town of Beth-le-hem, how still we see thee lie!  
 2. For Christ is born of Ma-ry, and, gath-ered all a-bove,  
 3. How si-lent-ly, how si-lent-ly, the won-drous gift is given!  
 4. O ho-ly child of Beth-le-hem, de-scend to us, we pray;

D/F# G C G/B Am 6 G Em D Em Am G/B C6 D 7 G

A-bove thy deep and dream-less sleep the si-lent stars go by:  
 while mor-tals sleep, the an-gels keep their watch of won-dering love.  
 So God im-parts to hu-man hearts the bless-ings born of heaven.  
 cast out our sin and en-ter in; be born in us to-day.

Em Bm (C) D G Em D /C G/B G C6 Em D

yet in thy dark streets shin-eth the ev-er-last-ing light;  
 O morn-ing stars, to-geth-er pro-claim the ho-ly birth,  
 No ear may hear his com-ing, but in this world of sin,  
 We hear the Christ-mas an-gels the great glad tid-ings tell;

G C G/B Am 6 G Em D Em Am G/B Dsus4 D 7 G

the hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee to-night.  
 and prais-es sing to God the King, and peace to all on earth.  
 where meek souls will re-ceive him, still the dear Christ en-ters in.  
 oh come to us, a-bide with us, our Lord, Em-man-u-el.

Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), alt Music: English traditional; harmony, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958)

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © Oxford University Press from The English Hymnal CCLI #4440603



## Go, tell it on the mountain

GO, TELL IT 7 6 7 6 with refrain

Refrain G C/G G G/B D D7 Em/D D G G/B Am7 D7

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and eve - ry - where.

G C/G G G/B Am/C Am G/D D7 G Fine

Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

C/G G G/B D Em D G

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
 2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo, a - bove the earth  
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

G C G/B G G/B A A7 D/F# D7 D.C.

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - iour's birth!  
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American traditional; adaptation, John W. Work (1901–1967)

Music: African-American traditional; arrangement, John W. Work (1901–1967), alt

f Words: adaptation, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 Music: arrangement, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 CCLI #4440603  
 Kensington Presbyterian Church

## MISSION MOMENT Sunday, December 22

Somalia has been devastated by drought for the last six years. Among the many pushed to the brink of starvation is Hawa Ahmed, a resilient mother of eight. When the lack of water and food made the situation increasingly dire, Hawa made the courageous decision to relocate her family for the chance at a better life. Her new surroundings came with a harsh reality: as a displaced person, she was stripped of her possessions and support system, leaving her feeling alone and anxious for a solution. Things changed when Hawa joined a program supported by PWS&D that provided families with emergency cash. With this financial support, Hawa was able to purchase food and ensure access to clean drinking water for her children.



## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, December 22 (4th Sunday of Advent)** As we celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ into the world, we pray for the staff at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre as they offer generous hospitality to all who come seeking rest and renewal.

**Monday, December 23** We give thanks for ministries that demonstrate Christ's love and compassion by offering nourishment and fellowship through Christmas day dinners.

**Tuesday, December 24 (Christmas Eve)** We pray that our lives may echo the refrain of the angels, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will to all people."

**Wednesday, December 25 (Christmas Day)** Loving God, we thank you for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings reconciliation. May we know you more clearly and serve you more faithfully as we receive the Christ Child again.

**Thursday, December 26** We pray for the safety of all who are travelling today.

**Friday, December 27** We pray for military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families. May their presence be a constant reminder of God's presence, especially at those times when people feel estranged from home and family.

**Saturday, December 28** We pray for those recovering from illness or injury, that they will experience God's love and healing touch through the love of family and friends.