



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

What are you doing?

March 16, 2025

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

We're glad this PDF has come to you.¹ If you're using a device, clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site. We are also welcoming people to worship in person on Sundays at 10:30, over Zoom, and on YouTube. Know that you are not alone.

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

Annual Meeting: today after lunch

Sunday Singing: Join Zoé on Sundays at 9:15 to share in the music.

Prayer Groups:

Zoom: Wednesday 6:30 am

Woman's Prayer Group: Thursdays 2-3:30 pm at Cathy's house
 talk to Ines or Cathy for more information

Bible Study on Luke: 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

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the Food Pantry at
Women on the Rise, and items for children (ex. diapers) for young mothers through Head & Hands.

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



Martha & Mary - Diego Velázquez

Sanctuary Mental Health exploration: Fridays

6:30 pizza (RSVP with Peter appreciated)

followed by video and discussion exploring key mental health topics and examining meaningful ways to offer companionship, support recovery, and promote wellbeing.

Worship at St. Andrew's Home: Sundays, 3:30 (less than an hour)

You are welcome to join the Rev. Jessica Gauthier for a time of song, scripture and prayer with the residence.

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
 514-773-4620

Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

Rose Ngo Mbenoun (Clerk of Session).....admin@Kensingtonchurch.ca



Approaching God

We start worship by approaching God - reminding ourselves of why we're here and who God is. This includes lighting the Christ candle, sharing the 'call to worship', singing praise to God, and praying.



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

As we seek your face, O God, on our Lenten journey,
may we remember your covenant of grace with your people.

Give us eyes to see your compassion and glory in Christ Jesus
that we may be astounded by your greatness.

Help our hearts to take courage as we wait for you, O God,
so that together we can sing and make melody.²



Hymn: When morning gilds the skies.....pg 11 (438)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPQ7t8TcY5k



Prayer of Approach

God, you are amazing.

The way you focus on others.

You could be a God who just sits on a throne
and throws lighting at anyone who does something you don't like.

Or you could just go off and do something else - ignore us.

Instead you love us.

You came as Jesus to bring healing,
and you continue to send your Holy Spirit
to help us listen to you.

Jesus, we admit that sometimes we don't do what we should.
Sometimes we don't want to disturb our plans to help
or we don't want to do something uncomfortable
or include the people you do.
Sometimes we allow ourselves to get too busy to listen to you.
Please forgive us. . .

May your Holy Spirit help us feel your love for us
and your forgiveness.
and help us to repent so that we focus on loving you,
and our neighbours,
as we would want to be loved.

To help us, we pray the prayer you teach 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.



Listening to God

The next section we focus on listening to God through Bible stories and trying to understand them. We're going to break today's story into three (well, five) sections. But first, let's pray for God's Spirit to help us focus.

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we will become more like you.
Amen.

Message & Readings

We've been going through the book of Luke. Last week was a bit of a flashback to when Jesus was tested over scripture in the wilderness. Before that we'd reached Jesus going up the mountain to pray and being encouraged by Moses, Elijah and God - and then helping his disciples who still couldn't do what he asked.

After that Jesus told them he was going to be betrayed. Then the disciples argued which of them was the greatest... and Jesus told them to be like a child.

Then one of the disciples complained about somebody who was helping people in the name of Jesus, but not one of the disciples. Jesus told them that "*whoever is not against you is for you.*"

And then we have the first of today's stories. In it you'll hear that Jesus and his students are going to Jerusalem. The shortest way is to cut through an area called Samaria - but it's still too far to walk in a day. They need a place to stay. Listen for what happens. How would you feel if you were one of them?



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Luke 9](#): 51-56

^{9:51} When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make arrangements for his arrival. ⁵³ But when the Samaritans learned that his destination was Jerusalem, they refused hospitality. ⁵⁴ When his disciples James and John saw this, they said, "Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ Then they went on to another village.



³ 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

Did Jesus and his students get a place to stay?

Probably, but not in this story.

How would you feel if you needed a place to stay and were told to go away?

...bad, sad, angry, frustrated, hurt, ...

Imagine you had great power, like The Hulk or Thor. What would you do?

...smash and destroy. hurt those that hurt you.

That's like James & John,

BUT what did Jesus do?

tell the disciples that was bad and walk away (with them)

and this reaction makes sense. Jesus has been teaching people to "love your enemies" and "do good to those who hate you". Jesus uses his powers to heal people and never to hurt them.

This is hard, especially when we are hurt.

Hitting back might make us feel better, but it just keeps the hurt going. Jesus wants to stop the hurt. In this case he goes somewhere else.

♪ Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love.....pg 11 (229)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjFNpoEy8mY

We're going to skip ahead a little more to another section that mentions Samaria. In between Jesus sends out 70 disciples to help and teach people - and not to take anything with them. They came back amazed that it had worked beyond their imagination - and they had been a part of it.⁴ Then we have the next story. I'm going to break it into three.

For the adults, remember last week's story where Jesus was tested by Satan, who used Bible passages to try and trick Jesus

⁴ I'm reminded of my first paper on a Bible passage in Seminary where we weren't allowed to use anything except what we already knew... and we discovered we knew enough to be on the right track.

into focusing first on himself and not God. Think about that when you hear the opening of this story.

For everyone, what is the person asking Jesus? What's he concerned about?



Reading:.....[Luke 10](#): 25-28

^{10:25} An expert in God's law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶ Jesus said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷ He answered, "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." ²⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Good answer! Do this, and you will live."

What does the expert in God ask Jesus?

...how he can have eternal life.

What's he concerned about?

himself and his future

Did Jesus like his answer?

yes

So, that should be the end of that.

In the next section Jesus tells a story. It's helpful to know a few things first.

- Jerusalem is up. If you have to walk up hills to go to Jerusalem, which way to walk when you leave? *...down*
- If you see somebody who is hurt, do you want to help them? Maybe see if they are okay or get a teacher?

The same was true back then - perhaps stronger. It was expected that you'd stop everything and help the person first - even if you had plans.

- There were three groups of Jews: Priests, Levites, and Israelites. Everyone knew it. It's like people being able to finish these three: God the Father, Son and _____ (*Holy Ghost*).
- Samaritans and Jews did not get along. We kinda saw this in the last story. They each had their own ways of worshipping God, and they thought the others were wrong. They would call them heretics. Sometimes they just ignored each other, sometimes there were insults, and sometimes they acted like enemies and attacked each other.

Martha & Mary - Diego Velázquez

As you listen to the story, imagine you are in it. What do you hope will happen? What does happen?



c. 1890

him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him.³⁵ The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

If you imagined yourself as the person who was beat up, what would you feel when the priest was coming? Hope? Everyone listening to Jesus would expect the priest to help... and be shocked when they looked the other way and kept walking.⁵ The same with the next person.

And the third! Not an Israelite, but a Samaritan! The person would probably have been afraid that now he'll be killed - except there's another shocking twist. Help is given.

It brings up the question of who we do not want to associate with. Who do we not look to for help?

Last Friday's mental health series focused on the importance of companionship. One aspect is being a neighbour.⁶

What does it mean to be a neighbour? (*being friendly. watching over people who live near you, ...*) The series pushes the idea of being neighbours to include looking for what you have in common and acknowledging it. This isn't passively waiting for something to happen, being actively looking. It's also not focusing on your

 Reading:.....[Luke 10](#): 26-35

²⁹ But the man, wanting to justify himself, continued, "And who is my neighbour?" ³⁰ Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. ³¹ Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. ³² So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³ But when a traveling Samaritan came upon him, and when he saw him he was moved with compassion. ³⁴ The Samaritan went to him and provided first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he put

⁵ Did you imagine yourself as the person walking on the other side? No reason is given here for why they did that - though we can imagine. It's important to realize that the social pressure to help would have been stronger than now when so many others always turn away.

⁶ the others are: hospitality, respecting different perspectives, attentive listening, and accompanying

differences. How actively do you engage your neighbour?
...and who is your neighbour?

That was the expert's second question, but before we get to Jesus wrapping up the answer, what was the first question the person asked? (*how to have eternal life*) Let's listen to how Jesus finishes their meeting.



Good Samaritan - van Gogh

Reading:.....[Luke 10: 36-37](#)
³⁶ Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷ He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Jesus takes his question that was all about himself and turns the conversation around so that now it is about others - even those you don't like or want to help.

Before our last story, let's sing...

♪ Hymn: Servant Song.....pg 12 (635)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9atbM9FNyc (good for sing)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FejoxTNwbiY (choir)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=4iu_T_FRvbY (different)

We have one more story. It's often told separately, but it is good to hear it after a story where Jesus encourages people to help others - to serve them.

What's the problem here?

Reading:.....[Luke 10: 38-42](#)
³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." ⁴¹ But the Lord answered her, "Martha, dear Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² Only a few things are really needed, perhaps only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."



What's the problem here?

...Mary not helping.

Martha too much to do; distracted

But we just heard Jesus tell people to help out - which is what Martha is doing. She is trying to be a good host and look after everyone - especially somebody as important as Jesus.

Remember the problem with the Samaritan village - they thought Jesus wasn't their Messiah because he was focused on Jerusalem. They were focused on themselves and Jesus moved on. Then James and John to satisfy their hurt by hurting others, and Jesus said that was bad. Then the expert asks Jesus how he could have eternal life, to have his focus turned from himself to helping others. All of them are focused on themselves and not on others - or on what God is doing.

"Martha is distracted by her many tasks." She is focused on

everything she has to do. She's not considering what Jesus needs from her. Sometimes that is helping others... and sometimes it is just listening - just being attentive.

Both doing and listening are important, but I think the big point is where your focus is. What's your motivation? Is it you or Jesus?

To God be all the Glory
Amen.



Responding to God

In the last section of our worship time we focus on responding to God with singing, praying - and going out to share our experiences.

🎵 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

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

Wonder: What are modern parallels for the Good Samaritan?⁷

Memories: Can you share an occasion, yours or someone else's, where hurt was not responded to by hurting? (and share it)

Wonder: What does it look like to listen to Jesus? to focus on Jesus?

⁷ A particularly timely version, though distant from Montréal, would be an Israeli soldier hurt in the West Bank. The group captain walks by, some Israeli settlers, and then a Hamas soldier - who helps and brings him to a hospital that uses precious resources to heal. Perhaps in Montréal it would involve an 'upstanding citizen' being helped by a homeless person with mental illness and drug addiction (which reminds me a little of the movie *The Fisher King* with Robin Williams)

Values: What distracts you from focusing on Jesus?
Actions: How could you live more directed to Jesus - this week?
Visions: Considering how Jesus answers everybody in a different way than they expect... how can we (you) prepare ourselves for Jesus answering us? Where will we look? How will we notice? How radical might it be?
Prayer: ...that we will be able to place God first and not ourselves.

✧ Spirit Sightings

We have news from people we know whose journey's have moved away.

Joseph Ragbir tells us
"The month of February has flown by, and I've passed the midway mark of my semester. I had a wonderful spring break where I spent some time at an Elevation Concert in Toronto and some time in Montreal with my family.



This semester I've been really enjoying my Reformation History class, where I'm learning about a new reformer each week and the formation of the mainline denominations. This far, my most challenging class has been intercultural theology, where I'm learning about the integration of faith and culture, and the growing church of the global South. Other than that, I hope that the people at Kensington are doing well, and staying true to the faith of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ."

Soham and Neeti have sent an update on their explorations in India. They have been visiting many religious sites and groups learning what is important for them and how they contemplate

the divine, mostly from Buddhist and Hindu religions. They have also met many kind hearted individuals who were practicing religion with deep and inspiring conviction. They are looking forward to a meditation retreat that's a couple of weeks long, and a trip to Japan and Vietnam. They are continuing to feel their love and connection with Jesus growing, and have shared this with people who are interested.



✧ 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

This week we will be passing around our prayer diary and having a prayer based on that. You are welcome to create your own prayer based on this⁸...

Familiar stories for many...
stories that many have heard time and time again
and prayed to be better neighbours
and Good Samaritans
on more occasions that we can perhaps remember.
May today be the day on which we act.

Pause

God of grace and guidance,
may you be with all
who have the power to bring about change.
Inspire them to pave the road of peace,
rather than cross over to the other side.
May we play our part
in binding wounds
afflicted by words or violence.

God of care and compassion,
may you be with those
in our midst or in our community
who need your help at this time.
May we be your agent of love this day.

May we love you and each other
with all our heart, soul and mind.
May we love those beside us,
the stranger,
the immigrant.

May we recognise those times when we are helpless,
when we do not have the capability

to meet our own needs,
whether physically, mentally or spiritually,
and accept the help and support that others can provide us.

May we not feel threatened by revealing our weakness,
but rather may this be a chance
to build bonds of grace and generosity.
May we bring to you now
our own prayers in this time of silence.

Silence

Lord hear us. Lord graciously hear us.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Lord I want to be a Christian.....pg 12 (571)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rzt62ITBCww>

✦ Benediction (Ephesians 3:20-21)
*Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus
to all generations, forever and ever.*
Amen.



MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, March 16

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre in Montreal, QC offers a March Break Camp and Summer Day Camps that are more than just fun and games; they are vital avenues for learning, growth, and community connection. These programs provide a safe and engaging environment where children not only enjoy exciting activities and real-life skills, but also enhance their literacy skills through initiatives like the Literacy Camp in the summer. Beyond the immediate joy, these camps play a crucial role in fostering social and skills development, teamwork, and personal confidence.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, March 16 (2nd Sunday in Lent) We pray for the March Break Camp at Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, which provides a safe, fun, and empowering environment for children in the Little Burgundy community of Montreal, Quebec.

Monday, March 17 We pray for blessing and strength for those who raise awareness and support for people in need through PWS&D.

Tuesday, March 18 We pray for scholars and teachers serving God's gospel: "Let love be genuine, outdo one another in showing honour, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord."

Wednesday, March 19 We give thanks for the new Presbyterian Church Heritage Center in Carlisle, Ontario, for God's continued blessings on Marilyn Repchuk's devoted service, and for Ian Mason as he carefully curates the church's artifacts.

Thursday, March 20 We pray for members of the Atlantic Mission Society as they continue to glorify God and support, with prayer, study and service, mission endeavours through the PCC.

Friday, March 21 (International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination) We pray for an end to racial discrimination and for the Spirit's guidance to seek the kinds of changes needed to eliminate racism from our church and our society.

Saturday, March 22 (World Water Day) We pray that all people have access to clean safe drinking water, which is a common good, and for the protection of watersheds and the ecosystems they support.

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, March 23

Five years after getting married, Cristina's husband emigrated to the United States from Guatemala, leaving her in debt. Unable to pay off the debt, she lost the land her husband had left as collateral, an inheritance from her parents. She struggled to earn enough daily to feed her young children and repay the debt and interest. Things got a little easier when her children turned 18, emigrated to the United States and sent money. She also received support from Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas, PWS&D's local partner. She was trained in managing her cornfields, family gardens, backyard animals, and in topics related to healthy and nutritional diets.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, March 23 (3rd Sunday in Lent) We pray for those who are keeping a Lenten devotion and discipline.

Monday, March 24 We give thanks for the gifts and time that members of the Assembly Council offer, especially over these next few days as they meet at Crieff Hills.

Tuesday, March 25 We pray for interfaith movements and initiatives, from communal meals in our local places of worship to significant acts of diplomacy on the global stage.

Wednesday, March 26 We pray for congregations and missions receiving grants this spring, that their programs and initiatives will share the love of Christ in their communities.

Thursday, March 27 We pray for Elders and volunteers who faithfully serve at the eight PCC Indigenous Ministries.

Friday, March 28 We pray for those in the Order of Diaconal Ministries who are called to serve the church in the areas of Christian education, pastoral care and social ministries.

Saturday, March 29 We pray for the Committee on Church Doctrine as it discerns how the church demonstrates the love of God in Christ to those who have chosen medical assistance in dying and to their families.

197 When Morning Gilds the Skies

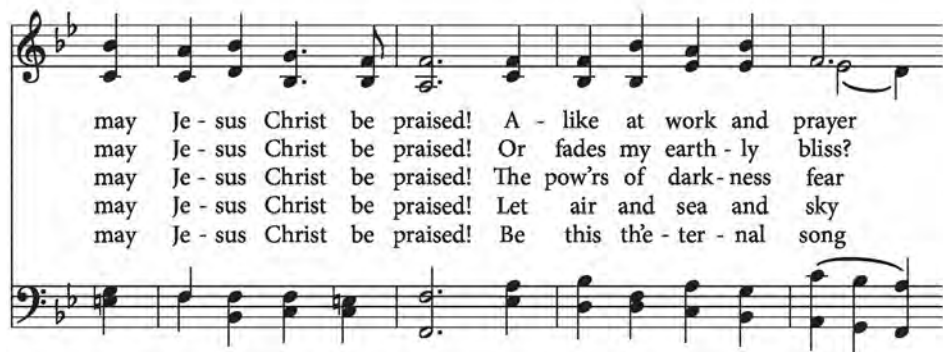
Sebastian Portner's
Katholisches Gesangbuch, 1828
trans. Edward Caswall, 1858

LAUDES DOMINI
66 6 66 6


Joseph Barnby, 1868



1. When morn-ing gilds the skies, my heart a - wak-ing cries,
2. Does sad - ness fill my mind? A sol-ace here I find,
3. The night be-comes as day when from the heart we say,
4. Let earth's wide cir - cle round in joy - ful notes re - sound,
5. Be this, while life is mine, my can - ti - cle di - vine,



may Je - sus Christ be praised! A - like at work and prayer
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Or fades my earth - ly bliss?
may Je - sus Christ be praised! The pow'rs of dark-ness fear
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Let air and sea and sky
may Je - sus Christ be praised! Be this thè - ter - nal song



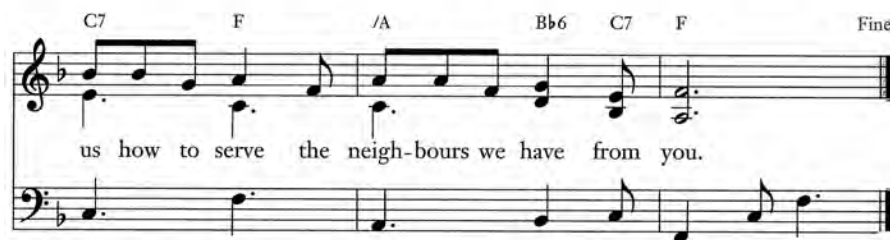
to Je - sus I re - pair, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
My com-fort still is this, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
when this sweet song they hear, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
from depth to height re - ply, may Je - sus Christ be praised!
through all the a - ges long, may Je - sus Christ be praised!

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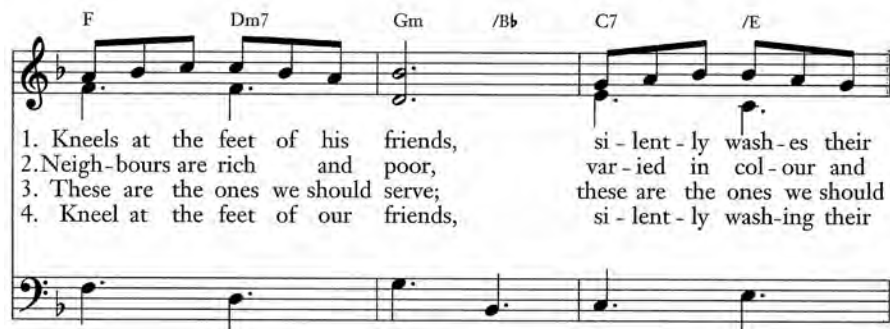
Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love



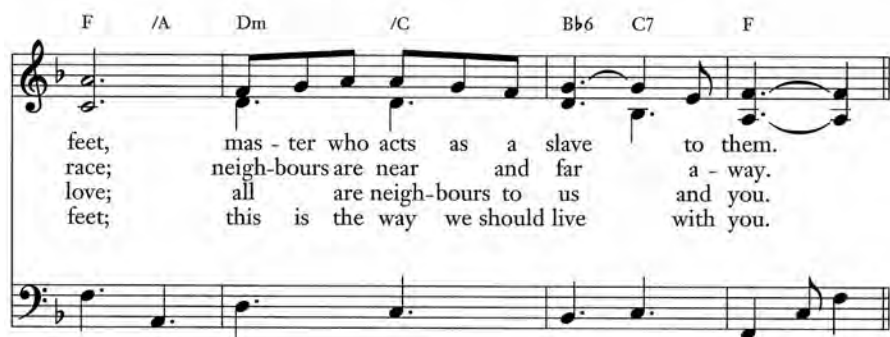
Refrain F /A Gm6
Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show



C7 F /A Bb6 C7 F Fine
us how to serve the neigh-bours we have from you.



F Dm7 Gm /Bb C7 /E
1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
2. Neigh-bours are rich and poor, var - ied in col - our and
3. These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
4. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their



F /A Dm /C Bb6 C7 F
feet, mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
race; neigh-bours are near and far a - way.
love; all are neigh-bours to us and you.
feet; this is the way we should live with you.

Words: Tom Colvin (1925-) Music: Ghanaian folk melody; arrangement, Jane Marshall (1924-);
adaptation, Tom Colvin (1925-) CCLI #4440603

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Brother, sister, let me serve you

SERVANT SONG 8787

Eb (Fm/Eb Ebmaj7) Ab/Eb (Ebmaj7 Fm/Eb Eb) Cm (Fm/C Cm7) Eb/G Fm7 (Eb/G) Bb



1. Broth-er, sis-ter, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;
2. We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, and com-pan-ions on the road;
3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
4. I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh I'll laugh with you;



Ab Eb/G Bb7/F Eb Ab/C (Bb6 Ab6 Eb/G) Fm (Eb/G Fm/Ab) Cm Ab6 Bb7 Eb



pray that I may have the grace to let you be my serv-ant too.
 we are here to help each oth-er walk the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor-row, till we've seen this jour-ney through.



5. When we sing to God in heaven,
 we shall find such harmony,
 born of all we've known together
 of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
 let me be as Christ to you;
 pray that I may have the grace to
 let you be my servant too.

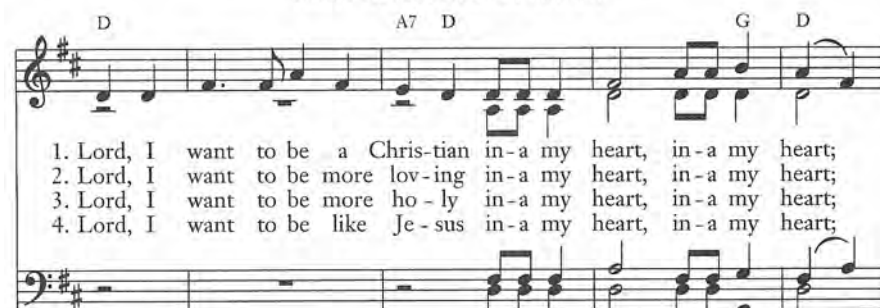
Words: Richard Gillard (1953-) Music: Richard Gillard (1953-)

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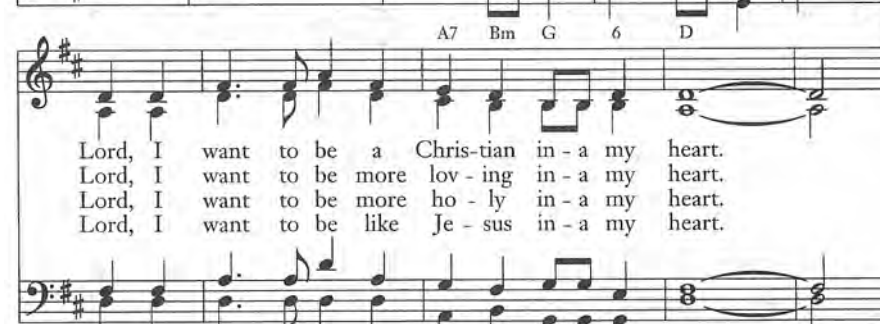
571

Lord, I want to be a Christian

I WANT TO BE A CHRISTIAN 14 11 6 11



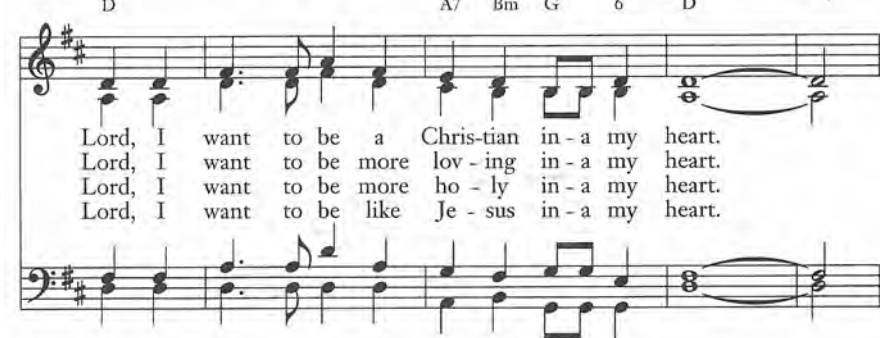
1. Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart, in-a my heart;
2. Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart, in-a my heart;
3. Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in-a my heart, in-a my heart;
4. Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart, in-a my heart;



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart.



In-a my heart, in-a my heart, in-a my heart,



Lord, I want to be a Chris-tian in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more lov-ing in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be more ho-ly in-a my heart.
 Lord, I want to be like Je-sus in-a my heart.

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual

Words: public domain Music: public domain