



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love
since 1786

Assuming *April 6, 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

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

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

Prayer Groups:

Zoom: Wednesday 6:30 am

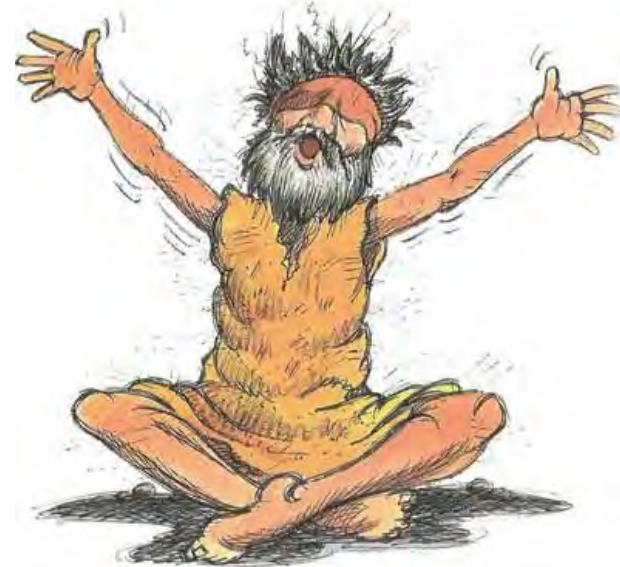
Woman's Prayer Group: Thursdays 2-3:30 pm at Cathy's house
talk to Ines or Cathy for more information

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.



Friday's Food & Film Festival:

6:30 pizza (RSVP with Peter appreciated)

April 11: Babylon 5 - Sci-Fi exploring the depths of Holy Week.

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.

Webinar: Every Day is Earth Day: April 23 1:00 - 2:00 p.m

Dr. Leora Gansworth will share some examples of how faith and action might work together to pursue an Anishinabe concept that talks about pursuing a good and balanced life.

presbyterian.ca/webinars/every-day-is-earth-day

Contacts

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Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

Holy One,
we gather as we are:
eyes often unseeing,
ears often deaf,
but trying to see and hear you.
Accept all we bring before you today.
Accept our worship, we pray.



Eucharist, Source & Summit - Garcia

🎵 **Hymn:** Jesus call us here to meet him.....pg 14 (528)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvBGtFPd6TQ



Prayer of Approach

Merciful God,
your Holy Spirit has brought us to this moment.
As you are willing to stop and listen to us
help us to stop and listen for you.
Show us what your Kingdom is like
so that we can see it in us
and in all those we meet.



Listening to God



Children's Time

There's a story in the Bible about somebody who's a bit like a child, and not at all. He's got an important job with people working for him - and if somebody makes a mistake he has to pay for it. But he also reminds us of a child. Partially because he's short, but also that he runs around and climbs trees. His name is Zacchaeus - and we've got a special song about him.

Let's sing it and then we'll pray.

🎵 **Hymn:** Zacchaeus was a wee little man.....pg 13
www.youtube.com/watch?v=71jExPuxRBY

Prayer

Dear Jesus, help us to be like Zacchaeus
doing whatever we need to to see you
and sharing what we have with people who need it.

Amen

Prayer for Illumination

Lord,
open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may see you and those around us without assumptions.
Amen.

Intro to the readings

We're skipping ahead a little from last week's passage in Luke.
Some of what we're missing include:

- Jesus saying that "*things that cause people to sin are bound to come*"
- 10 lepers are healed and do what they are supposed to, except one who comes back to thank Jesus.
- Jesus tells them that the Kingdom of God is within you (a recurring theme)
- there's a story about a pharisee and a tax collector praying at the temple. The Pharisee is thankful that he's so much better than the tax-collector. The tax-collector is humble - being honest about his flaws with God and asking God for mercy.
- then is the story about humility with Jesus telling the disciples to let the little children come and we have to receive the kingdom of God like a child
- and just before today's reading another Rich Man asks Jesus about how to inherit eternal life. This time the answer refers to the 10 commandments - but he does that. So Jesus challenges him to place his trust entirely in God - giving everything away and following him. He doesn't.


Before Stewart reads the passage I just want us to remember two stories from earlier in Luke, and give you two things to listen for.

We've heard a story about being on the road to Jericho - what was it? (Good Samaritan)

Luke had just told the story about children - what are children like? (short, playful (climbing trees), some of them are always in a hurry)

As characters come into what Stewart reads, consider how what the original people and listeners would have thought of them.

And there will be a small grammar change in a familiar story that changes it - can you find it?

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,² or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[Luke 18: 31-43](#), [Luke 19: 1-10](#)
[Psalm 84](#)



² 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: Assumptions

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.³ Amen.

I expect you fall into two categories, either these stories are familiar to you, or you don't know much about the society. These stories would have been entertaining to the original listeners, and shocking for those originally experiencing them. They challenge the normal assumptions and expectations.

Let's start with an easier one. There's been at least three stories so far about rich people in Luke. There was the man who had the huge harvest that he figured was all for him, but before he could even fill his new barns he died. There's the Rich Man who asked about eternal life and was refocused on showing mercy now. Then there was the story just before our reading about the Rich Ruler who also asked about eternal life and was told to give everything away and focus on God. None of them were able to accept what Jesus taught.

We can assume rich people won't follow Jesus. But here we have a rich tax-collector who hurries around to see Jesus, welcomes him, and experiences salvation.

What's going on? Traditionally when Jesus invites himself over



Zacchaeus - Cara Hochhalter

and Zacchaeus changes his life for the better - which is the sign that *"salvation has come to this house."* However the story is a little different. I learned this week that the Greek verb is about what he is already doing. *"I give to the poor... I pay back four times as much."* It seems that those who were blocking Zacchaeus and grumbling that Jesus would visit a sinner were wrong. Zacchaeus was giving back more than the tithe of 10%, and following the rules if somebody was cheated. Jesus provided him a very public opportunity to explain himself - and *"salvation has come to this house."* In this reading salvation isn't through Zacchaeus' change of heart, but that of the crowd. They, presumably, understand he is a good part of the community and now include him. The crowd's assumptions are seen as wrong and healing comes.

Another common assumption is, understandably, that somebody blind can't see. However there are differences in seeing - both physically and in bigger ways. In today's story the Blind Man sees that Jesus is the *"Son of David"* - implying that he should be the king. He shouts this out. Those in the front of the *"crowd going by"* told him to be quiet. Why? I can think of two reasons.

They might have been offended by his technique. He shouts out. When he's told to stop, he keeps making a fuss. Hasn't Jesus told several stories about being humble? What's going on? Simple. Humility is about not putting yourself above people and looking down on them; it's not about putting yourself down. I know many people who suffer in silence because they don't want to be a bother. I think an unhealthy assumption of humility is part of the issue - and here's a story that reminds us to be like little children when we need something.

The other reason is fear and misunderstanding. At this time Rome decided who would be king. If they heard that somebody

else was gathering people and claiming to be king they weren't very subtle about squashing rebellions. Those in the crowd were afraid... and they didn't understand the journey Jesus was leading them on. Which is a bit odd as they were probably disciples - though perhaps the apostles (there's a distinction in Luke) hadn't told them Jesus' confusing words about how when they got to Jerusalem he'd be tormented, killed, and rise again on the third day. We are told that the apostles couldn't wrap their minds around this (despite being told three times). I imagine Jesus hoped they would understand that him coming as the King would mean there would be retaliation - and not to be afraid.

Which leads into a bigger set of assumptions. What sort of King was Jesus? What would "*thy kingdom come*" be like?

Well, Jesus is somebody who will stop and listen to those others grumble about or push to the margins. He cares for all God's children and will listen to those with something to say - whether the positive examples from this week or the negative ones from earlier. He doesn't jump to conclusions that all rich people are bad, or what the Blind Man might need. Jesus knows he'll be attacked and is planning to let it happen - or rather, he's not planning on fighting back. It's not because he's afraid. He could easily walk the other direction or take a break and let things cool down. He goes through with it because this is the plan, because he loves them and knows that the cycle of sin won't stop until someone stops.⁴ This is humility. He is not putting himself above others, and he isn't denying his need to reconnect people with God.

While not a part of this story, I suspect there's also the still the mistaken assumption that God's coming kingdom will be geographical - a territory like the kingdoms they know. Despite

Jesus telling them back in chapter 17 that it is within them.

Today's stories played with people's assumptions.

- that Jesus' special students understand... no
- that people who appear to have less abilities are worth less attention... except the Blind Man saw what they didn't
- that people you know are bad... may not be
- that acting childish and shouting out or climbing trees is degrading... Jesus respects them
- that humility isn't the same as self-denial
- and that God's kingdom will be brought through force or resistance - but is about bringing people together

Since people close to Jesus had to check their assumptions, we should take some time to check ours - and Lent is a good time to do this. Also, if you try and don't feel you know it all... you're doing as good as the apostles.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ **Hymn:** [How great thou art.....pg 9 \(332\)](#)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT8vkjEzSzs
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9tg-dcj9w4k (Elvis)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=AHVbjxYDZ_U (folkish)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ujdcNtOHxA (sacred harp)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dBLRsUMtuFQ (BIG)

⁴ Friday's film will take an interesting look at this: *Babylon 5: Passing Through Gethsemane*

☞ 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 is something you don't understand that you would like to ask of Jesus?

Visions: How would you describe what sort of King God is? What would it be like to live under that reign? ...and what does it mean that the Kingdom of God is within us?

Values: Who do you prioritize?
Who gets your back up?
Who do you turn away from?

Actions: Continue to reach out to your neighbours starting with easy connections (like "Bonjour Hi") and progressing through the weather to how was their week and onto hopes for the future. As trust is built you can ask their insight into things... and you may find they see like the Blind Man and Zacchaeus.

Prayer: ...that we will follow Jesus, even when we don't see clearly

✧ Spirit Sighting

PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana to advocate for the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities. The Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Centre offers life and vocational skills training. Tilata Mahama, a 40-year-old, shares her experience: "I could not move due to my disability. The CBR program, supported by PWS&D, came to my aid with a tricycle and trained me in simple trading skills and the capital to start a business. Now, I can go to church to worship God with the aid of the tricycle. I also own and run a shop where I sell confectionaries and other items to support myself and my children. I am so grateful to the CBR and PWS&D for coming to my aid."

✧ 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.

All donations are gratefully received and support God's work in our local and extended community.



Communion

🎵 Hymn: Here is bread: here is wine.....pg 13 (546)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgysV3EzKas



✧ Invitation to the table

Today Jesus showed that anyone who wants to know God better is welcome. Jesus will stop and listen - and invite you to the

Lord's table. This will be an amazing feast overflowing with joy, peace & love. This morning you are invited to a taste that is less than that, but also more than it should reasonably be.

So come,
all who have much faith,
and those who would like to have more,
all who have come often
and those who have not joined for a while,
all who have tried to follow Jesus,
and those that realize they need help.⁵

Rassemblons-nous autour de la Table de notre Seigneur.
Parce que c'est la volonté de Dieu
que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
partager ce repas.

As we come together to share this taste of the Lord's Supper,
let us also join with Christians around the world and through the
centuries in speaking the Apostle's Creed.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.
Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise
that you are our God.
Because your love is solid (steadfast)
and continues to walk beside us.
We thank you that through the ages you have sent prophets,
scientists and friends to remind us how to live
in healthy ways with creation
with each other
and with you.
At this time of year, our hearts fill with hope
at seeing new life spring from the cold earth
And so we join with the whole creation
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

⁵ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

We especially thank you for coming in Jesus,
who walked the streets with a plan
and took time to stop

listen

and help.

We admit that there are people we turn away from,
and those we wish we could ignore
and those we think are bad.

Please forgive us for being closed
and help us to listen for their needs
and to how they see you.

You showed us that despite knowing what would come,
you felt creation, including people, were worth the torment
to change the pattern of sin to life.

Even if it meant your death.

Together we can proclaim the mystery of the faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Thank you Lord for sending your Spirit
as we wait for Christ's return.

That through her we are guided
in thoughts, feelings, and others
to let your kingdom grow in our hearts
and to help those around us.

Give us courage & wisdom
as we try to live out your kingdom.

Jesus, you ask what our needs are,
and there are many...

- we continue to pray for those struggling with increased costs in rent and food - please provide a dependable way
- for those living with uncertainty about the future ...and those who feel powerless - please give them hope.
- for those who feel isolated - please give them companions
- that in this election your issues are discussed
- Ken and his family as they feel Fran's departure
- for those in need of healing

May your Holy Spirit be seen and felt in all our prayers.

As may we be shaped by the prayer that Jesus taught us to say:



Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

**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
now and forever.**

Lord God,
as we gather at your table,
May your Holy Spirit settle on the bread and cups,
and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let the same Spirit rest on us,
converting us
from the patterns of this passing world
into the body of the one who now shares this table.
Amen.



We are all One in Jesus Christ - Soichi Watanabe

Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread, and
after giving thanks to God
he broke the bread and shared it, saying
“This is my body; it is broken for you.”
“Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous”

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said,
“This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood
Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me.”

“Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi”
Take and drink.

[take and drink]

Prayer after Communion

Loving God,
Merci pour c'est temps avec toi,
uniting us with Christ,
and with each other.
Let us go out, filled with the power of your Spirit,
sharing your steadfast love, hope & healing to the world.
Unissons-nous à ton Esprit dans le monde.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

🎵 **Hymn:** Take my life and let it be.....pg 11 (637)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=blxWaucRinA

✦ Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.
Alleluia! Amen.*



Jesus calls us here to meet him

JESUS CALLS US 8 7 8 7 D

Union F Gm7 F/A Bb6 Am7

1. Je - sus calls us here to meet him as, through
 2. Je - sus calls us to con - fess him Word of
 3. Je - sus calls us to each oth - er: found in
 4. Je - sus calls us to his ta - ble root - ed

Dm Gm7 Csus4 - 3 F Gm7

word and song and prayer, we af - firm God's
 Life and Lord of all, shar - er of
 him are no di - vides. Race and class our
 firm in time and space, where the church in

F/C Bb6 Am7 Dm Gm7 Csus4 - 3

prom - ised pres - ence where his peo - ple live and care.
 flesh and frail - ness sav - ing all who fail or fall.
 sex and lan - guage: such are bar - riers he de - rides.
 earth and heav - en finds a com - mon meet - ing place.

F Cm F Dm Bb6

Praise the God who keeps his* prom - ise; praise the
 Tell his ho - ly hu - man sto - ry; tell his
 Join the hands of friend and strang - er; join the
 Share the bread and wine, his bod - y; share the

Am7 Gm7 Csus4 - 3 F Gm7

Son who calls us friends; praise the Spir - it
 tales that all may hear; tell the world that
 hands of age and youth; join the faith - ful
 love of which we sing; share the feast for

F/A Bb6 Am7 Dm Gm7 F

who, a - mong us, to our hopes and fears at - tends.
 Christ in glo - ry came to earth to meet us here.
 and the doubt - er in their com - mon search for truth.
 saints and sin - ners host - ed by our Lord and King.

* the

Words: Iona Community (Scotland) Music: Gaelic melody; adaptation, Iona Community (Scotland)

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332 O Lord my God! / How great thou art

O STORE GUD 11 10 11 10 with refrain (10 8 10 8)

Bb F7/C Bb/D Eb Em7b5 Edim

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

Bb/F F6 F7 Bb

all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in

F7/C Bb/DEb Em7b5 Edim Bb/F F6 F7

hear the roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the u-ni-verse dis-
loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle
bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to take a-way my
hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou

Bb Bb7/D Eb Ebdim Eb Bb

played, breeze, then sings my soul, my Sav-iour God, to thee,
sin, art!

/F F7 F F7 Bb Bb7/D

How great thou art! how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Eb Ebdim Eb Bb F7/C Bb/D Eb6 G/D Cm F7 Bb

Sav-iour God, to thee, How great thou art! how great thou art!

Words: Carl Gustav Boberg; translation, Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989);

Music: Swedish folk melody; harmony, Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989)

Words: English translation, copyright © Manna Music Inc., 1955, 1981. All rights reserved. Used by permission (ASCAP), Ojibway, copyright © Stanley Williams Music: harmony, copyright © Manna Music Inc., 1955, 1981. All rights reserved. Used by permission (ASCAP)

Em7 Am7 Dm F/G G7 Bb/C C Bb/D C/E Fmaj7 F#dim7

there is heal - ing; in this cup there's life for - ev - er. In this mo - ment

Em7 A7aug Dm7 G7 C Verse D A/C#

by the Spir - it Christ is with us here. 3. Here we are,

Bm F#7 G/B D/A A G/B Bm A/C# D A/C#

joined in one: Christ is with us; he is with us. We'll pro - claim

Bm F#7 G/B Bm/A A D Am7 C/D G Em7 Refrain

till he comes Je - sus cru - ci - fied. In this bread

F#m7 Bm7 Em7 G/A A7 C/D D C/E D/F#

there is heal - ing; in this cup there's life for - ev - er.

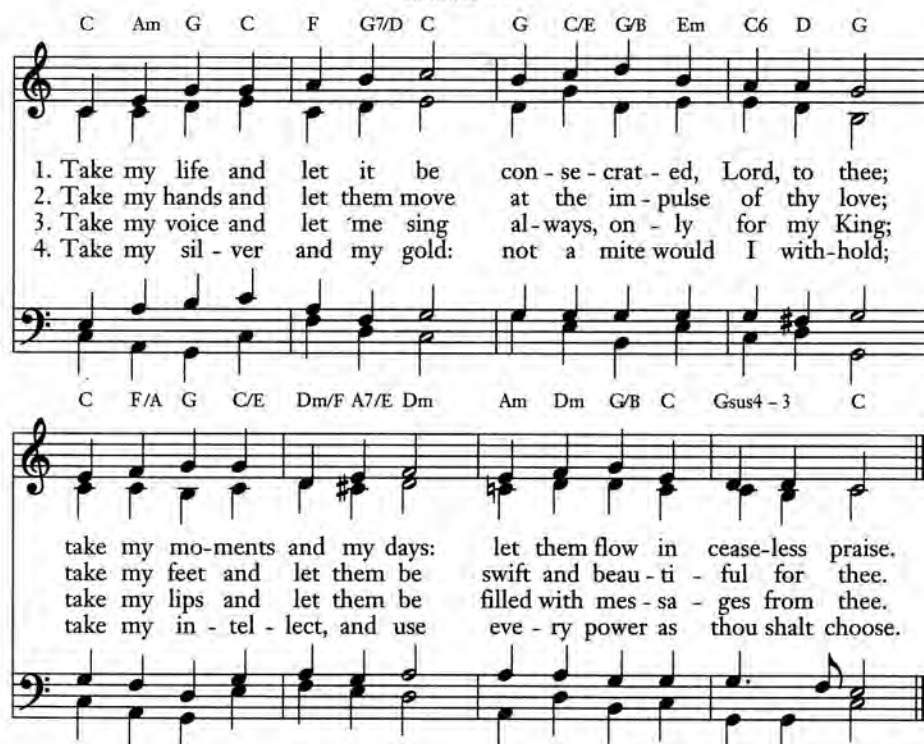
Gmaj7 G#dim7 F#m7 B7aug B7 Em7 A7 D

In this mo - ment by the Spir - it Christ is with us here.

637 Take my life, and let it be consecrated

LÜBECK 7777

C Am G C F G7/D C G C/E G/B Em C6 D G



1. Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
 2. Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
 3. Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
 4. Take my sil - ver and my gold: not a mite would I with - hold;

C F/A G C/E Dm/F A7/E Dm Am Dm G/B C Gsus4 - 3 C

take my mo - ments and my days: let them flow in cease - less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sa - ges from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect, and use eve - ry power as thou shalt choose.

5. Take my will and make it thine;
 it shall be no longer mine;
 take my heart: it is thine own;
 it shall be thy royal throne.

6. Take my love; my Lord, I pour
 at thy feet its treasure store;
 take myself and I will be
 ever, only, all for thee.

Alternate tune: Mozart

Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836–1879) Music: Freylinghausen's Geistreiches Gesangbuch 1704

Words: public domain Music: public domain

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, April 6

PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana to advocate for the rights and inclusion of individuals with disabilities. The Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) Centre offers life and vocational skills training. Tilata Mahama, a 40-year-old, shares her experience: "I could not move due to my disability. The CBR program, supported by PWS&D, came to my aid with a tricycle and trained me in simple trading skills and the capital to start a business. Now, I can go to church to worship God with the aid of the tricycle. I also own and run a shop where I sell confectionaries and other items to support myself and my children. I am so grateful to the CBR and PWS&D for coming to my aid."



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 6 (5th Sunday in Lent) We pray for the staff of The Presbyterian College, Montreal who support the running of the school on a day-to-day basis.

Monday, April 7 (World Health Day) On World Health Day, we pray for PWS&D partners who walk alongside those living with tuberculosis, HIV, leprosy and malaria, providing support and hope as they strive toward a healthy future.

Tuesday, April 8 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Paris in Ontario.

Wednesday, April 9 We pray for graduates from Vancouver School of Theology, that God may lead them into thoughtful, engaged and generous ministry in the church and the world.

Thursday, April 10 We pray for farmers as they prepare for the upcoming growing season, that they might feel your presence in the land as keenly now as at creation. May they know times of rest and rejuvenation even in the midst of their work.

Friday, April 11 We pray for the members of the Women's Missionary Society as they meet to review their past year's work and plan upcoming meetings & events.

Saturday, April 12 We give thanks for the growing diversity within congregations and the denomination that enriches us and helps us reflect the intercultural family of God.