

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Growing in faith and sharing God's love since 1786

Easter

April 20, 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. 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

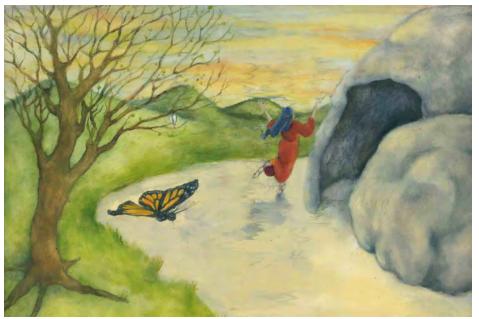
Woman's Prayer Group: Thursdays 2-3:30 pm at Cathy's house talk to Ines or Cathy for more information

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

Friday's Food & Film Festival 6:30 pizza. RSVP appreciated April 25: Quartet

May 2: Wild Robot



Easter - Sharron Helleman

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.

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

Approaching God

☀ Welcome & backstory

Welcome Kensington Church. I am leading this worship time from the un-ceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

You might be feeling excited. Maybe you're looking forward to a nice dinner, or maybe some chocolate. Here though, we're not there yet.

Worship today is the continuation of Friday's worship time. That's why the Lord's table looks more like the Lord's dead body laid out for us to pay our respects. On Friday we heard about Jesus, God's son, the Saviour, being killed. We considered how there are things that we do that aren't much different to them how we also lead to Jesus being crucified.

Unlike us looking forward to a good meal and some chocolate, his early followers and friends would have felt very different. They would be replaying events in the minds. Remembering all the ways they hadn't lived up to Jesus' teachings. That he wasn't going to save them because now he was the one who was dead. They would be filled with torment, grief, loss... and a big dose of 'Now what?!'

 $\ensuremath{\square}$ Hymn: When I survey the Wonderous Cross.....pg 12 (231)



🗼 Setting the stage

All along, though rarely mentioned, women were among the disciples. They were also the ones who stayed near Jesus as he died. They witnessed his burial and were ready to pay the final respects to his broken body.

We're about to share in the experience of what happened. A little set-up is required, and some participation from you, but but before that, a little prayer:

♣ Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds through the power of your Holy Spirit, so that we will be filled to overflowing and can't stop sharing your amazingness. Amen.

Surprise! A play about God's love²

Setting: A "cave" with a large (but moveable) rock. The narrator is standing off to the side. The area could be decorated with flowers to indicate a garden scene. "Garden noise" music could play in the background.

Narrator: Today, we are going to tell you a story from the Bible. It starts out very sad and ends up very, very happy. It begins on a Friday. There were some people who did not like Jesus. They were really angry with him—so angry that they decided to kill him by hanging him on a cross. This is what it looked like:

(Hold up a picture of the crucifixion or have someone walk it up and down the aisle of the church).

It was a very sad day. Jesus' friends took his body off the cross, wrapped it gently in a big white sheet, and laid it in a cave tomb. A big rock was rolled across the door so no one could get in.

Adapted from "Sharing the Easter Faith With Children" by Carolyn C. Brown, p. 102)

(Jesus' friends enter and do the actions as narrated. A large "body pillow" might be used for "Jesus" here. Have it already wrapped in a white sheet, and have the friends wrap it again and place it in the tomb. Then the friends exit and scatter around the sanctuary until the end).

(Narrator should move away from the tomb to distract the audience while a stage hand moves the rock away from the opening of the tomb, and moves the "body" out, leaving a sheet folded up in its place.)



The stone rolled away - Michael Torevell

On Sunday morning, three women went to the tomb. Their names were Mary, the Mother of Jesus; Mary Magdalene; and Salome.

(Women enter as their names are read and go to the tomb. They could carry small bags or boxes with "spices" in them.)

The women wanted to wash Jesus' body and leave good smelling spices near him so it wouldn't smell bad. They were very

surprised when they arrived!

(Narrator moves back towards the tomb)

The stone was rolled back! The tomb was open!

(Women look inside).

Jesus' body was gone! All that was there was the sheet they had wrapped around his body...and an angel!

(Enter angel. Stand by rock.)

Angel: Why are you looking for Jesus in a tomb for dead people? He is not here! He is risen from the dead! He is alive!

Narrator: The women ran to find Jesus' friends, Peter and John. Women run to a corner where Peter and John are waiting. All five characters run back to the tomb together...but John gets there first and looks in. He comes out, shaking his head. Peter then looks into the tomb, and shakes his head. The 5 characters stand together pretending to talk and scratch their heads in confusion).

Peter and John ran to the tomb to look in, but John got there first. When they saw that Jesus was not there, they were confused. The rock was too big for anyone to move. They could not understand. So they went back home to try to figure out what was going on. They were scared.

(Peter, John, Mary the Mother of Jesus, and Salome all exit. Mary Magdalene sits down with her head in her hands/lap, pretending to cry. Jesus enters, and stands behind Mary.)

Mary Magdalene sat down and cried. She cried and cried and cried, because Jesus was her friend and teacher. She loved him very much. Now he was gone, and she didn't know what to do. She was so sad that she didn't look up when someone spoke to her:

Jesus: Woman, why are you crying? Mary Magdalene:

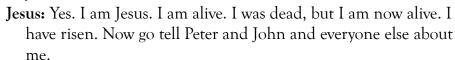
(Crying into hands—look up and away from Jesus when speaking)
Because Jesus is dead, and I don't understand. I don't know where his body is!

Jesus: Mary.

(Mary looks up and at Jesus in disbelief).

Mary Magdalene: (wide eyes)

Jesus?!?!?



(Jesus exits off to the side, as Mary runs down the aisle and around the church telling all the children, friends, Mary the Mother of Jesus, Salome, Peter, and John about Jesus.)

Mary Magdalene:

(to each person, or a pre-selected group, depending on group size)
_____, Jesus is alive! I saw him!

Stranger 1: Jesus is risen!

Stranger 2: I saw Jesus! He is alive!, etc.

(As each child is told, they join the crowd, and follow Mary Magdalene around as she continues to tell others about Jesus. Everyone begins to shout and say variations of "Jesus is alive! I saw him!" Or, "Jesus is risen!" Or, "Alleluia!" Eventually, all of the characters exit, and the narrator is left alone on stage).

Narrator: Everyone was very excited by the news that Mary Magdalene shared with them! For many days, no one could



talk of anything else. It was a miracle! Jesus was dead, but God made him alive again. God is more powerful than anything—even death. And God loves us very much. That's why God brought Jesus back to life again. It was a wonderful surprise that Sunday morning. And God has more good surprises for our lives too, because God loves us very much.

Call to worship³

Now that we have properly moved from Jesus' death to resurrection, let's join together in the call to worship being used by Presbyterians across the country...

Words of faith's story help celebrate this day of resurrection:

God creates a new heaven and a new earth, be glad and rejoice!

God's steadfast love endures forever; the Lord has become our salvation.

The stone was rolled away—he is not here, he is risen.

We say with joy: Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Lighting of the Christ Candle
Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

♣ Prayer of Approach

Dear Jesus,

Risen and glorious

We join with people around the world in celebrating how you redefined reality

Rev. Dr. Pat Durcher-Walls, moderator of PCC - and being used across the country

and started a new life for all.

You showed that you were not afraid of the roots of sin: from pride & arrogance, to fear & insecurity, and other ways we hurt creation, each other, ourselves... and you.

You were willing to take whatever was thrown at you, even though it would kill you.

And we admit that we still suffer from sinful inclinations, living out ways that are not loving for all.

But you didn't let the sins stop you,

you came back

Showing that nothing can stop your love from reaching out - then and now. reaching to lift us up as well to a life filled with love, hope & healing.

Thank you that you are more than a powerful teacher, more than a miraculous healer.

You are the Saviour of all creation,

The Living God

whose steadfast love lasts forever.

Amen.

🖊 Assurance of Pardon

Hear the Good News

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; which proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

One of the tools Jesus gave us to reshape ourselves, and the world, is the Lord's prayer.

Let us pray together. . .

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

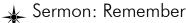
★ Intro to the readings

The play was an amalgamation of the gospel accounts, mostly from John. As we've been going through Luke since before Christmas I want you to hear that account. You may notice some Luke themes - such as always pairing a story with a male character with one focused on a female, or the disciples not understanding, or how when Jesus was in God's presence he glowed...

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

Luke 24: 1-12 (note: some ancient sources don't have verse 12)

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



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

This is going to be a short sermon as you've already had the first part reminding us about what the disciples were feeling after the crucifixion: grief, guilt, confusion, lost, hopeless.

Three things I want to point out from the account in Luke.

It's the women who go, and the bright men (ie. people who had been in the presence of God) talk with them like they had been learning from Jesus in Galilee. They may not be mentioned much, but they were there. They listened and now... they understand. The Greek word used for "remembered his words" also implies they understood them. This shows that what Jesus said was trustworthy, and it's important to pay attention to what is said. For us now, this means reading the Bible and talking about what is said.



Empty Tomb - Jesus MAFA

Based on the words of Jesus, not on seeing the risen Christ, they remind the others of what Jesus had said. The others dismiss their story. Telling others the good news, even those who are most likely to believe, doesn't always work... at least not right away.

The best part though is that Jesus came back from the dead. Christ is Risen (He is risen indeed)! Most of the gospels are about how to live God's way, and what life can look like when that happens (or doesn't). Christ's resurrection though is a game changer. It's the start of a whole new way of seeing the world. It shows that nothing can separate us from the love of God. It shows that God is more powerful than the most final thing we can imagine, and cares enough to come back... even to those who abandoned betrayed him. Christ didn't come back to be abused again, but to continue the invitation for creation - for us - to move out of the ways of sin and into the ways of love, hope and healing.

True to The Word, the world is changing. It is being made new, one small step at a time - and Jesus will go through anything for us to remember the message.

To God be all the glory!

Responding to God

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: What Easter memories do you have?

...with family?

...childhood activities?

...at church?

Etching: What words of Jesus stick in your mind (or heart)?

Rev. Peter Rombeek Kensington Presbyterian Church April 20, 2025

Actions: Believing the words of Jesus you remember leads you to do...

Etching: Reflecting back over the Easter story from Palm Sunday to the resurrection... which part do you most resonate with at the moment? (there's no wrong answer) Try and explain why.

Prayer: ...that we will be filled to overflowing with the hope of the resurrection.

Easter the stone rolled away - Michael Torevell

Spirit Sightings: Baptism

In the early church there was a custom that people would be baptized and join the church on Easter. I'm pleased to share that the Holy Spirit has been working in somebody's life and brought them to a point of recognizing this through baptism.

Baptism is not of our doing or deserving. It is a gift from God. Remember the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the promise is to you and your children and to all that are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls" [Acts 2:38-39].

Hear the words of the risen Christ:

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

Obeying the command of Jesus Christ and believing in God's

promises, the church baptizes those whom the Lord, our God calls.

This sacrament is not so much something we do, as it is a celebration of what God (in Christ), has done for us. God acts for us in baptism as God has acted for our salvation from the beginning of time. God is not dependent upon us and the truth of God's promises does not depend upon age and understanding. God comes to us through God's gracious choice.

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



Beloved - Carolyn C Brown

*Who comes to receive the gift of Baptism?

On behalf of the session, I (Yuka) present Kalpana Sellan to receive the sacrament of baptism.

Kalpana Sellan, do you desire to be baptized? (I do)

(Questions for the candidates)

While this is part of the journey, not the end, there are some questions to show your understanding of what's going on:

- 1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn, with God's help, from the ways of sin that creates barriers to God's love and peace? (I do)
- 2. Do you confess your faith in God as your heavenly creator, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your teacher and guide? (I do)
- 3. Do you promise, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to continue seeking God through questions & learning, prayer & worship, and helping others.

 (I do)

(Question to Congregation)

While baptism is something that is personal, it is also important that it is done in a community. To help people grow in Christ the Holy Spirit pulls together the church. As such, we also make a promise before God on behalf of this congregation, and the larger church.

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

Prayer

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

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

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

We pray that Christ,
who was born in the waters of a mother's womb
who sank into the Jordan River
and arose to receive the Spirit,
who shared living water with the woman of Samaria,
and washed the feet of his disciples,
who sank deep into death
and was raised up Lord of life,...
Christ will always keep us in the grip of his hand.

We pray that your Spirit will separate us from sin and openly mark us with a faith so that can stand the light of day and endure the dark of night.⁵

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

Amen.

Acts of Baptism

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

Welcome, Kalapana, to membership in the church of Christ.

Sharing Namaste (God in me greets God in you)

🕏 Prayers of the people

Living God,

we praise you this Easter Day.

Your generosity has gifted us this feeling we enjoy today and the confidence we take from knowing ourselves loved so completely.

We have been filled with deep hope.

We thank you for the generosity unfolding in your heart that led to Jesus' birth.

For the wisdom of his words and the actions that revealed your character to our understanding.

We thank you that Jesus was brave and selfless and that he had the strength to fulfill a life of unswerving devotion to your Way even when the cost was torment and death.

We thank you that the cross was not the end and the tomb not a 'final' resting place; but instead opened up the possibility of Jesus' ongoing reign over all of creation.

We thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit that breathes life,

that has its origin in the emptiness of the tomb, far and wide throughout the human family today.



Resurection - Granlund

9/15

⁵ adapted from Worship Sourcebook 6.3.2

Today we recognize that sadly there is much darkness in the world that continues to seek the light of your love.

We pray for the places where war, terror, poverty and injustice still exist.

- such as Gaza & Israel, Ukraine & Russia, parts of central Africa, Haiti, ...and here in Montréal.

We pray for those who face challenges that smother their ability to hope.

We pray for those suffering from loneliness, those abused by those who should be loving them.

We pray for those enduring grief.

We pray for Ken as he experiences Easter without Fran.

We pray for those who face an uncertain future due to the trade war effects on jobs and investments. and the increased cost of housing and food.

Lord of light that overcomes darkness, let your work continue in the world.

May you touch the lives of those who need support and continue to direct us to those for whom our own love can be a source of much needed encouragement.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen⁶



Raimbert

⊁ Benediction

As you go, remember that Easter is about good news. That nothing will stop God from trying to bring healing to the world, and each person in it. And may we take our cue from the women and share the hope.

May the power of the Creator who brings life out of death, be in this place.

the Risen Christ be your constant companion.

and The healing embrace of the Holy Spirit encircle you so that you see resurrection ever about you.⁷

Amen.



10/15

April 20, 2025

 [∏] Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today......pg 15 (243)
 www.youtube.com/watch?v= 6si9ljVsfk

⁷ Chris Polhill. Fire and Bread. Wild Goose.

Mengesha Kebede lives with his 10 family members on a small plot of land in Tigray, Ethiopia. During the Tigray conflict, soldiers looted Mengesha's property, stealing farm tools, clothes and household utensils and destroying his home. This devastating experience left Mengesha traumatized and deeply worried. His concerns were alleviated when he was provided with seeds, farm tools and goats, helping him replace some of the assets lost during the war. Mengesha is grateful for the support he has received from this Canadian Foodgrains Bank



project, supported by PWS&D, but he recognizes that the road to fully recovering from the conflict remains long and that continued support is vital.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 20 (Easter Sunday) God of new life and of hope, fill us with peace, joy and the desire to be new people and to live in the new life Christ gives, guided by your Spirit.

Monday, April 21 We pray for farmers in Guatemala receiving support from PWS&D to improve their harvests and be resilient to climate change.

Tuesday, April 22 (Earth Day) We pray for those harmed and displaced by pollution, environmental destruction and climate change. We pray for those working to protect vulnerable ecosystems. We ask for guidance as local and global communities address the climate crisis.

Wednesday, April 23 We pray for the congregation of Community Presbyterian Church in Almonte, Ontario as it participates in the New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern God's will for the future.

Thursday, April 24 We pray for the Committee on Education and Reception as it meets on April 25 and 26, that it may do its work with wisdom and grace.

Friday, April 25 We pray for St. Andrew's Hall, the Presbyterian Church in Canada college at the University of British Columbia, as it celebrates its 70th anniversary this year.

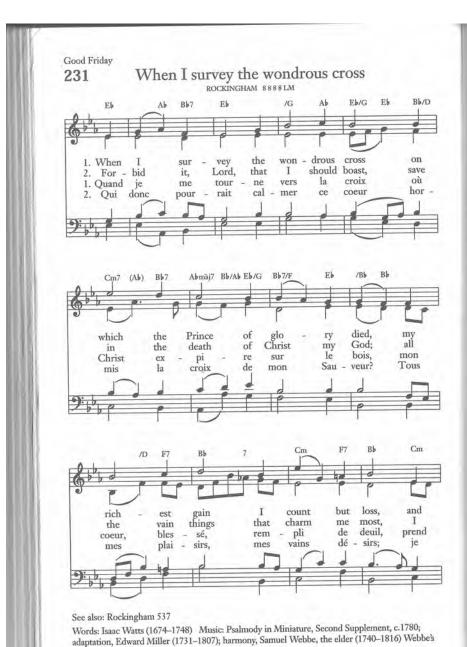
Saturday, April 26 We pray for members of the Atlantic Mission Society as they plan and hold their spring meetings.

Aaronic Blessing



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

Numbers 6: 24





- 3. See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?
- Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were an offering far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.
- Oh vois, des mains, de son côté, du front d'épines couronné, douleur, angoisse, amour mêlés, descendre pour nous racheter.
- Si je t'offrais le monde entier, ce don serait pris en pitié.
 Amour si grand, si pur, si doux veut âme, corps, mon coeur, mon tout!

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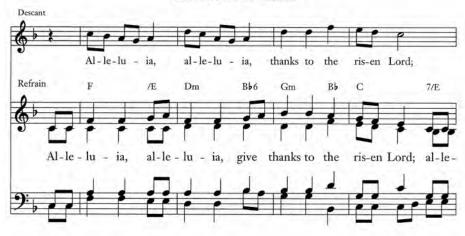
Collection of Psalm-Tunes

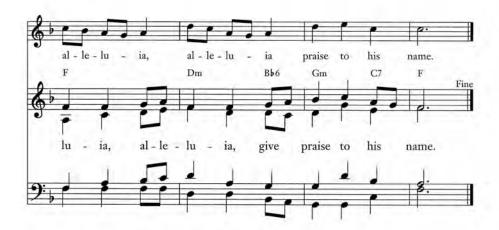
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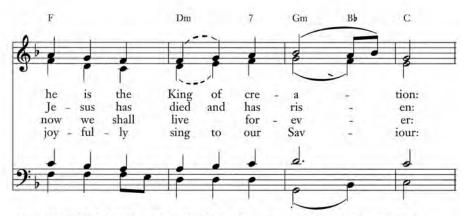
Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord / Alleluia No. 1

ALLELUIA NO. 1 88 with refrain







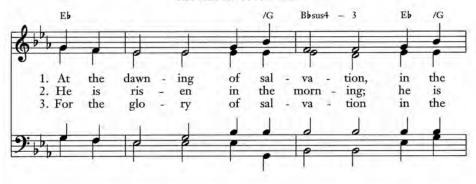


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At the dawning of salvation

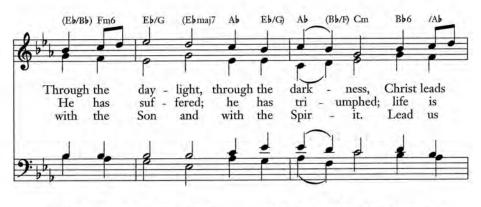
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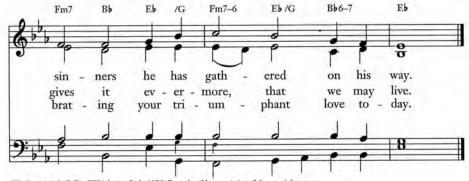




Words: Jock Curle Music: American folk melody; harmony, John W. Wilson (1905-1992)







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