



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

*since 1786*

## *What's God looking for?*

*October 19, 2025*

**WELCOME**, we come to you from the unceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

We're glad this PDF has come to you.<sup>1</sup> 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*

**Lunch:** after worship with special guest: Tracy Petzky of the [St. Andrew's Presbyterian Home Foundation](#)

#### **Prayer Groups:**

**Zoom:** Wednesday 6:30 am

**Woman's Prayer Group:** in person Thursdays 2pm  
 book & video series Oct 23-Nov 27 'When you pray'  
 and through *What's App*

**Bible Study:** Wednesday 7-8 pm

Join us in the minister's office and over zoom  
 as we discuss the upcoming week's main scripture passage.

**Food & Film Night:** Friday 6:30 pizza followed by...

Oct 24: Harry Potter

Oct 31: ~~~~~ returning Nov 7

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



Simeon en Anna - Schilderij

**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.

**Ageless:** Oct 28 at 1pm

New Hope will be showing an uplifting 45 min. documentary looking at assumptions about aging (ageism) in Quebec's English-speaking community.

**50+ Bazaar:** Oct 25, 10-2 ...they are also accepting donations

### *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

Orly (Outreach co-ordinator).....orly.kensington@gmail.com

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



## Approaching God



### Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



### Call to worship (Psalm 95:1-2)

Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD;  
let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation.

**Let us come before him with thanksgiving  
and extol him with music and song.**



Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed.....pg 9 (115)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbCMyq111s8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbCMyq111s8) (organ only)



Tent City Nativity - Kelly Latimore



### Prayer of Approach

Lord, you are big, powerful, intimate  
steady and surprising  
seen and mysterious.

We praise you for the diversity of creation:  
for people in all shapes and sizes  
talents and personalities.

That together, we are created in your image.  
with each other, we can glimpse you.

Jesus, we are grateful for the repeated refrain  
“*your steadfast love last forever*”

because we realize that we need repeated saving from our ways.  
That we are distracted with appearances and pride,  
misjudging others, ourselves, and you.  
Please forgive us...

May your Spirit help us to see when our hearts are dirty  
and to create in us a clean heart  
to put a new and right spirit within.

In looking for your leadership  
we turn to the prayer you teach us  
Let us sing together the Lord's Prayer...



The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours Amen.**

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Hear these comforting words:

If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy,  
your sins are forgiven.

Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life  
with God and all people  
in the name of Jesus Christ  
Amen.



*Listening to God*

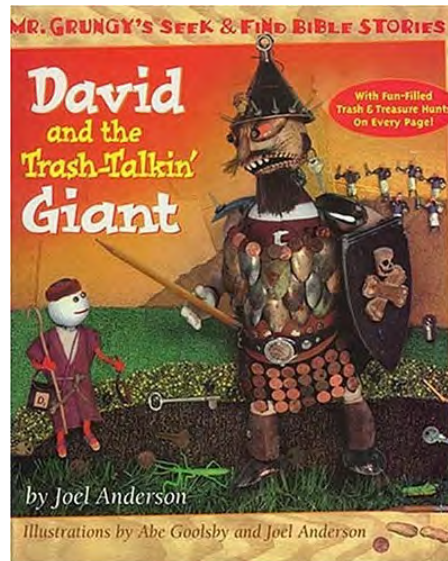
✦ Children's Time

From the first part of 'David and the Trash-talkin' Gaint' by  
Joel Anderson. After I read I'm going to ask

- What did you notice about the story
- What is important about it? or what can we learn?

Mr. Grungy is my junkyard name.  
My trinkets tell true stories in art.  
Most people look at the outside appearance,  
but God looks at the heart.

*There once was a boy named David,  
the youngest of eight brothers.  
His job was to watch the sheep.*



(A job too small for others.)

*While watching sheep, he would play his harp,  
and often he would sing.*

*He was a faithful boy who loved the Lord more than anything.*

*David was small, but he could pray*

*...especially when a lion roared!*

*He once killed a lion and saved his sheep  
with courage from the Lord.*

*There was a prophet named Samuel  
who obeyed God in everything.*

*God spoke to Samuel one day and said,  
"I've chosen the future king."*

*God said, "Go secretly to Bethlehem.*

*Find a man named Jesse there.*

*One of his sons will be king someday.*

*Quickly, go prepare!!"*

*God told Samuel, "Don't pick the tallest one.*

*Don't set the strong apart.*

*Man looks on the outward appearance,  
but the Lord looks at the heart.*

*The youngest and smallest was David,*

*God said, "He's the special son.*

*Someday he'll be king of Israel, My anointed one."*

What did you notice about this story?

- that God sees & values children
- That God looks at the heart

What's that mean - looks at the heart?

For Bible times it meant feelings, imagination,



wisdom, reason, & openness to God (not focused on self).  
...God doesn't judge by appearances but by what's inside.

prayer

*Dear Jesus, thank you that you think we're all important  
and help us to look at people like you do - at what's inside.  
Amen.*

Charles Shultz

♪ Hymn: Create in me a clean heart.....pg 10  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7Hk3WFUMvo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7Hk3WFUMvo)



### Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may recognize your ongoing work.  
Amen.



### Intro to the text

Peter will be reading the Biblical version of Samuel anointing David in a minute, but a bit of context first.

Last week Samuel was a boy called by God to replace Eli and his family, who failed to follow through on God's requests and suffered the predicted consequences. Samuel becomes a trusted spokesperson for God, a prophet, because he was willing to speak truth.

Tired of living with chaos, the people look around and see that other groups have kings. They decide that this will solve their problems and ask Samuel to have God appoint them a king. God warns them that kings tend to think more of themselves while the people suffer, but the people keep asking. God gives them what they are looking for: a nice tall charismatic King Saul - and

they all regret it.<sup>2</sup> This leads into today's passage.

I also want to highlight some humour in the passage. It's not the point, but it's good to know there are jokes in the Bible. The parade of sons past Samuel, especially as it includes obviously 'good' choices with David overlooked, is supposed to be funny. There's the curious bit where they describe David as good looking after making the point that God doesn't think that's important. (I'm not sure it's supposed to be funny.) It would also have been funny when Samuel asks, "*Do you have any more?*" and Jesse replies, "*Just the one out shepherding the sheep.*" This is funny because throughout that part of the world a shepherd was a metaphor for king. So, where's the overlooked son who might be king - out doing what kings do.



Our responsive psalm is traditionally believed to have been written by King David as he repents of seducing Bathsheba and arranging the death of her loyal husband. It's a good prayer.

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<sup>2</sup> in I Samuel 15 it says that even God regrets it!



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

[1 Samuel 16](#): 1-13

[Psalm 51](#): 6-17 (the whole thing is good)



Sermon: What's God looking for?

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

Today's story is familiar - and not just because it's David's call story. The elements are ones we've heard several times already this season.

God is ushering in change that will help bring about justice and righteousness to the world. We've seen this in creation, Abraham's family trying to learn how to live together, & Moses leading the Israelites into a new way of living.

How does The LORD choose to bring about this change for the better? Through people. We saw this in Abraham's dysfunctional family, and choosing little Samuel, and reluctant Moses. Reluctance isn't always the response to God's opportunities, but it's common. Today Samuel shows some reluctance by questioning God. He doesn't question God's existence, or God's power, or good will. Samuel doesn't doubt God, but questions how this plan will be pulled off. "*How can I do that? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.*" If you think God is asking you to do something crazy or scary, it's okay to ask for more details and reassurance.

It may not be the answer you are looking for. This week we have another story of God asking for something hard that will enable change for the better - if we rise to the challenge and take

the risks. Since this is hard, how do we do it? Samuel models continued listening to God. This helps him get through the hard tasks one day at a time. While Samuel seemed to be working on his own here, other examples and experience suggest that checking with others is a good idea (such as last week when Samuel checked with Eli). Companions can also support each other when it's hard. I'm sure you've lived through some hard times. I pray that you can name some people who were able to support you when you shared your struggles. Sharing your struggles is an important way to get through the challenges.

You can also share them with God. We've seen, and will continue to see, that God is present - always. When Jacob was on the run as a consequence of his atrocious actions, God did not abandon him. While in the wilderness the Israelites learned that God was with them every day in a very real way - they depended on God to provide their daily bread. If they did anything else it would spoil. Today we see God telling Samuel what he has to do next, and then to trust that God will be present to guide him further - and it happens. God is actively shaping the world into a better place - and that includes being with the religious like Samuel, the overlooked like David, and you.

Of course, this change isn't quick. David is anointed to be king, but he isn't made the king. Saul continues to rule for many years. There are changes though. David will get a job in the palace playing music to calm Saul. He'll make connections and learn how things work. Then he'll learn more about leading with his own little militia group. He'll gradually earn the respect of the twelve tribes - becoming the first person to unite them. This won't last, but it will lead to Jesus bringing salvation to even more tribes.

Another familiar element is God working through surprise or the unexpected. Remember how the Israelites in the wilderness

<sup>3</sup> 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

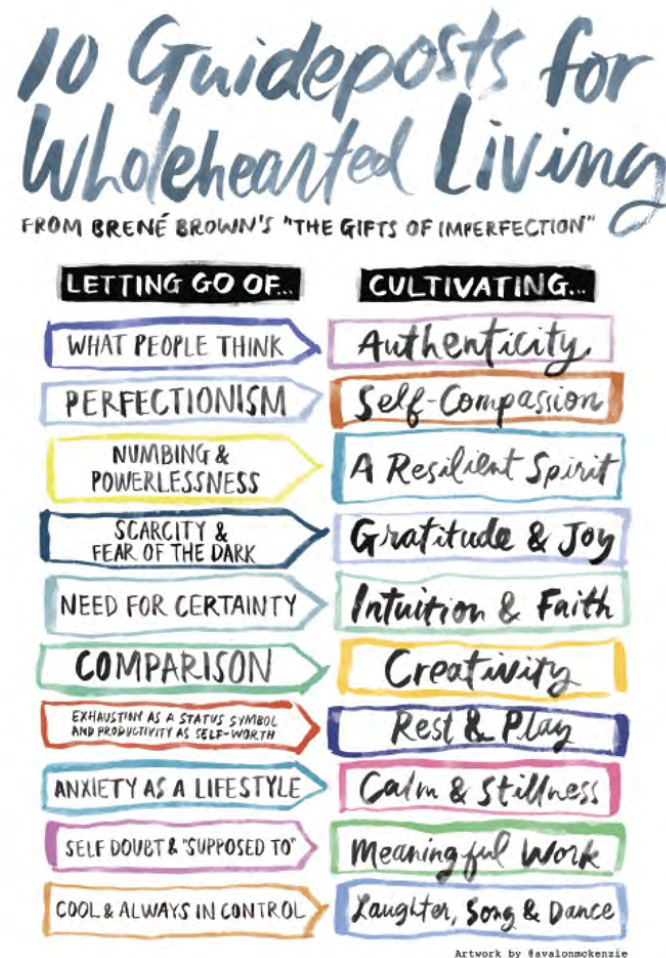
were asking for food and when God provided they exclaimed, “What is it?” How can we tell what God’s answer is if it’s not obvious, like David’s older brothers? Samuel models not jumping to conclusions, but continuing to check with The LORD. Added to this is the reminder to look beyond appearances, which is more than just looks, but for what’s on the inside.

What is God looking for on the inside? Not perfection. Psalm 51 is one good reminder of that. Looking at our familiar story we see

- trust that God is present changing things for the better (ie. faith),
- discerning (questioning) what God is trying to do
- Persevere when it’s hard and/or long
- be open to God and unexpected answers to prayer
- trust/faith that God is with you

This week I heard an interesting tie in to this story - an example of God working things for the better, and of a good heart. I was listening to the start of Brené Brown’s tenth anniversary edition of her book *The Gifts of Imperfection*. She was describing how the book came about. She had been researching shame, fear and vulnerability for years. In compiling some research she started making lists of qualities for people who lived wholehearted lives, and those who struggled. On the draining side she saw: the need for perfectionism, control, productivity, fear of scarcity, seeking approval/acceptance. Those who were wholehearted were: self-confident, resilient, questioned, had faith (not necessarily religious or Christian). These observations from her research were unexpected - and shocking. Despite her expertise, she was entirely on the negative side. Her response? literally to pack it all up in a box and put it under her bed. ...but

she listened. She was open. Brown started going to weekly therapy to support the hard work needed to change for the better. She shared her struggle with some trusted people for support. She prayed and listened, knowing that God was present.<sup>4</sup> A year later she pulled the box out and started working through the observations and research so that others could also be helped - and this book has been a blessing to many.



<sup>4</sup> her prayer life wasn't spelled out in this introduction, but she does talk about the importance of her faith, prayer, and church elsewhere.

Like in the familiar Bible stories, God continues to use people to use people to usher in a better world. Nobody is too insignificant to be overlooked. Chances are pretty high none of us will be kings. You also may not publish a book that helps people's lives, but don't be surprised if God invites you to share your heart in some way (Biblically speaking). This can be hard, but God is always there providing what we need. Also, don't be surprised at who God might bring around you. Look beyond, or inside, at the heart. That's what God's looking for.

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 about a time when you misjudged someone.

Memories: Can you share a time when you had a surprisingly good conversation with a stranger? (for me this is usually on a long bus ride).

Etching: How have you gotten through challenging/hard times in your life?

Visions: What helps you discern if God is asking for something obvious or surprising (because both happen)? And to act on that discernment?

Memories: How have you resisted God? or wondered if you were appropriate?

Wonder: What would you like to ask God? ...do it.

Visions: God turned expectations upside down by finding a new king, and choosing David. What expectations might God want flipped in your life or community?

Prayer: ...spend some time in silence, listening for God to direct your thoughts/feelings.



### Spirit Sightings

It's interesting having this passage during an election. The people running all believe that they can help make lives better. They are all imperfect. Some are good looking... but what is their heart like (in a biblical sense). Who will be wise and imaginative? combine reason and feelings? Who will be good shepherds for us, keeping us safe even when we don't see the dangers?

This is our easiest chance to have a say, so I encourage you to ask questions. You could reach out to the candidates, or attend one of the Community Council opportunities this week. Tomorrow at the Westhaven Community Centre you can meet the Loyola District candidates (7-9pm), and the NDG district on Tuesday at Wesley United (7-9pm).



### 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

This week we will be passing around the prayer book and saying something based on what people write in it. You are welcome to create your own prayer based on this taken from the magazine *Spill the Beans* #24

Lord, you have created  
a universe filled with natural beauty,  
the earth is exquisite in a million different ways.

And yet many humans fail to see or enjoy it,  
instead they seek to enhance their natural beauty  
with lotions, potions, photoshop and surgery.

Beauty is big business,  
billions of dollars, euros and pounds  
are invested in research  
for the perfect beauty treatment.

Magazines and social media  
bombard us with images  
of fake beauty, of unnatural beauty.

Lord, bring us to our senses,  
help us to rise above  
this unhealthy obsession with  
external beauty and perfection.

Remind us that beauty comes from within,  
that real beauty is kindness, compassion,  
empathy and love.

May we learn to seek inner beauty  
when choosing our leaders,  
when electing officials,  
when selecting people to  
positions of power.

Lord, in your mercy  
hear our prayers.  
Amen.

♪ Hymn: When the Spirit of the Lord.....pg 11 (398)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpvGPpJyF50](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hpvGPpJyF50)

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





## Hail to the Lord's Anointed

ST. THEODULPH 7 6 7 6 D

C G/B C F G7/D Csus4 - 3 G 7 Am F6 G C

1. Hail to the Lord's A-noint-ed, great Da-vid's great-er Son;  
 2. He brings sal-va-tion speed-y to those who suf-fer wrong;  
 3. He shall come down like show-ers up-on the fruit-ful earth;  
 4. All powers shall bow be-fore him, and gold and in-cense bring;  
 5. O'er eve-ry foe vic-to-rious, Christ on his throne shall rest,

C G/B C F G7/D Csus4 - 3 G 7 Am F6 G C

hail, in the time ap-point-ed, his reign on earth be-gun!  
 he saves the poor and need-y, and helps the weak be strong;  
 and love, joy, hope, like flow-ers, spring in his path to birth.  
 all na-tions shall a-dore him, his praise all peo-ple sing,  
 from age to age more glo-rious, all-bless-ing and all-blest:

C Am D/F# D7 G Em Am G/B C6 D 7 G

He comes to break op-pres-sion, to set the cap-tive free,  
 they sing who once were sigh-ing, their dark-ness turned to light,  
 Be-fore him on the moun-tains shall peace, the her-ald, go,  
 for he shall have do-min-ion o'er riv-er, sea and shore,  
 the tide of time shall nev-er his cov-e-nant re-move;

G/B C /E F C/E G/B G7 C /E F C Gsus4-3 C

to take a-way trans-gres-sion, and rule in eq-ui-ty.  
 for they, who once were dy-ing, are pre-cious in his sight.  
 and right-eous-ness, in foun-tains, from hill to val-ley flow.  
 far as the ea-gle's pin-ion or dove's light wing can soar.  
 his name shall stand for-ev-er—that name to us is Love.

Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854), alt Music: Melchior Teschner (1584–1635)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

# Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cre-

Lord, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the joy of your sal - va-tion, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me.

Words: anonymous, P.D.

Music: anonymous; arr. Sharon Bradimore (b. 1954) © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

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# When the spirit of the Lord moves in my soul

LIKE DAVID THE SHEPHERD 11 8 with repeats and refrain (+ 8 + 8)

Gm D Gm

1. When the Spir - it of the Lord moves in my soul, like  
2. When the Spir - it of the Lord moves in my soul, like  
1. Quand le Saint-Es - prit de Dieu rem - plit mon âme, je  
2. Quand le Saint-Es - prit de Dieu rem - plit mon âme, je

D7 Gm Cm Gm

Da - vid the shep-herd, I sing. I sing, I sing, like  
Da - vid the sin - ner, I pray. I pray, I pray, like  
chante comme Da - vid le ber - ger. Je chan - te, je chan - te, je  
prie comme Da - vid le pé - cheur. Je pri - e, je pri - e, je

1. D7 Gm 2. D7 Gm

Da - vid the Shep-herd, I sing. Da - vid the Shep-herd, I sing.  
Da - vid the sin - ner, I pray. Da - vid the sin - ner, I pray.  
chante comme Da - vid le ber - ger. chante comme Da - vid le ber - ger.  
prie comme Da - vid le pé - cheur. prie comme Da - vid le pé - cheur.

3. When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my soul,  
like David the victor, I dance.  
I dance, I dance, like David the victor, I dance.
4. When the Spirit of the Lord moves in my soul,  
like David the poet, I praise.  
I praise, I praise, like David the poet, I praise.
3. Quand le Saint-Esprit de Dieu remplit mon âme,  
je danse comme David le vainqueur.  
Je danse, je danse, je danse comme David le vainqueur.
4. Quand le Saint-Esprit de Dieu remplit mon âme,  
j'exalte comme David le poète.  
J'exalte, j'exalte, j'exalte comme David le poète.

Words: traditional Spanish; translation, the editors of International Songbook, 1990;  
French translation, Andrew J. Donaldson (1951-) Music: traditional

Words: English translation copyright © Mennonite World Conference, 1990 from International Songbook 1990; French translation, copyright ©  
The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1996 Music: public domain CCL No. 4440603

## MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, October 19

Presbyterians Sharing supports lay leaders, including those in prison communities, through access to courses offered by Theological Education by Extension in Malawi. The Certificate program in Biblical Studies expands participants' biblical knowledge, fosters collaborative leadership, and increases leadership capacity. Edina was active in her congregation but often doubted her ability to lead. She says, "I used to sit at the back during meetings and just listen.

I had ideas burning inside me, but I lacked the confidence and the knowledge to speak up or guide others. Through this program, I've gained not just biblical insight, but the courage to lead." Recently, Edina was appointed as leader of the women's guild in her church, where she teaches and mentors younger women.



## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, October 19 (Students and Colleges Sunday)** We give thanks for Theological Education by Extension in Malawi, which provides distance learning opportunities for lay leaders and clergy from remote areas.

**Monday, October 20** We give thanks for how our relationships with other branches of Christ's church in Canada enrich our witness and worship.

**Tuesday, October 21** We pray for synods and presbyteries holding retreats and annual meetings this fall. May these gatherings be a time of fellowship, learning, rest, and spiritual growth.

**Wednesday, October 22** We pray for congregations making the difficult decision to close, and join them in their grief and loss. We celebrate their years of faithful witness to Christ and the legacy they leave.

**Thursday, October 23** We pray with gratitude for the alumni and the many others who have so generously given financial and spiritual support that helps sustain the ministry of The Presbyterian College, Montreal.

**Friday, October 24 (Disarmament Week – Oct 24-30)** We give thanks for those who work towards peace in places of conflict and for those who advocate for the disarmament of weapons of mass destruction, in particular nuclear weapons, in order to build a safer and more secure world.

**Saturday, October 25** We give thanks for the essential work of peacebuilding organizations like Project Ploughshares (part of the Canadian Council of Churches, of which the PCC is a member).