



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in faith and sharing God's love
since 1786
The Word on Christmas Eve?
December 24, 2025

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

We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person, as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite others to join you. Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



Announcements

Prayer Groups:

Zoom: returning Wednesday January 7th at 6:30 am

Women's Prayer Group: returning in person Thurs, Jan 8th 2pm
and through *What's App*

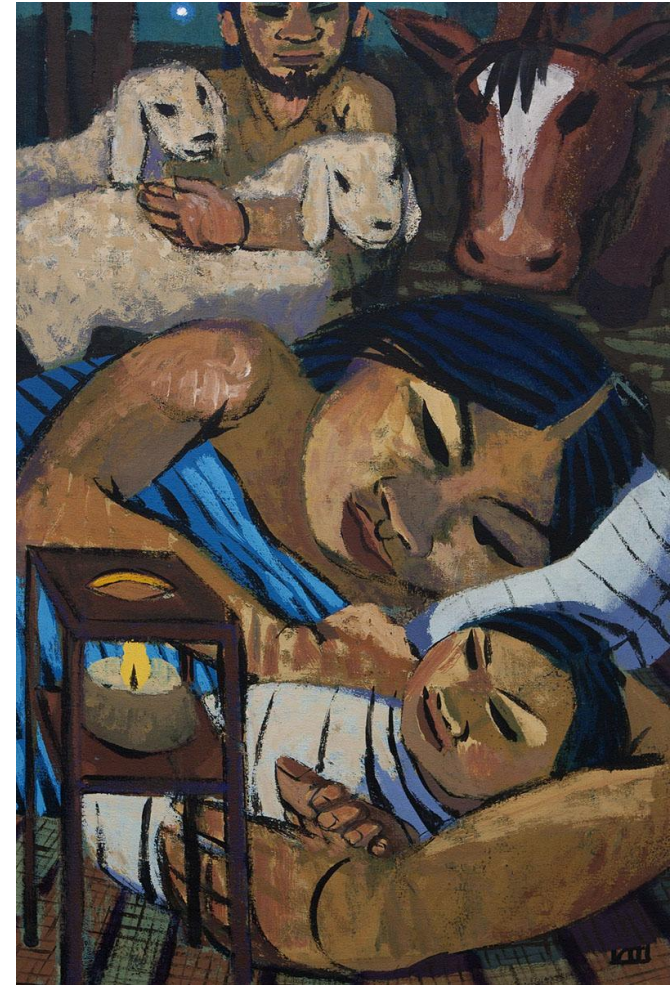
Bible Study: will return Wednesday January 7th from 7-8 pm

Church Office: will be closed until January 5th.

Friday Food & Films: returning January 9th.

NA: open meetings Tuesdays & Wednesdays at noon (incl Dec 25)

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



Pinoy Belem - Wayne Forte

Contacts

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Approaching God

🗨️ Call to worship²

Piano: **In a land ruled by an empire, under the weight of oppression, a young couple search for a place for Mary to give birth, but there was no room at the inn.**

Windows: **In the humblest of places, the promised child is born!**

Piano: **In lowly circumstances, God fulfills the promise to all people. This is the meeting of heaven and earth!**

Windows: **The glorious light of that stable burst into the night, announcing a birth that has changed the world. On this night, we light the Christ candle.**



(The candle of love is lit.)

Let us pray together:

**Living God, may the light of Christ find a home in our hearts, in our congregations and in our world.
Hallelujah! Christ is born!**

🎵 Hymn: O Come all ye faithful #1, 2, 5.....pg 11 (159)
youtu.be/7aH9XnLwNws?t=263



Prayer of Approach³

Holy One!

Precious creator,

breathe on us with your Spirit of wonder.

Instill in us wonder and awe

at the night when God took up residence with all creation.

² adapted from liturgy provided by the Presbyterian World Service & Development

³ adapted from *Spill the Beans* #25

The angels sing in the heavens,
God's people wait with bated breath
and all becomes calm and peace—for a moment.

As we gather, and as we worship this night
we still our souls,
we reflect on our place,
we offer our lives.

On the night when the world joined in the birth pangs
We too groan as we remember
the times when we were not our best,
the times when we knew as the world turning away from you.

...

We seek forgiveness this night.

We seek your light to fill us and renew us.

We seek again the Wonder of God—
new born, vulnerable, en-fleshed, God With Us.

With us, then and now and for ever.

Amen.



✦ Assurance of Pardon⁴ (Matthew 1:21)

I invite you to hear the good news.

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

Know that all who come wanting to change,
their sins are forgiven.

As we gather and think of the world God dreams of,
we remember the prayer that Jesus teaches us.

I invite you to join in saying 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.

♪ Hymn: O little town of Bethlehem #1, 4.....pg 11 (165)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jrn6Dscd0M8

⁴ Worship Sourcebook E.2.3



Listening to God



Intro to the Word

Tonight advent is done and Christmas come. To celebrate we'll see and hear different perspectives of God coming as one of us ("moving into the neighbourhood" as Eugene Peterson puts it in *The Message*).

One of the big things about Christmas is presents, so we're going to start with them. It's absolutely okay if you didn't bring a present. Just coming to church, many of you received one... and I'm going to invite you to share them when I call out the number that's on it.





Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may be amazed by Christmas.

Amen.



The Presents



our nativity

1) Angel

Our first present is an angel. While we know they are an angel because of the wings, the real sign of an angel is that they are messengers from God. Angels are important.

This angel looks gentle. We don't really know what they look like, but angel's often have to start by saying, "Do not be afraid." - which suggests that people are scared. It could be that they look scary, or that people are afraid of what they might do or say. They could destroy cities, though more often they delivered messages that led to big changes - changes that aren't easy, ...though they do make the world better.

The Angel reminds us that God sends us messages.

2) Mary

This is Mary. She is on her knees. Sometimes people get on their knees to tend something - like flowers, or a child. Sometimes people get on their knees to show respect for somebody. Sometimes they collapse to their knees if they receive really really big news.

An angel has come to Mary. As a messenger from God, they deserve respect. Mary is told that God would like her to become the mother of God's son. Consider that Mary was completely unimportant... this is really really big news for her (and the whole world). It is also hard news, because becoming pregnant outside of marriage means that Mary would normally be kicked out of her family and town... or killed. Mary may not look it here, but she is very courageous to accept the danger of God's invitation.

Mary reminds us of what can happen when we have the courage to say yes.

3) Joseph

This is Joseph. When he enters the story he's struggling. If he marries Mary, who is not pregnant from him, he wouldn't have to worry about being killed like Mary did, but he would be unable to get any work. Even if he wanted this family, how could he support them? Then the angel comes in a dream. The stakes increase. Can he be the step-father of the son-of-God?

Life doesn't go as Joseph had imagined, but with God's help it all works out.

Joseph reminds us that when we follow, God will look after us.

3.5) Donkey

The donkey has packages tied to his back. He, like so many

before him, is bearing other people's burdens. Joseph & Mary are forced by the Roman invaders to report to another city to be counted for taxes. The donkey works to help - without any credit.

The donkey reminds us that following God requires help and work.

4) Cow & Manger (and Stable)

Here we have a cow, a food trough, and a stable. To state the obvious, it's not a fancy hotel or friendly home. It's definitely not a palace for a king. A stable is the only place Joseph and Mary could find to stay. If we asked the cow, she'd tell us the stable was well looked after and cleaned twice a day. Nobody in the scene owns it, but they are allowed to stay here out of the wind & weather.

This setting reminds us that God came into the world, not to be pampered with the 1%, but to be with those who were struggling.

5) Baby

This is a baby. A human baby. Like other human babies, it cries & poos... and is an amazing miracle. This baby is Jesus, the Son of God. He reminds us that God became human. God, the Creator of the Universe, became one of us.

6) Shepherd

This is a shepherd. While this one looks young, he has it hard. He must make sure that the sheep in his care find food and water. If anything shows up, he puts his life on the line to rescue them. If one is missing, he goes to find it. He works hard - with lousy hours.

The angel visited the shepherds too. Instead of telling the 'important' people that God's son had been born in Bethlehem, the angel tells the shepherds working the night shift. This is amazing. And when the shepherds see the baby - they are even more amazed. Meeting God as a human baby, they run and share the news with everyone they can find.

The shepherds remind us that again that God comes to ordinary people, even forgotten people... and that this is exciting.



Angel visit shepherds - Severino Blaco (Bolivia)

7-9) Magi

In a land far away well educated people, Magi, notice that God is doing something that will change the world. They were probably priests in a different religion. They were definitely outsiders. Yet they were welcome to celebrate God's glory on earth.

The Magi remind us that God's coming includes outsiders, the intellectual, and the elite.

Combined, the nativity presents us with a vision of God coming to all people (ordinary, elite, those part of the community, and outsiders) - coming as a vulnerable human baby through the courage of ordinary people.

This is the ultimate Christmas present for us... and for us to share.

♪ Hymn: In the bleak midwinter #1, 4.....pg 112 (145)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=OHH10NiIAy4



other nativities

Let's take a little look at a few other nativities.



Here's one I saved as 'hipster nativity'. Is this what it would be like now? Selfies? texting? presents from amazon? It's fun... but does it remind us of the good news? ...could it be used to tell about the good news?

This isn't the nativity, but it includes so much of the story. Joseph and Mary are trying to find a place to stay by King David's motel. She's on a donkey under the star. The Holy Spirit, or dove, is flying over Mary. They even have halos. More to the point, it shows God coming through ordinary people trying to follow - and life growing in improbable ways.



José & Maria - Everet



This morning I heard about the Israeli government approving another 19 settlements in the occupied West Bank,⁵ and about a Palestinian house being attacked, tear gassed, and livestock killed. It reminded me of this nativity from Bethlehem in 2023. The bombings in Gaza made it easy to find the rubble.



⁵ total of 160, with 69 in the last three years.

This is the nativity this year at Lake St Church in Evanston (a suburb of Chicago).⁶ It's set after the birth when the soldiers come looking for the baby called King of the Jews. These soldiers had ICE on their vests. Mary and Joseph wore gas masks to protect them from gas attacks. Jesus has his wrists zip tied... like the ICE offers have been doing in the Chicago area. Vandals attacked the display and Joseph was destroyed. The second time they decapitated Mary - so the church put up a sign explaining that Mary was suspected to be in detention, but the family couldn't find where she was being held.

...is this disrespectful? or distracting from the good news? or does it reflect the Christmas message?

♪ Hymn: Infant holy, infant lowly.....pg 12 (143)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=k0pvBT2CsN8

✧ Intro to the Word


Our last vision of God's coming comes from the Gospel According to John.


Both the people in the gospel and the original people it was written for were living in poverty and oppression from Roman occupation. In the case of the people it was written for, Rome had destroyed the Temple in Jerusalem, and now they were being kicked out of their synagogues because they believed Jesus was the Messiah. What they believed was important. It could put them into conflict with the government and their neighbours.

So, what does this passage say about God coming? What's this version of the Christmas story present? What gift can we receive from it?

⁶ evanstonroundtable.com/2025/12/16/nativity-scene-at-lake-street-church-adjusted-after-being-vandalized-a-second-time/



 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁷ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[John 1](#): 1-18

 Sermon: What's the Word?
*Dear Lord, please bless these words
 and the meditations of our hearts. Amen.*

After years of debating, the people deciding what should go into the New Testament chose, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to include the four different gospel accounts. Mark doesn't give Jesus an origin story - He just shows up and it's all go go go. The Gospel According to Matthew starts by telling us how Jesus is connected back to Father Abraham through King David. Luke connects Jesus back to Adam. As you just heard, John goes even further back. The first chapter of the Bible tells of how God spoke creation into being - and Jesus was the Word⁸ that made it happen. For those early Christians, believing in Jesus was not creating some new god, but acknowledging the one who was God's active presence in bringing life to... everything.

⁷ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963

⁸ or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV
 in Spanish they translate Word' from John as 'Verb' - an active word

Like the other stories of Jesus coming, this one acknowledges that there is darkness, and into darkness God brings a great light. This light helps us to see clearly flaws/sins in our own lives and our society. The Light also shows us the way towards hope. Jesus being the source of light was world shaping for those early Christians. The inclusion of John in the passage shows a good way to share the light. Unlike in some other passages, he's not ranting against anyone. He is simply pointing to where he finds the Light.

And that is in the Word became flesh. This wasn't a metaphor. God became all fleshy like us (and by 'us' don't just think just people of Kensington, but all people). This takes the relationship to a new level. They knew that God was *with* them, but now God had become one of them - one of us. Sometimes kids say to their parents, "You have no idea what it's like!", and the parents think, "I was there once." In Jesus, God was one of us. God knows. This was revolutionary.

Also revolutionary was the part that all who believe can also be children of God. The Word of God coming to light the world as a human Jesus so that we may become children of God. This leads to questions of how. How's that happen? How do we live it? As God experienced a human life, how do we experience the Divine? How do we respond?

We'll be exploring this with the Gospel According to John until after Easter, but for now remember that Jesus is one with God since before the beginning, that through Jesus we can find life as children of God... and that Jesus is not just present with us, but one of us - which is the best Christmas present ever.

*To God be all the glory
 Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Hark the herald angels sing.....pg 1e (139)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ceb8KBRTfAM

💬 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 what Christmas was like for you growing up?
 What patterns/traditions were there? What about them do you appreciate? Have you continued any of them?

Values: Share what are important parts of celebrating Christmas.

Visions: What would the Christmas story be like if it happened now? Where would it happen? Who would be involved? What if it was set in Montréal?

Visions: What would a nativity based on John 1:1-18 look like?

Etching: Describe what aspect of the Christmas story you is catching your attention this year.

Actions: Brainstorm who you can share the Christmas message you're relating to.

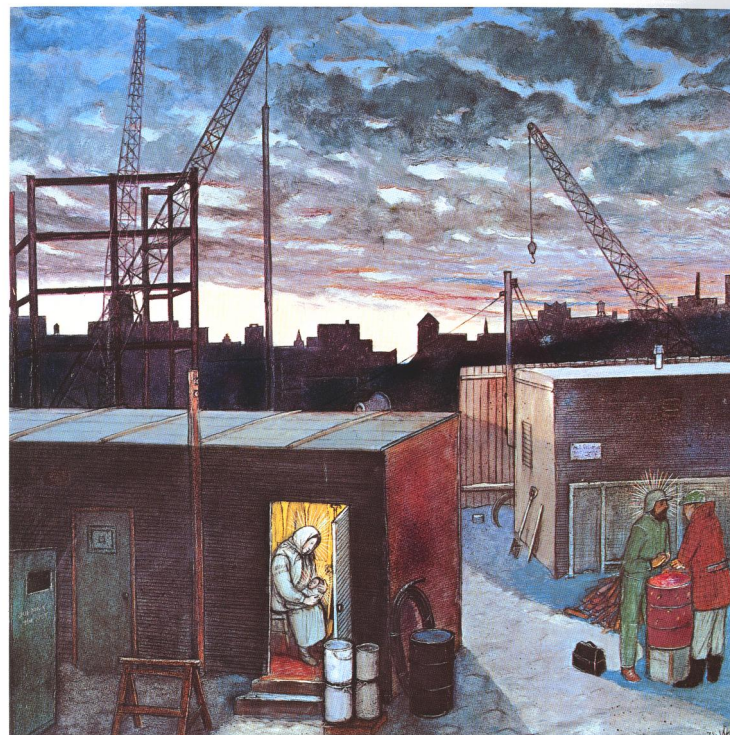
Actions: Take the risk and wish people a Merry Christmas.

Prayer: ...that we will be so filled with the Christmas Spirit that, like the shepherds and John, we share this present with others.

✦ Spirit Sightings

Tonight I see the Holy Spirit working through the season. Yes, it has become very commercialized, and advent calendars have forgotten about Jesus coming... but many people also think more

of others and how they could change how they live. It's hard, but there is hope - and hope comes from God.



Northern Nativity - night watchman - W Kurelek

✦ 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 people⁹

This is the night for rejoicing.
 This is the night for loving.
 This is the night for sharing wonder and awe.
 This is the night when we turn our thoughts
 and our prayers
 out into the world
 where God's light is needed;
 where God's peace is sought;
 where God's Son is found.

Holy One, we pray for our world:
 where peace is a distant dream—
 come dwell with us; ...
 where light is overwhelmed in darkness—
 come shine around us; ...
 where joy is a forgotten emotion—
 come move among us; ...
 where hope is longed for—
 come Jesus and live with us again! ...

We pray this night
 that in every corner of the world
 the light of Christ will shine in the darkness
 and the darkness shall be overcome.
 In the name of the Christ child we pray.
 Amen.

♪ Hymn: Joy to the world.....pg 14 (153)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FazsxP1-ZIA

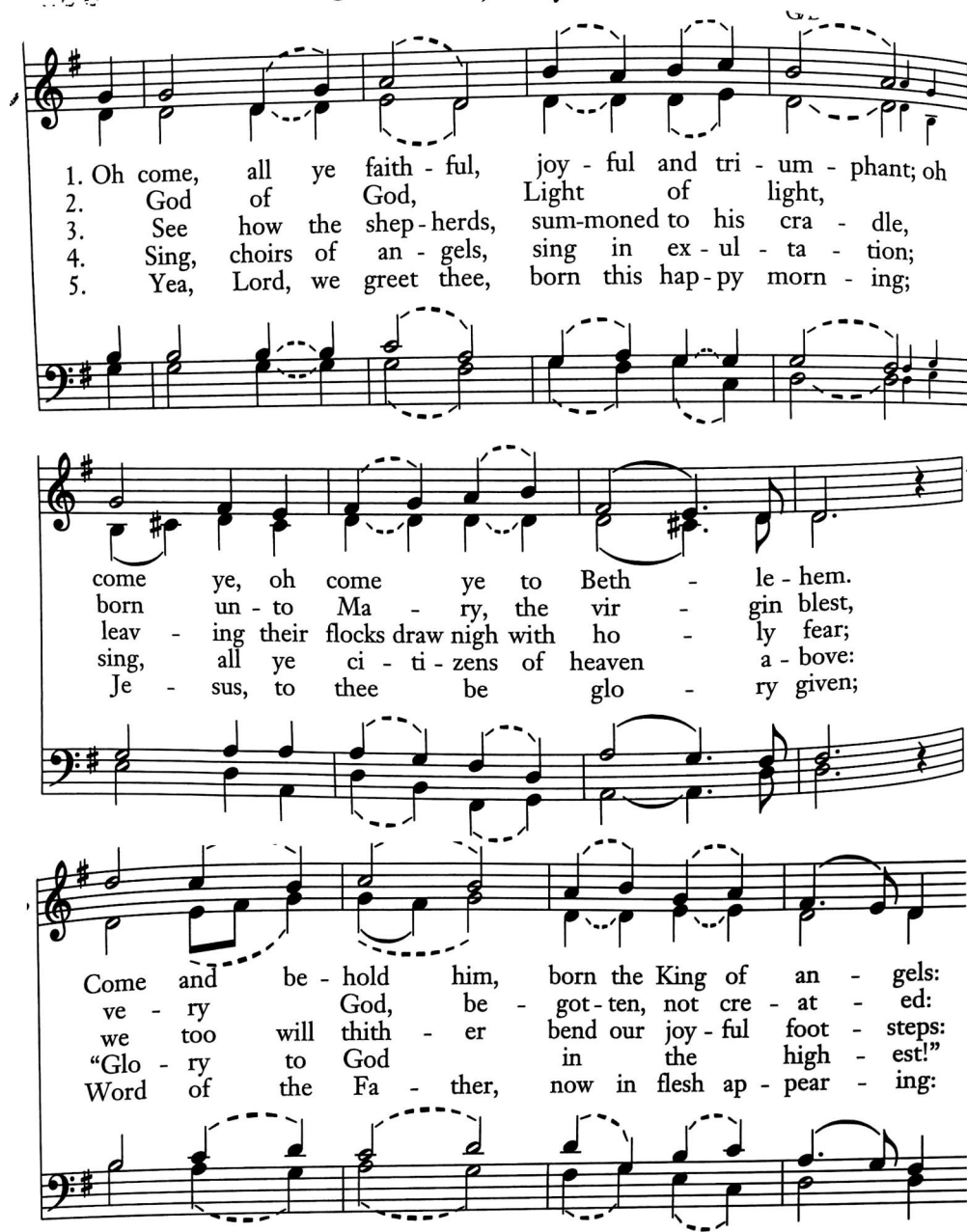


Benediction¹⁰

*The joy of the angels,
 the eagerness of the shepherds,
 the perseverance of the Magi,
 the obedience of Joseph and Mary,
 and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.
 And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 be upon you - always.*



Oh come, all ye faithful



1. Oh come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; oh
 2. God of God, Light of light,
 3. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 4. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, oh come ye to Beth - le - hem.
 born un - to Ma - ry, the vir - gin blest,
 leav - ing their flocks draw nigh with ho - ly fear;
 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove:
 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
 ve - ry God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps:
 "Glo - ry to God in the high - est!"
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

333

O Little Town of Bethlehem



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

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

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

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

In the bleak mid-winter

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, fros - ty wind made moan;
 2. Our God, heaven can-not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall wel - come him when he comes to reign:
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thron - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shipped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I give him - give my heart.

Words: Christina G. Rossetti (1830–1894) Music: Gustav T. Holst (1874–1934)

Infant Holy, Infant Lowly

1. In - fant ho - ly, in - fant low - ly, for his bed a cat - tle stall;
 2. Flocks were sleep - ing, shep - herds keep - ing vig - il 'til the morn - ing new

ox - en low - ing, lit - tle know - ing Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 saw the glo - ry, heard the sto - ry, tid - ings of a gos - pel true.

Swift are wing - ing an - gels sing - ing, no - els ring - ing, tid - ings bring - ing:
 Thus re - joic - ing, free from sor - row, prais - es voic - ing, greet the mor - row:

Christ the babe is Lord of all. Christ the babe is Lord of all.
 Christ the babe was born for you. Christ the babe was born for you.

Polish carol
 Paraphrased by Edith M. G. Reed, ca. 1925

W ZLOBIE LEZY 8.7.8.7.8.8.7.7.
 Traditional Polish melody
 Arr. in *The Kingsway Carol Book*, 1946

Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D with refrain

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King,
 2. Christ, by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right-cous-ness!

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty!
 Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro - claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."
 Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt; French, Edmond L. Budry (1854–1932)
 Music: Felix Mendelssohn (1809–1847); arrangement, William Hayman Cummings (1831–1915)

Words: French translation, copyright © World Student Christian Federation from Cantate Domino Music: public domain

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King.

French

1. Ecoutez! le chant des anges,
 vient d'éclater dans les airs;
 joignons aussi nos louanges
 à leurs sublimes concerts:
 gloire à Dieu! paix sur la terre!
 Aujourd'hui le Christ est né!
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
2. Son palais est une étable,
 une crèche est son berceau,
 et pourtant, c'est l'Admirable,
 c'est le Fils du Dieu très-haut.
 Il vient à nous débonnaire
 et de grâce couronné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
3. Avec vous, bergers et mages,
 aux pieds de notre Seigneur
 nous déposons nos hommages,
 nous lui sonnonns notre coeur.
 Tout son peuple sur la terre
 dit, avec nous prosterné:
 Jésus, s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus, s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.

Hungarian

1. Halld mint zeng az egész ég;
 "A Királynak dicsőség!
 Békesség a földön lenn,
 Istentől jó kegyelem."
 Népek, örvendezzetek!
 Visszhangozzák a mennyek!
 Hirdesse a természet:
 Krisztusunk megszületett!
 Halld mint zeng az egész ég;
 "A Királynak dicsőség!"
2. Krisztus, kit imád a menny,
 Űr a nagy világ előtt,
 Köztünk íme megjelent,
 Szent szűz az, ki szülte Őt.
 Dicsősége eget áthat,
 Isten Ő, ki porruhánkat
 Földön élni vette fel.
 Jézus O, Immánuel!
 Halld mint zeng...
3. Dicsőség! Ő a Király,
 Békesség és Igazság,
 Eltető világos nap,
 Bajainkra gyógyírt ad.
 Kis gyermek lett mi érettünk,
 Született, hogy mi élhessünk,
 Porból, hogy feltámasszon
 S újjászületést adjon.
 Halld mint zeng...

Joy to the world

ANTIOCH 8 6 8 6 CM with repeat

Chords: D A7/E D/F# Em/G D/A A 7 D D/F# G Em

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re -
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav - iour reigns: let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

Chords: A 7 D (G/D D) (G/D D)

ceive its King; let eve - ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt Music: Lowell Mason (1792–1872);
 harmony, Henry Rosevear (1903–1982) CCLI #4440603

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © estate of Henry Rosevear

Chords: /F# Em/G A

room and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won - ders of his love, and won - ders of his -

Tenor and bass v.1 And heaven and na-ture sing (Bass), and

Chords: A7/C# A7 /G D/F# (aug) G A Bm Em/G D/A A 7 D

sing, and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 joy, re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing (Similarly for vv 2, 3 & 4)

MISSION MOMENT Sunday, December 21

Pakistan is listed among the world's worst-performing countries in education indicators. Poverty, child labour, gender discrimination and harmful norms within a highly patriarchal society impede equal access to education, particularly for girls. In response, PWS&D is implementing a school feeding project with its partner in Pakistan to encourage girls' school attendance in marginalized communities in Umerkot. Meena, a participant in the program, shares that receiving a goat as part of the School Feeding Project has become about much more than just an animal—it is a symbol of her family's commitment to education and community well-being. "Providing milk to the school is my responsibility, and I take pride in doing it because I know it benefits not just my daughter but all the children in our village. Their health and future matter to me," she shares.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 21 (4th Sunday of Advent) We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

Monday, December 22 We pray for members of the Atlantic Mission Society and their congregations. May they experience the Hope, Peace, Joy and Love that the Saviour offers to all in this time of spiritual reflection.

Tuesday, December 23 We give thanks for the gift of friendship, the joy of gathering together, and the laughter shared with loved ones.

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

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

Friday, December 26 We pray for teachers in the refugee camp in Beirut, who, through the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon, equip young people with skills for employment.

Saturday, December 27 We pray for congregations and ministries that provide warm meals and a place of refuge during the cold days of winter.

Christ is Born!



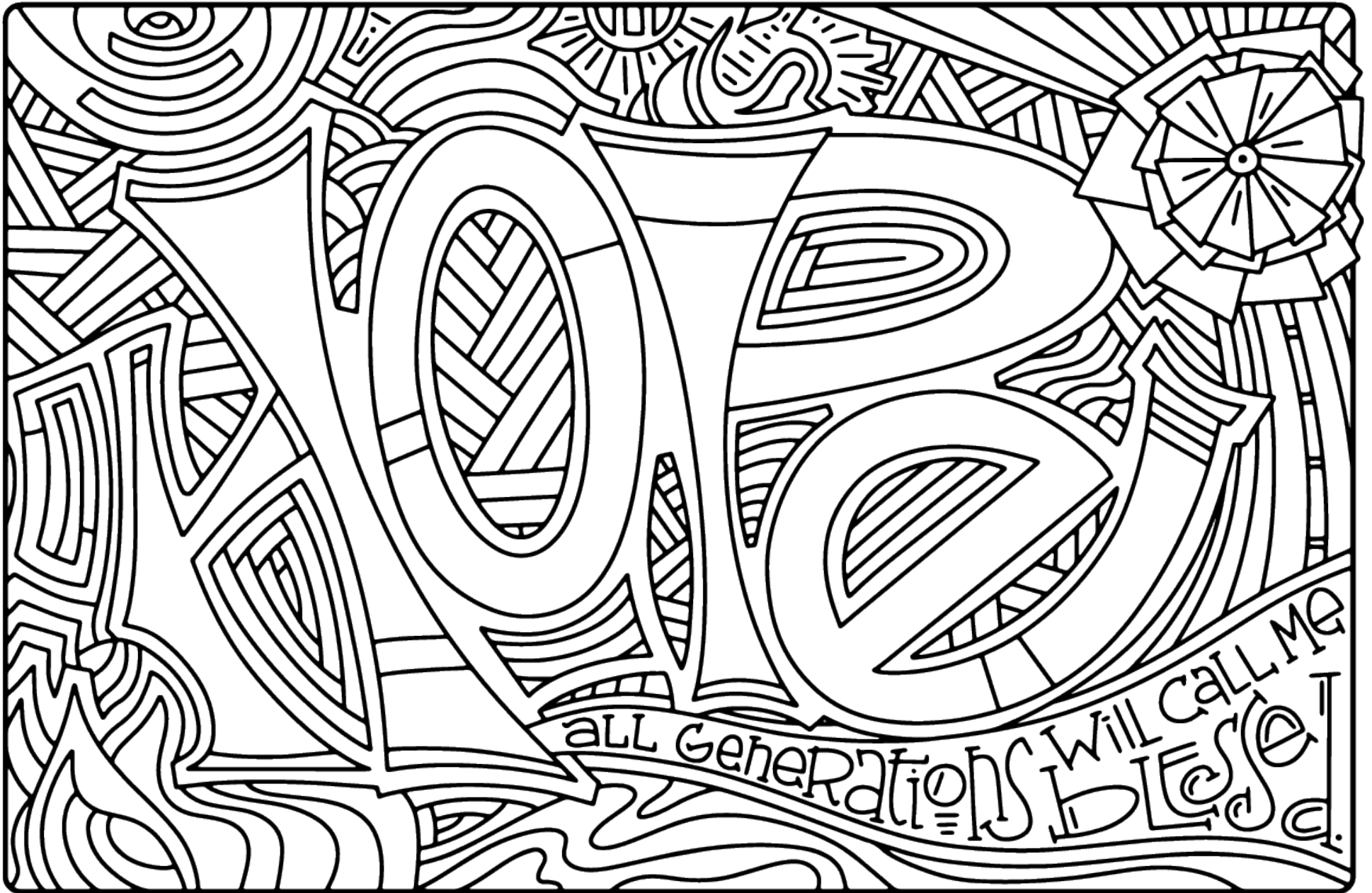
Hope stands resilient, even in the face of poverty, injustice and adversity.

Through PWS&D, the church answers God's call to support those in need. Together, we are working toward a brighter future for our global community by fostering sustainable solutions to overcome poverty and offering support in regions impacted by disaster, whether caused by conflict or climate change.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, PWS&D addresses challenges such as hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster. Our collaborative efforts aim to restore dignity, alleviate suffering and encourage cooperation within communities.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let's keep our neighbours—both near and far—in our hearts. Your support plays a vital role in the success of this transformative mission.

This Christmas, help spread hope, peace, joy and love across the globe by supporting PWS&D.



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