



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

Why sing Gloria?

December 21, 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

Pot-Luck Lunch: Dec 21st after worship

Christmas Eve Worship: Dec 24th at 7pm.

Gathering for food: all free

Pot-Luck Breakfast & Carols: Dec 25th 9:30

Community Christmas Dinner: Dec 25th from 1-7pm
at Concordia BUZZ dining hall. 7141 Sherbrooke West

Prayer Groups: will meeting next Jan 7 & 8.

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

Church Office: will be closed until January 5th.

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

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



Northern Nativity - W Kurelek

Contacts

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Approaching God


 Call to worship²

Piano: **The Shepherds praised God,
telling everyone the great things God has done!**

Windows: **With Jesus' birth, the world will never be the
same again.**

Piano: **The powerful will be toppled from their thrones.
The hungry will be lifted up and joy will break through
in unexpected places.**

Windows: **Every time a child is born, the world changes for
someone. Our lives changed when a humble young
woman, Mary, gave birth to the One who would save us.
On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we light the candle of
joy.**

 (The candle of love is lit.)

Let us pray together:


**Living God, gift us with Mary's trust and readiness
to accept your purpose.**

**Like the Angels and Shepherds,
may we celebrate your coming with shouts of Gloria.**

♪ Hymn: Angels from the Realms of Glory.....pg 8 (146)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IUL8CDz2G1k>



Listening to God

 Intro to the readings

As we acknowledged in the *Call to Worship*, this is the fourth Sunday of Advent. It's about waiting for Christ to come and makes a link to Biblical times of people waiting for God, and now. That's why we've had several weeks of readings from the prophets. They tell of times when people have needed to hear God's word, either because they've been making bad choices or because they needed hope - or both.

Today we're shifting gears. Instead of hearing how God will come we'll hear how God came. In doing this expected thing, God goes against expectations... making the experience even more glorious.


We'll have several readings from the Gospel According to Luke, with reflections and hymns in between. Part of this will be lead by the children - and highlight the use of the word 'gloria'. Curious, I looked up 'Glory' in my Bible Dictionary. The biggest use is the recognition of God's presence - and to acknowledge the blessings and hope that comes with God. When we sing 'Gloria' we are celebrating God presence, blessings, and the hope that the future will bring.

 Prayer for Illumination

Immanuel, as we wait for your return,
help us to see your glory and love
through the reading and preaching of your Word.
Amen.

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

Zechariah

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

[Luke 1: 5-20](#)

Reflection

Is this glorious?

Well, Zechariah is a noble priest - an expert in God. He and Elizabeth are known to be good respectable people. If anyone should be picked to reveal God to the masses, why not them? ...okay, they are on the old side, but God doesn't think that's an issue. It might be unexpected, but that's nothing new with God.

And so, Glory comes to Zechariah & Elizabeth. I don't mean fame, though there is that, but God's presence and blessing. ...and though these good people aren't the headliners, they do point the way for others to find the Glory.



Zacharias Elisabeth praying - Mann

³ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963
or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

Prayer

Mighty God, thank you for the reminder that you include people who are not from the margins - people who are good and righteous in your coming. That age is not a barrier for your wonder, nor are expectations.

Amen.

♪ **Hymn:** Dona Nobis Pacem.....p. (737)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xozf8-SRHi0

Mary

 **Reading:** [Luke 1: 26-38](#)

Reflection

Is this glorious?

If you were asked to pick a person to change the world, what would you advice? Probably somebody with some power and influence. God chooses a young, poor, and a woman who is completely unknown outside her small community. Mary didn't have status or power - and becoming pregnant outside of marriage would damage her reputation so much that she'd be lucky to simply be driven out of town and not killed. Nobody would expect God to work in this way. Yet, this is also how God glory comes - through a poor vulnerable nobody who is willing and open to the risks of God's glory.

and so Mary experiences God's glory/blessing. She and her family are kept safe. And through her, the world receives the Glory of God... Jesus.

Prayer

Gentle God: thank you for reminding us that your glory also flows through the young and the inexperienced; that you invite those who are not the experts to experience and share your glory. Amen.



Mary & Angel - Marcia Carole

Our next hymn is a variation of the song Mary sung about her experience of how God works.

♪ **Hymn:** Canticle of Turning #1-2.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RN1_iZU-OWE (organ)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=iyqOsuQoJRo (lively band)

Sunday School

Enter 3 angels (children or a combination of children and adult) singing "Gloria" in a half-hearted way (see hymn 147).⁴

Minister: I see you have been practising your song.

Angel 1: Yes! Over and over!

Why do we have to practice this song?

⁴ If you have access to song books from the Taizé community, they offer an easy-to-sing Gloria.

Angel 2: We tired of this song.

We want to sing other songs.

Older angel: I agree with these little angels. Is there some reason why we are singing this Gloria over and over?

Minister: Ah....the time is coming very soon. You will be called upon to sing Gloria at a very important moment. It will be a turning point in the history of the world. God has been promising this for a very long time.... Keep practising!

*(Waves goodbye and moves off to side,
 then pauses and turns to the congregation.)*

I know...these angels need a little encouragement.
 Let's help them.

♪ **Hymn:** Angels we have heard on high #1-2.....p. 10 (147)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN_Y
 When the Gloria chorus begins, the minister turns to the angels and encourages them to sing along lustily.

Angel 1: Wow! That was a better practice.

Angel 2: It was.

But I still don't understand why we are practising Gloria.

Older angel: Listen to this! It's from the prophet Isaiah.

📖 **Reading:** [Isaiah 7](#): 14

Older angel: Mmmmm....maybe this is a clue.

Why are we getting ready to sing Gloria?

♪ **Hymn:** All earth is waiting #1-2.....p. 11 (109)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnSQ1ENo8MM

Older angel: Then a new prophet came to earth to make an important announcement. Listen to this!



Annunciation to the Shepherds - Hanna Varghese

📖 Reading: [Isaiah 40: 3-5](#)

Older angel: Mmmmm....maybe this is a clue.

♪ Hymn: Prepare the way of the Lord #1-2.....p. 11 (112)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=_D-xqZw36wc

Angel 1: So that is why we must practice the Gloria song!

Angel 2: We have to be ready to announce a special person coming from God!

Older angel: Let's keep on practising... ♪ ♪

📖 Reading: [Luke 2: 1-20](#)

✦ Reflection

Is this glorious?

That God doesn't come to the palace or anywhere shiny and exciting, but to the garage off to the side of... everything. God is born into a family that doesn't even have a bed.

The birth announcement doesn't go to those who are important or knowledgeable or experts, but to the night shift in the back 40. They hear "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace, goodwill among people." This is both shocking and amazing - and they can't help but check it out - finding God's glory in a food trough. They are so excited they return to their lives "glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen."

God's Glory comes to ordinary people, inviting ordinary people to share the glory - not fame, but God's blessings and a hope-full future. And this is worth singing Gloria to.

🙏 Prayer

God of everyone, thank you that you come to live with people - ordinary people. That you bring blessings to all ages and all places. Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Angels we have heard on high #3-4.....p. 10 (147)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN_Y

💬 FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.

Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Etching: Who would you like to be in the Christmas story... or

at least in a pageant?

Wonder: Look back over the Bible passages. What do you wonder? What would you like to ask the people about?

Visions: Describe an aspect of the story that brings that helps you feel God's hope, peace, joy, or love?

Actions: With whom can you share some the Glory you find in the Christmas story? Talk about what's stopping you.

Prayer: ...that we might feel excitement and power of God's glory - and share this with others.



✧ Spirit Sightings

It is wonderful to see the way that community gathers to support others at Christmas - such as the Montreal Children's Theatre Community Dinner last night. Just like the Lord's Table, everyone was welcome to share a wonderful feast that was full of joy. This is an example of God's Spirit at work.



Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: kensingtonchurch.ca. Just click the 'Donate Now' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.



Prayers of the people

Dear Lord, God of the whole universe,
creator of every atom
When we stop and notice,
your creation is amazing.
With our sun blazing in the dark
and bring energy and life to the earth
...imitating you
with your light bringing energy and life
to everyone who is open to you.

...

Thank you
for creation
and especially for your coming
the way you did in Jesus.

Sharing your glory with everyone,
then and now.

Sharing your glory with those living in hard times.
Just as the people in the Christmas story were living

with no say in the government
and soldiers forcing the like bullies
you are with people now
who live with conflict and oppression
with bullies and worse.

....
May people now know your glory.

You share your glory with those who feel unimportant,
like you did with Mary and Shepherds.
May everyone know they are important

....
May people now know your glory.


You brought your glory to a stable in a small town.
Help people now know that you will go anywhere (everywhere)
to be with them.

....
May people now know your glory.

Your Glory became a person in Jesus
who brought healing everywhere he went.
and you still offer healing,
We pray for those needing healing
in their bodies, minds, and souls.
May you make them whole and well.


....
May people now know your glory.

With the help our your Holy Spirit,
may the Lord's prayer shape our life...

 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: Go tell it on the mountainpg 12 (133)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9o7bv7enYI
www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfDUkWy3IW8 (gospel)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_GgZsUyzHA (banjo & fiddle)

 Benediction
The angels sang,
“Glory to God in the highest, and on Earth, peace.”
Let this be our prayer and our song.

*May God, who sent his angels
to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,
fill you with joy and make you heralds of the gospel.*



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Angels from the realms of glory

REGENT SQUARE 8 7 8 7 8 7

B♭ B♭/F B♭ B♭/F F/E♭ B♭/D E♭ B♭/D Gm F/A F7 B♭

1. An - gels from the realms of glo - ry, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 2. Shep - herds in the field a - bid - ing, watch - ing o'er your flocks by night,
 3. Sa - ges, leave your con - tem - pla - tions; bright - er vis - ions beam a - far;
 4. Saints, be - fore the al - tar bend - ing, watch - ing long in hope and fear,
 5. Though an in - fant now we view him, he shall fill his Fa - ther's throne,

B♭ /F /D B♭ Cm Gm/D D Gm D Gm/B♭ Gm F/C C7 F

ye who sang cre - a - tion's sto - ry, now pro - claim Mes - si - ah's birth.
 God with us is now re - sid - ing; yon - der shines the in - fant Light.
 seek the great de - sire of na - tions; ye have seen his na - tal star.
 sud - den - ly the Lord, de - scend - ing, in his tem - ple shall ap - pear.
 ga - ther all the na - tions to him; eve - ry knee shall then bow down.

B♭ 7 E♭ Cm Dm E♭6 Gm F#sus4-3 B♭

Come and wor - ship, come and wor - ship; wor - ship Christ, the new - born King.

See also: Regent Square 298

Words: James Montgomery (1771-1854) Music: Henry T. Smart (1813-1879)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

K4nsington Presbyterian Church

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Dona nobis pacem

DONA NOBIS PACEM 8 6 6 6 6 6

May be sung as a round.

① F C7 F F/C C B♭

Do - na no - bis pa - cem, pa - cem. Do - na

F C F ② C7 F F/C C

no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

B♭ F C ③ F F C7

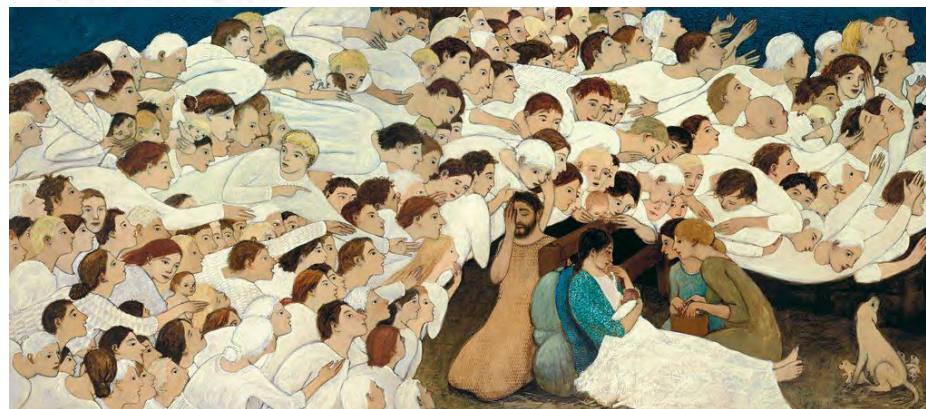
Do - na no - bis pa - cem. Do - na

F F/C C B♭ F C F

no - bis pa - cem. Do - na no - bis pa - cem.

Words: traditional Latin Music: traditional

Words: public domain Music: public domain



Nativity - Brian Kershisnik

My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

LUKE 1:46-55

1 My _____ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my
 2 Though _____ I am small, my _____ God, my all, you _____ work great _____
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who

heart is great, and my spir - it _____ sings of the won - drous _____
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice _____
 holds us fast: God's _____ mer - cy _____ must de - liv - er _____

things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your
 past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y
 tears ev - ery ty - rant _____ from his throne. The hun - gry
 us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you
 name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would
 poor shall _____ weep no more for the food they can
 word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

did not spurn, so from east to west shall my
 for you yearn, you will show your might, put the
 nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - ery
 holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to • turn!

Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the *Magnificat*, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music (STAR OF COUNTY DOWN 8.6.8.6 D refrain 9.8.10.8): Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

Angels we have heard on high

IRIS (GLORIA) 7 7 7 7 with refrain (9 9)

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4. See him in a man-ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains,
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heav-en-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend-ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Refrain

Glo

Glo

ri - a (1st) in ex - cel - sis De - o.
 (2nd) in ex - cel - sis De - o.

ri - a

1. Les anges dans nos campagnes
ont entonné l'hymne des cieux,
et l'écho de nos montagnes
redit ce chant mélodieux.
Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Bergers, pour qui cette fête?
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?
Quel vainqueur ou quel prophète
méritent ces chœurs triomphants?
Refrain
3. Ils annoncent la naissance
du libérateur d'Israël
et pleins de reconnaissance
chantent en ce jour solennel:
Refrain

Words: Luke 2:6-20; traditional French carol Music: traditional; arrangement; Martin Shaw
 (1875-1958) from Oxford Book of Carols

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Oxford University Press, 1928

All earth is waiting

1. All earth is wait-ing to see the Prom-ised One,
 2. Thus says the proph-et to those of Is-ra-el;
 3. Moun-tains and val-leys will have to be made plain;
 4. In low-ly sta-ble the Prom-ised One ap-peared;

and o-pen fur-rows a-wait the seed of God. All the
 "A vir-gin moth-er will bear Em-man-u-el," one whose
 o-pen new high-ways, new high-ways for the Lord. He is
 yet feel his pres-ence through-out the earth to-day, for he

world, bound and strug-gling, seeks true lib-er-ty; it
 name is "God-with-us" our Sav-iour shall be; with
 now com-ing clos-er, so come all and see, and
 lives in all Chris-tians and is with us now; a-

cries out for jus-tice and search-es for the truth.
 him hope will blos-som once more with-in our hearts.
 o-pen the door-ways as wide as wide can be.
 gain, with his com-ing he brings us lib-er-ty.

Words: Alberto Taulé (1932-); translation, Gertrude C. Suppe (1911-) Music: Alberto Taulé (1932-); harmony, Skinner Chávez-Melo (1944-1992)

Words: translation copyright © The United Methodist Publishing House, 1989 Music: copyright © Centro de Pastoral Litúrgica, 1993. All rights reserved. Used with permission. Harmony, copyright © Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1988

Prepare the way of the Lord

PREPARE THE WAY 77 13

① E A E ② E A E
 Pre-pare the way of the Lord. Pre-pare the way of the Lord,
 ③ E A E ④ E A E
 and all peo-ple will see the sal-va-tion of our God.

Note: May be sung as a four-part round.

Words: Isaiah 40:3; 52:10 Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994), Taizé Community (France)

Words: public domain Music: copyright © Les Presses de Taizé (France), 1984. Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications Inc., exclusive agent. All rights reserved.



Wise men at wall - Jim Forrest

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Go, tell it on the mountain

GO, TELL IT 7 6 7 6 with refrain

Refrain G C/G G G/B D D7 Em/D D G G/B Am7 D7

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and eve - ry - where.

G C/G G G/B Am/C Am G/D D7 G Fine

Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

C/G G G/B D Em D G

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo, a - bove the earth
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

G C G/B G G/B A A7 D/F# D7 D.C.

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - iour's birth!
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.



Nativity - Sawai Chinnawong - Thailand

Words: African-American traditional; adaptation, John W. Work (1901-1967)
 Re Music: African-American traditional; arrangement, John W. Work (1901-1967), alt
 K Words: adaptation, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 Music: arrangement, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 CCLI #4440603