



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

Relationship like...

Feb 22, 2026

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

LENT Daily Devotion: including scripture, reflection & prayer short and sweet: www.uhill.net/daily
 with some more space: d365.org
 with art & music: <https://cca.biola.edu/lent/2026>
 St. Andrew's Hall: www.standrews.edu/uncategorized/st-andrews-hall-lenten-devotion-guide-2026
 reflective prayer:

www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer

daily prayer site and app: lectio365.com

Prayer Groups:

Women's Prayer Group: Tuesday at 2 pm

Zoom: Wednesday at 6:30 am

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



Good Shepherd - Galla Placidia 5th Cent

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.

Friday Series: God in the ordinary - last week

6:30 pizza, followed by video and discussion based on Tish Harrison Warner's book *Liturgy of the Ordinary*

New Hope Special Activities

Tues. Feb 24th 1-2:30pm Mug Painting with Gabriel Sierra Henao and learn how ornamentation conveys meaning in Indigenous traditions from Colombia and Canada.

Contacts

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Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

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



Call to worship²

Way beyond all journeying,
truth behind all mystery,
life within all living:

We praise you.

Salve for every soreness,
mender of every brokenness,
midwife of a better future:

We praise you.

Ground of all being,
judge of all nations,
conscience of the universe.

We praise you.

Maker, Redeemer,
confessor, companion,
befriender, inspirer,
God beyond all names,

We praise you.

♪ Hymn: [At the name of Jesus.....pg 9 \(340\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK8OhC6rol4)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OK8OhC6rol4>

² Wee worship book 5th ed



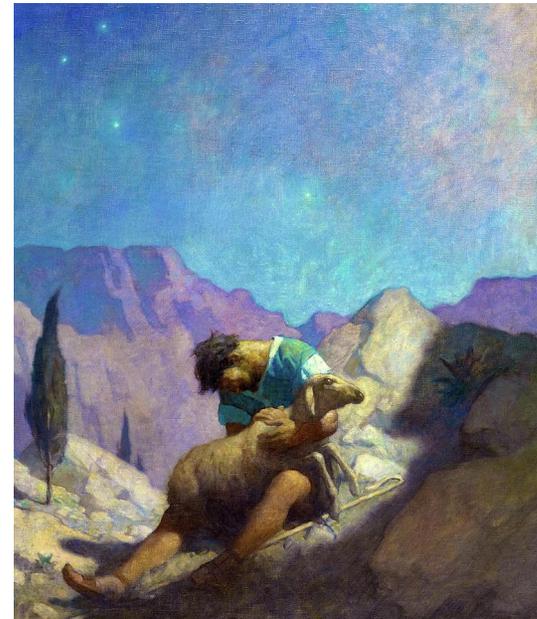
Prayer of Approach³

God of light and truth,
you are beyond our ability to understand.

Your voice can move mountains,
and with your voice you invite us into life.
Before your light, the angels veil their faces.
and by your light we can see a way into hope.

Your light also reveals what is hidden in our shadows.
Let us in silence admit our frailty
and confess our failings

...



Lost Sheep - NC Wyeth

Before God, with the people of God,
I confess to my brokenness:
to the ways I wound my life,
the lives of others, and the life of the world

³ partially from the Iona Community daily prayer 2008

May God forgive you,
Christ renew you
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Amen.

Before God, with the people of God,
we confess to our brokenness:
to the ways we wound our lives,
the lives of others
and the life of the world

May God forgive you, Christ renew you
and the Spirit enable you to grow in love.
Amen

Move among us, O God; give us life
Let your people rejoice in you
Make our hearts clean within us
Renew us in mind and in spirit
Give us again the joy of your help
With your spirit of freedom sustain us.

To help us see your vision,
we come together as a community
to pray the prayer that you teach your disciples:
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

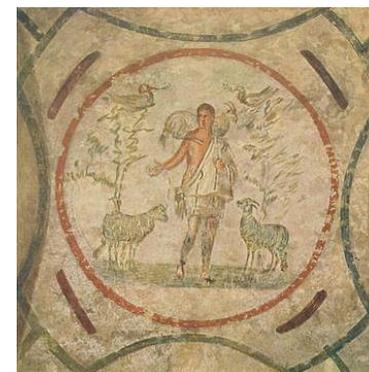
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
Amen.



Listening to God

Children's Time

Some of the oldest pictures of Jesus. This one comes from around 200 AD. You can see it in a chapel in a catacombs (tunnels where dead people were placed on shelves) in the Roman Capital (Rome).



Around this time the Roman Emperor made it against the law for people to become Christian (or Jewish)⁴... so while being a Christian wasn't illegal, it could get you in trouble. In some places people were killed for it.

Capella Greca St. Priscilla

Why do you think the Christians making the chapel chose to draw Jesus as a Shepherd?

What do Shepherds do? What are they like?
[look after sheep, get them enough to eat, protect from wolves, find lost, stop from drowning, ...and know them]

These are all things that Jesus promises to do for us - which is really good news.

⁴ [article about the one again/off again Roman persecution on Christians
christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/persecution-in-early-church-galler](http://christianhistoryinstitute.org/magazine/article/persecution-in-early-church-galler)

Prayer:

*Dear Jesus, help us to trust you to be our shepherd,
...and thank you.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Are you a Shepherd?..... 10

www.youtube.com/watch?v=DIN3eGRIHDI

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVUy53ZfFE (faster)



Capella Greca St. Priscilla (c.200 AD)

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we recognize your voice and trust.

Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings

We're going to have two readings today, and as you may guess from the children's story, shepherds are involved.

The first is from the Gospel According to John. It follows straight after last week's passage. In John after there is a sign, such a blind person seeing, there's a conversation or speech. In chapter 9 we heard about a person born blind listening to Jesus, following Jesus' instructions, and being able to see. As people ask him to share his experience, which he does, he gradually gains more understanding of who Jesus is... except that he didn't know it was Jesus. After being kicked out for his belief about the person who healed him, Jesus comes to him and brings him into his followers. Then Jesus explained to all those who had witnessed what had happened... which is today's passage.

The other reading is a psalm... Psalm 23. As we say it together, consider all the dangers alluded to: such as not having enough, being swept away, and being attacked - and embrace any feelings the psalm brings to you.

📖 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[John 9: 39-41](#) [John 10: 1-18](#)

[Psalm 23](#)

✦ Sermon: Relationship like...

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

While there is big metaphor changes from chapter 9 to 10, seeing to shepherding, there are lots of links. Both talk about listening and following. We hear of the shepherd Jesus coming

⁵ 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

when needed, calling people out, protecting them, and leading them. The concepts aren't new. We heard them in Psalm 23 as well, but now the shepherd imagery is being applied to Jesus.



Even though I Walk through a Valley Dark of Death - Soichi Watanabe

and there was another image too; related, but less common. Jesus says, “*I am the gate*” (or door). I’ve seen lots of pictures of Jesus as a shepherd, but none of him as a gate. It’s an “*I am*” statement - and those are important. So, what do we do with it?

One way this passage has been used is to talk about Jesus excluding people. Some people are in, and others are kept out. There are passages that can be quoted to support this interpretation, but they ignore other passages. Just a few lines

later Jesus says, “*I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.*” And back in John 3: 16-17 Jesus says he came, “*so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.*” This says to me that Jesus didn’t come to exclude people, to bar them from entering the fold.

Then what does it mean that Jesus is a gate?

Several times in this passage there are references to people who don’t have the best interest of the flock at heart: thieves and bandits who come to steal, kill and destroy. These Jesus will protect the flock from them... though perhaps not as we imagine. Judas is both “*one of the twelve*” and described as a thief (in Chapter 12).

Looking at the end of the gospel can show us how Jesus is a gate. When we get to chapter 18 we’ll hear how Judas brings to the garden a detachment of soldiers, and Temple police, and Pharisees Jesus goes out to meet them. Jesus acts like a gate, keeping the disciples inside and safe. Then, in chapter 20, the resurrected Jesus opens the locked door the disciples are hiding behind; he gives them peace, and sends them out. In both these cases Jesus acts like a gate to protect, and to send them out to pastures green. (well, more sends them out to be shepherds too - but that’s another story.)

Is this just about describing a role Jesus has? No. It’s more than that. It’s about a relationship - and there’s lots of descriptions of this relationship in this passage.

In Jesus’ first attempt to explain he talks about how the shepherd knows all the sheep by name. This shows a relationship and caring. The shepherd thinks of each member of the flock as distinct... and part of the whole. The shepherd cares enough to know each of them. And Jesus cares for you - cares enough to

know who each of you are in the whole.

Then we are told that the shepherd goes ahead of the sheep. There isn't anywhere the sheep will be asked to go that the shepherd is also not going. Jesus doesn't sit back and tell us what to do. Jesus goes ahead of us to show us the whats and hows - and protect us from the worst.

These descriptions left people confused, so Jesus tried again. There's the whole gate image where the sheep are protected. A prayer from the Iona Community says it well in one of their prayers, "We say these prayers, confident that you are protecting us from the worst...." But we aren't kept inside. "They will come in and go out." We aren't trapped or locked up. There is freedom.

and those who trust/believe in him will have life - life with abundance. As we've noticed in the past, this is rarely as we imagine it, but when we trust and reflect back - life with Jesus leads to love, hope & healing.

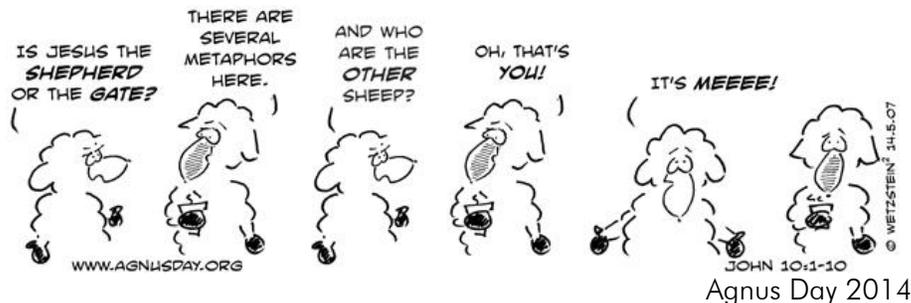
But this doesn't mean that everything is happy happy. Several times Jesus describes how the shepherd will lay down their life for those in their care. We know that in chapter 19 Jesus will be killed, but laying down one's life is more than that. You can see it start when Jesus doesn't fight those that come and arrest him. He doesn't protest or fight at the trial. ...you could even take it back further. That The Word of God came down into flesh - lay down the life eternal to come to us, ...call us, ...show us, ...lead us.

and there's more to "I lay down my life." It's an active choice. Jesus says, "No one takes [my life] from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again." Jesus lets us make choices: good choices, and bad choices - choices for a relationship with Jesus, and choices to break it - at least to try and break it. We can choose. Jesus chooses to lay down his life for us... and has the power to pick it up again. Jesus is a life that will not end - no matter what we do to him. Jesus will

do whatever it takes to help us see - even if it means lay down his life... That's quite a commitment to a relationship.

But, for me, it's not the best bit.

"I am the good shepherd. I know my own, and my own know me, just as the Father knows me, and I know the Father." Jesus is human and divine; distinct and one with God. It's a mystery, but we can't describe God without including Jesus (and the Holy Spirit). Jesus knows us like that - and invites us to know him like that. In John, Jesus often talks about God as The Father. Other parts of the Bible use mother images, so please feel free to use those if you prefer. We need to try and imagine not our own father, but the best parent/child relationship ever - really, better than we can imagine. This is a perfect loving relationship that is deep, open, honest, empowering, secure and safe. Think over the best relationship you've ever been in (parent, spouse, friend). Feel what was great about it. . . That is but a glimpse. The relationship Jesus offers us is better - and always.



Can you hear how fantastic this relationship is? Can you see it in your imagination? All the aspects from leading to protecting to Jesus knowing us and us knowing Jesus - just as the Father knows Jesus, and Jesus knows the Father. This is what Jesus comes to invite us into.

To close, I'm just going to recap that again, but with a bit more of the prayer from the Iona Community.

We prayer,

“confident that you are protecting us from the worst, that you will be faithful to your promise to answer us, and are guiding us along the path to your kingdom. Amen.”

To God be all the glory

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Saviour, like a shepherd lead us.....pg 12 (485)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5d6XN-2NIRI>

🗨️ 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: Can you remember any childhood friendships?

What did you do together?

Etching: Who have you had a deep relationship with? Share some examples of what it was like - of what it felt like. Reflect on this as a glimpse of the relationship we can accept with God.

Visions: Think of an example of what somebody did for you that was deeply meaningful. Say what the person did in one sentence with their name. Then say the same sentence, but replace their name with God or Jesus or Holy Spirit.

Values: How do you value relationships?

Actions: Identify a relationship that you can deepen. It could be with a person who needs it, or a neighbour you

don't know well, or a family difficulty. How can you show a deeper interest in the other this week?

Prayer: ...that we will know Jesus and Jesus knows God.



✦ Spirit Sightings

One place I saw God's Spirit at work this week was at the Presbytery meeting. This is the next level up from congregations. We heard a bit about the rich (and humble) ministry that 'Pastor Jonah' has had at the Montreal Chinese Presbyterian Church, and his retirement.

There were also several issues that could have led to heated exchanges... but we managed to listen to each other, disagree on some things, and experience the peace of Christ.

✦ 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

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 or use this one from *the Iona Community*.

Jesus, our Shepherd,
we approach you now
with our prayers of concern and gratitude...

We pray for those who are waiting for a birth,
or a death,
or news that will affect their lives. . .

We pray for our city and nation -
that politicians and executives in charge
will hear your Spirit and make wise decisions. . .

We pray that those who are oppressed may know freedom, . . .

We pray for families;
for those in whose family, marriage, or close relationship
there is stress or a break-up,
and for those
whose families are travelling through hard times...

We pray for those who are in hospital or in care,
for those who need your healing and peace. . .

We pray for others who have been brought to our attention
through a meeting or conversation. . .

Light of the world, we also give thanks for all our blessings -
for what you have given us,
our food and shelter. . .
the people around us. . .
these opportunities to see your face. . .

We say these prayers,
confident that you are protecting us from the worst,
that you will be faithful to your promise to answer us,
and are guiding us along the path to your kingdom.

for Jesus' sake.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Be thou my vision.....pg 11 (461)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0VpaiwqghY (church)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSIRcs (big church)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs (solo with cello)

 **Benediction**
*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.*⁶



At the name of Jesus

KING'S WESTON 6 5 6 5 D

Dm F/A Dm (/E) F Dm F/C Gm/Bb Dm (/C Bb)

1. At the name of Je - sus eve - ry knee shall bow,
 2. Hum - bled for a sea - son to re - ceive a name
 3. Name him, Chris - tians, name him, with love strong as death,
 4. In your hearts en - throne him; there let him sub - due
 5. Chris - tians, this Lord Je - sus shall re - turn a - gain,

F/A F /A C6 Dm Bb 6 F/A Gm (/A Bb)

eve - ry tongue con - fess him King of glo - ry now;
 from the lips of sin - ners un - to whom he came.
 name with awe and won - der, and with bat - ed breath;
 all that is not ho - ly, all that is not true.
 with his Fa - ther's glo - ry and an an - gel train,

C Bb/G C Am /C Dm C/E Fmaj7 G C (/D /E)

'tis our God's good pleas - ure we should call him Lord,
 Faith - ful, Je - sus bore it spot - less to the last,
 this is God the Sav - iour; this is Christ the Lord,
 Crown him as your cap - tain in temp - ta - tion's hour;
 for all wreaths of em - pire meet up - on his brow,

Dm/F C/E Am/C Am /C (Gm/Bb F) F/A /Bb C Dm

who from the be - gin - ning was the might - y Word.
 brought it back vic - to - rious when from death he passed.
 ev - er to be wor - shipped, trust - ed and a - dored.
 let his will en - fold you in its light and power.
 and our hearts con - fess him King of glo - ry now.

Words: Caroline Maria Noel (1817-1877) Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)
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Are You a Shepherd?

Unison
♩ = 144 C

G/B F/A C

1 Are you a shep-herd, good shep-herd who leads us
2 Are you a moth-er, good moth-er who bears us,
3 Great, gen-tle shep-herd, for-ev-er be-side us,

F C/E Dm/F Gsus⁴ G

safe-ly through dan-ger, while calm-ing our fears?
com-forts, pro-tects us and helps us to rest?
lead all your chil-dren in paths that are right.

C G/B F/A C

Are you a fa-ther who shel-ters and feeds us,
Are you a teach-er who dai-ly pre-pares us,
Great, lov-ing par-ent, wise teach-er, you guide us.

F C/E D/F# G

shares in our laugh-ter and wipes a-way tears?
chal-leng-ing stu-dents to of-fer their best?
We want to love you and bring you de-light.

Refrain
C/E G F C/E F C/E

Yes, you are shep-herd, par-ent and teach-er, but you are great-er than

D G/B Am Em⁷ F C/E

all that we know. Ho-ly and liv-ing, lov-ing and giv-ing,

F Em/G Dm/F G C

God, you are with us wher-ev-er we go.

Words: Ruth Duck, 2002
Music: William P. Rowan, 2002 CCLI #4440603 One License #A-719461
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ZILKER PARK
11 10 11 10 with refrain

Be thou my vision

SLANE 10 10 10 10

Trislon

Eb /G Ab Bb /Ab Eb/G Ab Fm6 Eb

1. Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2. Be thou my wis - dom; be thou my true word,
 3. Be thou my breast-plate, my sword for the fight;
 4. Rich - es I heed not, nor vain earth - ly praise,
 5. High King of heav - en, when the bat - tle is done,

Bb Fm (/Eb) Bb/D Eb /G Ab Eb/G Eb6 Bb /Ab Eb/G

naught be all else to me, save that thou art,
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord;
 be thou my ar - mour and be thou my might;
 thou my in - her - it - ance, through all my days;
 grant heav - en's joy to me, O bright heaven's Sun;

Words: Irish anonymous, 8th century, translation, Mary Byrne (1880–1931), paraphrase, Eleanor Hull (1860–1935), alt Music: Irish traditional; harmony, Erik Routley (1917–1982); descant, John Wilson (1905–1992) CCLI No. 4440603

Words: translation, paraphrase, copyright © Chatto and Windus Ltd. Music: harmony copyright © 1975 and descant © 1983 by Hope Publishing Co.

Ab Ab/Eb Eb Bb/D Cm Gm7 Ab (maj7) Bb/Ab

thou my best thought in the day and the night,
 thou my great Fath - er, thine own may I be,
 thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tower,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Eb/G Eb (/D) Cm Eb/G Ab6 /C Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 thou in me dwell - ing, and I one with thee.
 raise thou me heav - en - ward, O Power of my power.
 high King of heav - en, my treas - ure thou art!
 still be my vi - sion, O rul - er of all.

Saviour, like a shepherd lead us

BRADBURY 878787

D (A/G D/F# A7)/E D A D/A A7 D

1. Sav-iour, like a shep-herd lead us: much we need your ten-der care;
 2. We are yours; in love be-friend us; be the guard-ian of our way;
 3. Let us al-ways seek your fa-vour; let us al-ways do your will.

(A/G D/F# A7/E) A D/A A7 D

in your pleas-ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your folds pre-pare:
 keep your flock from sin, de-fend us; seek us when we go a-stray:
 Je-sus Christ our on-ly Sav-iour, with your-self our spir-its fill:

G D A7 D

bles-sed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! you have bought us; yours we are.
 bles-sed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! hear your chil-dren when we pray.
 bles-sed Je-sus, bles-sed Je-sus! you have loved us; love us still.

G D D A7 D

Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus! you have bought us, yours we are.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus! hear your chil-dren when we pray.
 Bless-ed Je-sus, bless-ed Je-sus! you have loved us; love us still.

Words: Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847), alt Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868):
 harmony, V. Earle Copes (1921–)

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © Abingdon Press, 1964

MISSION MOMENT Sunday, February 22

Amidst a war, political upheaval, and various challenges, a congregation in the Reformed Church of Transcarpathia, Ukraine, has been providing nourishment and service to their community.



The Reformed Church of Chop operates a social kitchen that serves weekly meals to economically disadvantaged, mentally and physically disabled, and elderly members of the community. Since 2023, Presbyterians Sharing has helped purchase ingredients and tools as well as monthly stipends for those serving in the ministry. Through grace, the number of served meals has doubled, and the community has experienced communal, physical and spiritual sustenance.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 22 (1st Sunday in Lent; Heritage Sunday; Coldest Night walks) We pray for the 26 social kitchens operating within the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine as they provide weekly meals to economically disadvantaged, mentally and physically disabled, and elderly community members.

Monday, February 23 We pray for the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit as the Women's Missionary Society works together for local and world mission through study and fellowship.

Tuesday, February 24 As we begin our personal Lenten journeys, we pray for all Atlantic Mission Society members as they reflect on the scriptures, pray and remember Christ's sacrifice.

Wednesday, February 25 We pray for those currently serving as General Presbyters. May God's grace and wisdom be with them as they carry out their presbytery responsibilities.

Thursday, February 26 God calls us into unity even amid diversity. May we listen well to those of other Christian traditions and other faiths, that we might build bridges of understanding, respect and peace. May our common work for justice and reconciliation witness to God's love.

Friday, February 27 We give thanks for those serving on the Crieff Hills Board of Directors. Their work in policy and strategic planning supports this important mission and helps staff serve effectively.

Saturday, February 28 We give thanks to 2SLGBTQI+ community organizations that provide support, social connection, and advocacy for queer and trans people in Canada and around the world.