



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love
since 1786

Creating Partners

September 8, 2026

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

We're glad this PDF has come to you.¹ 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

Sunday Singing: Join Zoé on Sundays at 9:50 to share in the music

Prayer Groups:

Zoom: Wednesday at 6:30 am

Women's Prayer Group: details to come

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.

Session: meeting Tuesday

Presbytery: dinner, worship & meeting Sept 15
at St Andrew & St Paul

New Hope: fall registration is open (Monday and Wednesday activities, no registration required).

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



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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 worship (from Psalm 104)

Bless the LORD, O my soul.

O LORD my God, you are very great.

May the glory of the LORD endure forever;

may the LORD rejoice in all these works

I will sing to the LORD as long as I live;

I will sing praise to my God while I have being.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Praise the LORD!

♪ Hymn: All People that on Earth do Dwell.....pg 10



Anna tells stories - Shin Maeng



Prayer of Approach²

O God, our heavenly Father,

we thank you for the wonderful way our bodies are made.

We praise you for each breath we take, each step we take;

for the gift of sight and the power to read;

for the minds that can observe and store up what they see.

We thank you for hands that are skillful in doing work,

and for all the creative arts within us.

Above all, we praise you that our bodies are the temples

of your own Spirit

and that we are made in your image.

Father, we give you praise,

through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



Listening to God



Children's Time

What are some examples of creation that nourished you this summer? These could be something in nature, but creation is more than that. It could be something created, such as artwork or food. It could be more.

...

Let's thank God for these blessings.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for giving us hope, or wonder, or joy, or peace, or whatever we need through creation - and that we can help you create ways to nourish others. Amen.

♪ Hymn: All things bright and beautiful.....pg 11 (435)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=ErYNkr5eG7o



Adam and Eve - Wenzel Peter

🕯️ Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we feel your breath fill our souls.

Amen.

✨ Intro to the readings

Today's readings are two stories of creation. The first we'll read responsively from the psalms. There's more to it (such as a leviathan), but I trimmed it for length.

The other is Genesis 2. Despite being the second story of creation in the Bible (the first being the 7 days of creation in

chapter 1), experts think it's the older one - probably around the time of King David & Solomon in the 10th or 9th centuries BCE. They figure this based on the style and vocabulary.

It's interesting comparing the various stories of creation. They can be like a song, or a liturgy with responses, or a parable. The details vary, but each tells us truth about God, creation, and us.

For example, we're going to hear about four rivers that have their source in the Garden of Eden. We know that's not geographically possible without complicated theories. But if it's like a parable, then what truth is it saying? People back in the day knew that the Euphrates and other rivers brought life to the land. By having rivers start in the Garden of Eden people are reminded that God, who created the Garden, is the source of life.

In the version that Laura is going to read the wording isn't the usual. Hopefully this will catch your attention, but also help you understand some of the meanings going on. The traditional words used have had a big influence on our understanding of reality (creation), but we see from how the same words are used elsewhere that there have been historic misunderstandings.

For example, the word for rib is the same as for side - and is used more often to mean side. The word commonly translated as 'man' means dirt, and is actually adam (not as a name). While the word may have a grammatical gender, dirt doesn't. The word 'helper' is often used to describe the creation of woman - and has been used to define them as servants. However the same word is used to describe God and implies a partner or companion who is able to cover for your weaknesses. The traditional translation shaped an understanding of creation that elevated men and subjugated women that isn't the truth of the passage.

Listen for how God's Spirit opens the passage for you.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[Psalm 104](#) 1-4, 14-18, 27-35
[Genesis 2](#): 4b-22

✦ Sermon: Creating Partners
*Dear Lord, please bless the words of my mouth
and the meditations of all our hearts.⁴ Amen.*

Have you ever dreamed of living in paradise? Being able to just lay around in ideal Mediterranean weather. Plucking refreshing fruit off a tree when you're peckish.

I hope you've been able to experience a little of that. This summer I enjoyed some fresh peaches - and they were amazing. However, it doesn't last. It reminds me of those old Star Trek episodes when they'd find some paradise planet. Everything is beautiful... except it never really worked. Star Trek, and a lot of other stories, challenge the idea of living in Eden... except that's not the story we just heard. It's just how we think of it.

This is a story of work.

It starts with God working the earth. Shaping a lump of clay into a person - and I love this. God is not distant.⁵ God gets the Holy hands muddy shaping the person; caressing us into existence - and then sharing the spirit of life by leaning forward and breathing into us.

Why? God would like help with creation and



chose to create people as the way. This answers one of the big questions that people ask. "What's my purpose in life?" Traditionally it's translated as, 'to till and keep the garden' - which helped lead to an understanding of developing or exploiting creation into something useful for us. When comparing the words to other places in the Older Testament, we understand this as 'to serve and protect the garden'. This Eden is a big difference from the idea of lounging around enjoying peaches.

What does it look like to help God serve and protect creation? We're getting better at recycling (and the other 'R's: Reusing, Reducing, and Refusing). Our cars pollute less than they used to. We are learning about the dangers of microplastics. But the news this week is reminding us that there is a long way to go (and that we can do it). It's also important to remember, as we did in FlipChart time, that creation is more than just the environment. It includes all of nature, and people, and the things we create... including relationships. I think we're also getting better at looking after people. There's more acceptance in talking about emotions, mental health, and relationships. This open communication helps us look after each other - serve each other - help each other be fruitful as God created us to be. That said, there are still a lot of people in need of hope and dignity. To help God 'till and keep' or 'serve and protect' means we are to help look after all of creation.

Now, it may feel like fixing the world's environmental and human problems is a little big for you to do. That's okay, because you're right. It's too much for a person. God recognizes that it is not good for the person to be

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

4 Psalm 19:14

5 You could say that God is down to earth

alone. Partially this is to share the task for serving creation, but it also tells a truth about how we are created. That is, we are social beings. (I'm reminded of the local man who celebrated his 100th birthday last spring. His daughter figures that one of the reasons he's still living is that he continues to be physically, mentally & socially active. I also remember my Grandma living alone in her house, afraid to go out, and her mind making up people to keep her company - though she didn't have confidence they were real.)

There's a great scene in this story where God presents the person with all sorts of animals (also created from the dirt). God then invites the person to join in their creation by seeing their nature and naming them. However nice animals are, they aren't a match for a good human relationships. (Yes, there are bad relationships, but that is not what God is creating here.) Here it talks about God creating a companion or partner or helper who is a compliment to you. You can also look at it as filling in those aspects or skills you are lacking. This, as God says in the Genesis 1 creation story, is good.

I suspect this story of the Garden of Eden is very different than what most people think (and the idea in the old Star Trek). God is down in the mud working, and created people to help. But we are not alone in the mud. Aside from God's eternal presence, we have companions created to compliment us.

So let's celebrate what we do, and look for ways to bring God's love, hope & healing to more of creation.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: [Help us accept each other.....pg 11 \(632\)](#)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=N71oXSJe80U (higher)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=49zFSbxS37Y (lower)

☞ 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: Did you have a pet you were close to?

Values: Identify some aspects of creation and ways that you help tend or care for them.

Memories: Share some great relationships that you have seen, or experienced.

Reflecting: What skills or aspects or people do you need in your life? (We need to help, but also be open to being helped - and awareness helps.)

Prayer: ...that we can help share God's love, hope and healing, and be open to receiving help.



Saugeen Bruce Peninsula

✧ Spirit Sightings

This summer we camped in a couple of national parks (Canada national). We enjoyed scrambling over rocks and along beaches. We learned more about ecosystems and snakes & bears. We shared some of the beauty God creates and invites us to 'serve and protect'. We saw God not only in nature, but also in the park staff who were excited to share the wonders of nature, and how to live respectfully.

✧ Offering

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

All donations are gratefully received and support God's work in our local and extended community.



Communion

♪ Hymn: [Jesus call us here to meet him.....pg 12 \(528\)](#)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vvBGtFPd6TQ



food of grace - Martha Kelly

✧ Invitation to the table

Our God is not an idea or a distant being.

Today we are reminded that God is physically involved;
not afraid to get the divine hands dirty,
or get personal.

God works.

In Jesus we are reminded even more of God being tangibly involved with us. That Jesus worked, but also took time to pray, to rest, to eat... and to make all aspects of living holy & special.

The Holy Spirit has brought you to this time,
to share the blessings of Christ's table.

This includes the blessings from those who literally tilled the soil to create the flour and fruit for what we shall consume, but also to share the mystery that is the Eucharist.

The blessings that come from and through Jesus the Christ.

So come to this table:

you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more;
you who have been to this sacrament often,
and you who have not been for a long time;
you who follow Jesus with joy,
and you who worry that you have failed.

Come.

It is Christ who invites us to meet here
C'est la volonté de Dieu
que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
partager ce repas.

As we come together to share this taste of Lord's Supper,
let us also join with Christians around the world and through the centuries in speaking the Apostle's Creed.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
and also with you.
Lift up your hearts.
We lift them up to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give God thanks and praise.

You are clothed with honor and majesty,
wrapped in light as with a garment.
Your glory is seen in your works,
and the way you work.

You created so many plants and trees
to feed the animals
and to nourish us.

You don't just lay back and think,
but you are involved in creation
and invite us to join you
in nurturing creation
and in creating.

and so we join with the whole of creation
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed is Jesus,
who came into creation.
Inviting us back into a right relationship with our creator
and with creation.
Showing us how to 'till and keep'
to 'serve and protect' the world
and all that is in it.
Showing us how to live with each other
and with ourselves.

Jesus, we confess that our pride, our desires, our fears
lead us to hurt those around us. . .
and the environment in our care. . .

It was not just the actions of people long ago that led you to the cross, but our actions as well.
and so in wonder,
we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Thank you

Thank you that you come again and again
That you always come to us
inviting us to turn to you
to trust you
to live with you.

Jesus,

you have shown that we can trust you with our hopes and fears
And so give these prayers to you

- for the students, teachers, and staff who are starting a new year of school... may their wonder and hope grow.
- for the environment
and the difficult changes that must be made to help
- for those who are struggling physically, mentally, socially, or spiritually
- For the MacLeods as Iain's life here may finally be ending

Lord Jesus, we celebrate creation

and dream of your world that is coming into being,
Let us confidently pray the prayer you teach:

 Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

**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
now and forever.**

As we gather at your table
we are reminded that your Spirit
can turn the ordinary into the holy.
so that we can recognize you in bread and juice.
May your Holy Spirit make this time come alive
in ways that bring us closer to you.
Amen.



The Last Supper - Ivan Guaderrama



Bread in hands - Safet Zec



Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God
he broke the bread and shared it, saying

“This is my body; it is broken for you.”

“Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous”

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said,
“This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood

Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me.”

“Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi”

[take and drink]

Prayer after Communion

Loving God,

Merci pour c'est temps avec toi,
uniting us with Christ,
and with each other.

That through you
we are one body.

May we be so filled with faith

to we share your love, hope, and healing with those we meet

Unissons-nous à ton Esprit dans le monde.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: A Place in the Choir.....pg 13
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sTKJUxl8TL4



✦ 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



100B All People That on Earth Do Dwell

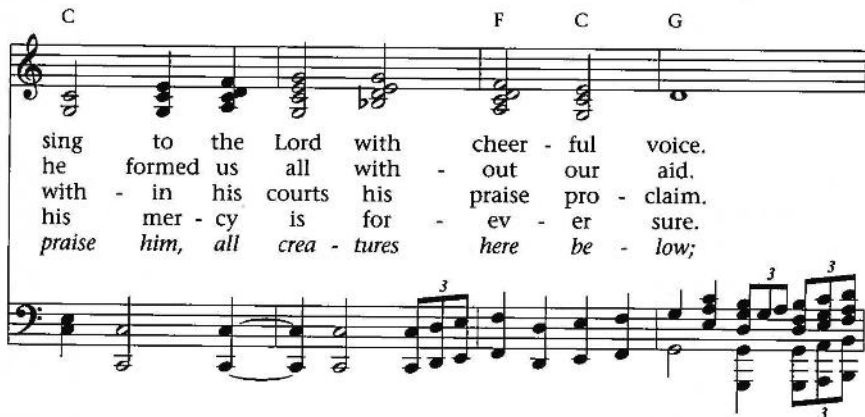
(continued) 100B

C F Am D G



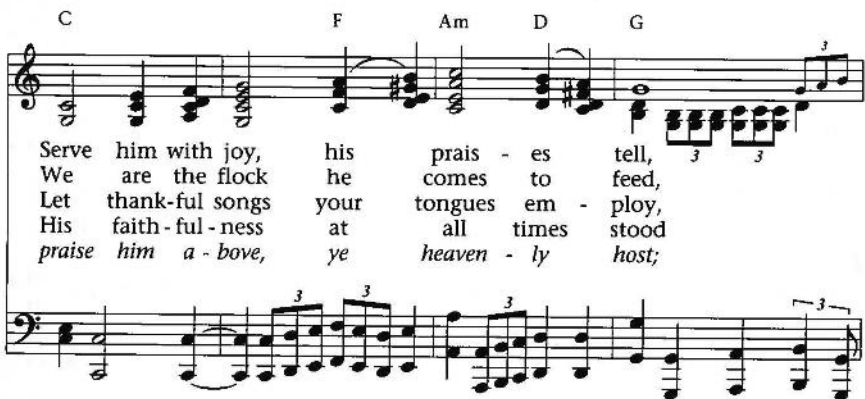
1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell,
2 Know that the LORD is God in - deed;
3 O en - ter then his gates with joy;
4 Be - cause the LORD our God is good,
5 Praise God from whom all bless - ings flow;

C F C G



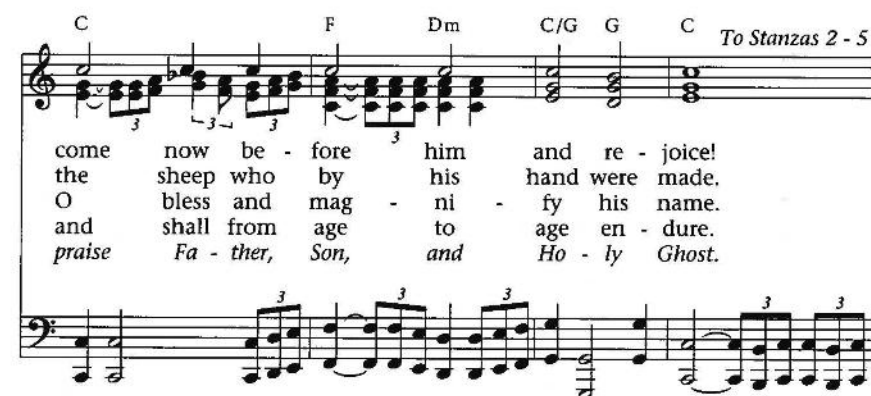
sing to the Lord with cheer - ful voice,
he formed us all with - out our aid,
with - in his courts his praise pro - claim,
his mer - cy is for - ev - er sure,
praise him, all crea - tures here be - low;

C F Am D G



Serve him with joy, his prais - es tell,
We are the flock he comes to feed,
Let thank - ful songs your tongues em - ploy,
His faith - ful - ness at all times stood,
praise him a - bove, ye heaven - ly host;

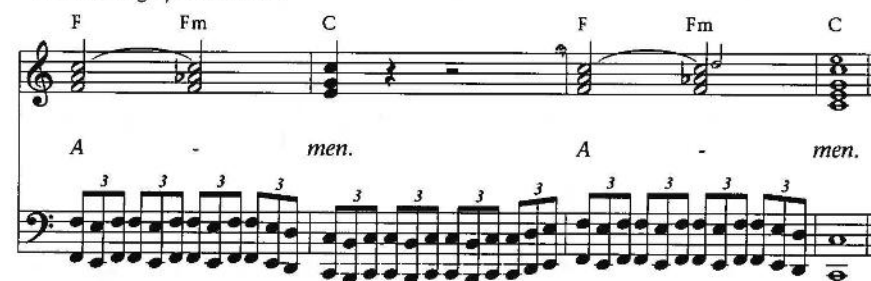
C F Dm C/G G C To Stanzas 2 - 5



come now be - fore him and re - joice!
the sheep who by his hand were made,
O bless and mag - ni - fy his name,
and shall from age to age en - dure,
praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

Final Ending after Stanza 5

F Fm C F Fm C



A - men. A - men.

Alternate tunes: GENEVAN 134/OLD HUNDREDTH, p. 623; GENEVAN 100, p. 628.

Words: sts. 1-4 William Kethe, 1561, alt.; st. 5 Thomas Ken, 1709; P.D.

Music (NEW DOXOLOGY [DUKE STREET variant] 8.8.8.8 with amens): traditional Black gospel

All things bright and beautiful

ROYAL OAK 7 6 7 6 with refrain

Refrain G G/F# C/E D6 C6 Am G/B G Am D7 G

All things bright and beau-ti-ful, all crea-tures great and small,

G/F# C/E D6 C6 Am G/B G Am D7 G

all things wise and won-der-ful, in love God made them all.

G G/F C/E C /B Am D7 D/C G/B D7/A G

1. Each lit-tle flower that o-pens, each lit-tle bird that sings,
 2. The cold wind in the win-ter, the pleas-ant sum-mer sun,
 3. The rock-y moun-tain splen-dour, the haunt-ing cur-lew's call,
 4. God gave us eyes to see them, and lips that we might tell

D G B7 Em C6 (E/B) Am D D/C G/B C D 7 G D.C.

God made their glow-ing col-ours; God made their ti-ny wings.
 the ripe fruits in the gar-den, God made them, eve-ry one.
 the great lakes and the prai-ries, the for-ests in the fall,
 how great is God al-might-y who has made all things well.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1818-1895), alt Music: English folk melody; adapted, Martin Shaw (1875-1958); harmony, The Hymnbook 1953

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © John Riddle, 1955; renewed 1983. All rights reserved. Used by permission of The Westminster / John Knox Press

Help us accept each other

BARONITA 7 6 7 6 D

G Em 7 Cmaj7 Fm Am7 G/B Em/B7 C /B

1. Help us ac-cept each oth-er as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
 2. Teach us, O Lord, your les-sons, as in our dai-ly life
 3. Let your ac-cep-tance change us, so that we may be moved
 4. Lord, for to-day's en-coun-ters with all who are in need,

Am 7 G/D (Am/D) G/B A9 Em A9/C# Dsus4-3

teach us as sis-ter, broth-er, each per-son to em-brace.
 we strug-gle to be hu-man and search for hope and faith.
 in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions to do the truth in love;
 who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance, for right-eous-ness and bread,

G 6 C/E Em/D C6 G/B Bsus2-3 Em /D

Be pres-ent, Lord, a-mong us and bring us to be-lieve
 Teach us to care for peo-ple, for all not just for some,
 to prac-tice your ac-cep-tance un-til we know by heart
 we need new eyes for see-ing, new hands for hold-ing on:

C /B Am G/B Em /G Amsus4 D9 (D) G

we are our-selves ac-cept-ed and meant to love and live.
 to love them as we find them or as they may be-come.
 the ta-ble of for-give-ness and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
 re-new us with your Spir-it; Lord, free us, make us one!

11/13 Words: Fred Kaan (1929-) Music: Doreen Potter (1925-1980) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1975 by Hope Publishing Co.

Jesus calls us here to meet him

JESUS CALLS US 8787D

Union F Cm7 F/A Bb6 Am7

1. Je - sus calls us here to meet him as, through
 2. Je - sus calls us to con - fess him Word of
 3. Je - sus calls us to each oth - er; found in
 4. Je - sus calls us to his ta - ble root - ed

Dm Gm7 Csus4 - 3 F Gm7

word and song and prayer, we af - firm God's
 Life and Lord of all, shar - er of
 him are no di - vides. Race and class our
 firm in time and space, where the church in

F/C Bb6 Am7 Dm Gm7 Csus4 - 3

prom - ised pres - ence where his peo - ple live and care.
 flesh and frail - ness sav - ing all who fail or fall.
 sex and lan - guage: such are bar - riers he de - rides.
 earth and heav - en finds a com - mon meet - ing place.

F Cm F Dm Bb6

Praise the God who keeps his* prom - ise; praise the
 Tell his ho - ly hu - man sto - ry; tell his
 Join the hands of friend and strang - er; join the
 Share the bread and wine, his bod - y; share the

Am7 Gm7 Csus4 - 3 F Gm7

Son who calls us friends; praise the Spir - it
 tales that all may hear; tell the world that
 hands of age and youth; join the faith - ful
 love of which we sing; share the feast for

F/A Bb6 Am7 Dm Gm7 F

who, a - mong us, to our hopes and fears at - tends.
 Christ in glo - ry came to earth to meet us here.
 and the doubt - er in their com - mon search for truth.
 saints and sin - ners host - ed by our Lord and King.

* the

Words: Iona Community (Scotland) Music: Gaelic melody; adaptation, Iona Community (Scotland)

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A Place in the Choir (in D)
Bill Staines

Chorus:

All God's critters have a place in the choir
Some sing low and some sing higher
Some sing out loud on the telephone wire
And some just clap their hands or paws or fins or claws
or anything they got now...

Listen to the bass it's the one on the bottom

Where the bullfrog croaks
And the great horned owl,
She moans and she groans with a big tadoo,
And the old cow just goes MOOOOOO...

Chorus

The dogs and the cats, they fill up the middle
While the honey bee hums And the cricket fiddles,
The donkey brays and the pony neighs,
And the old coyote howls Aawwoooooo...

Chorus

Listen to the top where the little bird sings,
On the melody high, And the high notes ringing,
The barn owl shrieks over everything,
And the blue jay disagrees NO NO NO...

Chorus

It's a simple song of living That's sung everywhere,
By the ox and the fox And the white-tailed deer,
The snakes below and the hawks above,
The sly raccoon and the mourning dove.

Chorus

© 1978 Mineral River Music (Admin. by Bug Music, Inc.)

MISSION MOMENT Sunday, September 6

Children living at Samuel House as well as some disadvantaged local children in Micske, Romania, play, study and enjoy nutritious meals together in a loving family-like Christian environment. They celebrate their birthdays and Christian holidays and in the summer attend summer camp. Without state support, Samuel House depends on domestic and international donations and this is where your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing come in. Csilla Bertalan, Director of Samuel House, writes, "Thank you for holding the children in our care in your prayers. And thank you for sharing your resources with us so that they may live their lives in fullness."



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 6 We pray for Samuel House in Micske, Romania, a safe place where disadvantaged children come to play, study, eat nutritious meals and receive Christian care.

Monday, September 7 We pray that God will help us grapple faithfully with questions of suffering, autonomy, and the sanctity of life, without losing sight of our call to accompany one another in love.

Tuesday, September 8 (World Literacy Day) We give thanks that girls in Sindh province, Pakistan, are able to go to school, stay in class, learn and build brighter futures through education, with the help of daily meals provided at school through a PWS&D-supported program.

Wednesday, September 9 We pray for the Change Leadership Team as it considers possibilities for revitalizing the structures of the denomination to better enable vibrant and Christ-led mission.

Thursday, September 10 We give thanks for the wisdom of Indigenous Elders and Knowledge Keepers who walk with and support the ministries of the National Indigenous Ministries Council, and the people they serve.

Friday, September 11 We give thanks to God for those whose friendship, companionship and care are signs of God's never-failing love in times of sorrow.

Saturday, September 12 We pray for Knox College students, both new and returning, as they embark on the Fall 2026 semester. May they find wisdom in their studies, friendship in their communities, and may they be shaped for lives of purpose and service.