



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

Leaving the past, but not alone

September 13, 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

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

Prayer Groups:

Women's Prayer Group: Tuesday afternoon (ask for details)

Zoom: Wednesday at 6:30 am

Bible Study: Wednesday 7-8 online and in minister's office

Join us in exploring the upcoming week's passage

Coming up: Friday night specials, and ... (suggestions welcome)

Funeral: Iain McLeod Saturday Sept 19 at 3pm here,
 Reception to follow.

Note: Walter Mingie also died in Ottawa with the wish that we would "*Rise free from care before the down, and seek adventure...*"

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



Iona Community

AI exploration: The Canadian Council of Churches is offering
Ecology and AI: webinar panel discussion Sept 17

Reading Groups for the Pope's AI encyclical (sign up by Sept 19)

Iona Community Conversation and Song: explore this community who are always looking for ways for their faith and life and neighbours intersect with their current leader Ruth Harvey.
 Sept 25 7pm at St. Columba 11 Av. Rodney, Pointe-Claire

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 worship (from Psalm 33)

Rejoice in the LORD,

Sing to the LORD a new song;

play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts.

Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD,

the earth is full of the steadfast love of the LORD.

♪ Hymn: [Oh worship the King.....pg 9 \(313\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbOpnnJGZs4)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbOpnnJGZs4



NDG alley art



Prayer of Approach²

“The God of Abram blesses...”

You are the God of all nations and kingdoms,
God of all cultures and races,
we praise you for your involvement with all of creation:
with the high and the lowly;
with the rich and the poor;
with the powerful and the oppressed;
You love everyone;
none is beyond your compassionate embrace.

So forgive our suspicion and judgment of others,
the harshness of our assumptions,
our lack of tolerance and patience,
our failure to understand.

You, who blesses all nations and people without discrimination,
whose will for all people is good.

May we be content to walk the paths in which you lead us,
to follow your way in faith,
and, by your Spirit, to bring blessings wherever we go.

As we look to follow you,
let us join together in singing 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

² adapted from *Spill the Beans* #13

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

Where is God? [hopefully they'll say 'everywhere']
 Everywhere is true, but there are times and places where we can
 feel God more than normal. Can anyone think of a time like
 that? [FlipChart]

In today's Bible story the adults are going to hear about
 Abram. He didn't have a home, but was camping with his family
 and sheep in various places. Sometimes he really felt God's
 presence, and so he put a pile of stones to mark that spot. What
 are some ways that we can mark spots we have felt God? ...or ways
 we can remind ourselves that God is there when we don't feel it?³

Prayer:

Dear Jesus.

Help us to see you, and feel you, and remember.

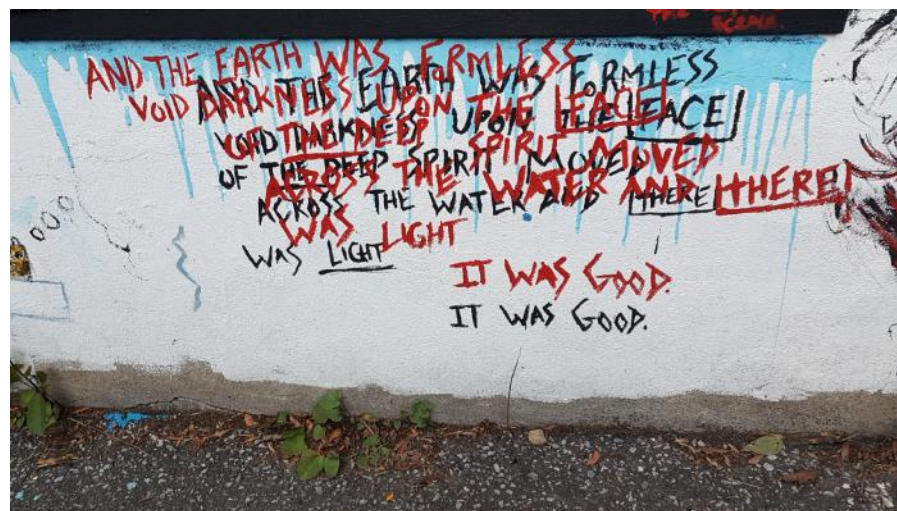
Amen.

♪ Hymn: *One more step along the way we go*.....pg. 9
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38Ew6LSMXxs>

³ In Abram's case he was also building alters in places that were likely holy spots for the Canaanite religion

🧘 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
 through the power of your Holy Spirit,
 that our faith will grow to meet your faithfulness.
 Amen.



NDG alley art

✧ Intro to the readings

The Bible starts with a collection of origin stories. It opens
 with God creating everything over 7 days, and recognizing that it
 is good. Then another creation story (which we heard last week)
 where God forms us to help with creation. This segues into the
 story about the origin of sin and why life is hard. From there we
 have the origin of death when Cain kills Abel out of envy.
 There's the story of the Great Flood and Noah's ark, which shows
 why God doesn't just destroy us when our societies are bad. And
 the last big story is the origin of languages as a punishment for
 people trying to make themselves great with the Tower of Babel.
 In between are some genealogies explaining the origin of some of
 the different nations in the region.

All of these origin stories set the stage for the stories of life. The focus shifts from cosmic to one family - that of Father Abraham (though at this point he is still called Abram). Just before this we've heard that his younger brother and father have died and Abram has taken over the care of his nephew Lot. We've also heard he's married to Sarai, who has not produced any children (an important goal at this time for extending the family). They are both getting on in years.

Our responsive psalm picks up on a number of themes in the passage, but I don't want to spoil any surprises, so I'll let you listen for them.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Genesis 12](#)

[Psalm 33](#): 1-12



Abram & the promise - Ann Sheng

⁴ 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

✦ Sermon: Leaving, but not alone.

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

I'm not sure what the text left you wondering, but one question for me is 'Why Abram?' Why does God choose him to be the father of a great nation that brings blessings to the whole world?

Well, it's not because he's likely to succeed. We aren't told that he's skilled at anything, or even a particularly good person. He's doing okay with gaining possessions, but is not exceptionally powerful. Abram is already elderly and unlikely to have children as his wife is past menopause. Nothing about Abram suggests that he is a good choice for God to work through or do anything with - but perhaps that is one of the reasons. There won't be confusion as to whether it's Abram or God that is great.

Madeleine L'Engle is famous for writing *A Wrinkle in Time*, and many other books. One of those other books is a commentary on Genesis⁵ in which she has a wonderful way of flowing back and forth between life and the Bible. Reflecting into the choice of Abram she writes,

Slowly I realized that I do not have to be qualified to do what I am asked to do, that I just have to go ahead and do it, even if I can't do it as well as I think it ought to be done. This is one of the most liberating lessons of my life. The qualifications needed for God's work are very different from those of the world. In fact, when we begin to think we are qualified we have already fallen for the Tempter's wiles. ... We do have to be willing to open ourselves to the power of the living Word. And sometimes that can be frightening.

⁵ initially three books pulled together into one called *The Genesis Trilogy*. (the first volume being *And it was Good*) Waterbook Press 1997

Can you relate to what she says? Feeling not good enough, or not able enough, or not brave enough?

Because it is hard to follow God into the unknown. Perhaps that's why Abram is chosen - he does it. He leaves his nation, his tribe, and his family. He leaves his home and his supports. Abram shows faith.

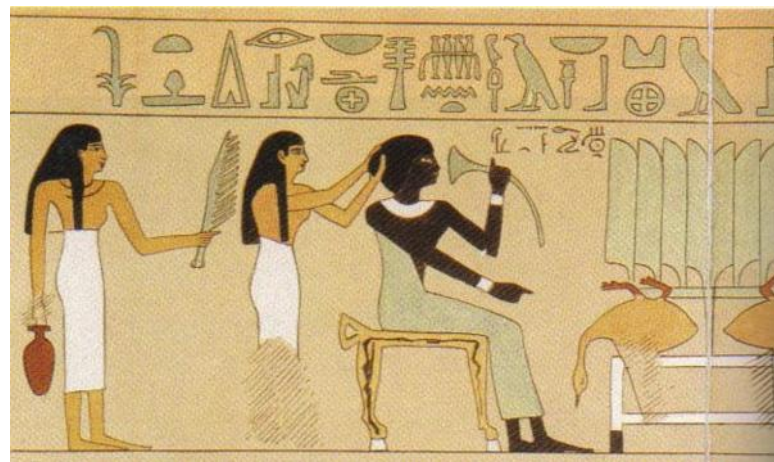
I know a number of you have experienced this a little. Many of us did not grow up in the communities we live in, we left those behind. In most cases this was for work - and part of our beliefs is that our work can be a ministry of God. It's possible that your move was a call to follow God to bring blessings somewhere new... though that doesn't mean it was (or is) easy.

Abram's journey was hard. He couldn't text home or have weekly video calls. There was no support. He was leaving what he knew behind to become a sojourner - or in more political language: an illegal immigrant, or illegal alien. Wherever it was that God was leading him, he would have no rights or support. And he never saw it finished. This is the nature of following God - leaving people, things, and opportunities we value for the unknown - with no promise of living to see the benefits.

I suspect that for most of us now (hopefully all of us), God isn't calling us to move. But following God is always a journey, which means there are still things we are being asked to leave behind in order to move on - in order to bring God's blessing to everyone (who are probably just as unworthy as we are).

Abram shows faith and goes. This story is a blessing, but there's more.

At the Bible Study on Wednesday (to which you are all invited⁶) we appreciated the story of Abram receiving God's promises and showing faith. We also noticed the next story (not included in the lectionary). We hear of a famine in the land that God promises to give to Abram's non-existent descendants, so Abram leaves and goes to Egypt. Was this God's plan? or did he not have enough faith to stay in Canaan. He definitely doesn't show faith in Egypt. He comes up with a lie that is supposed to save his life, and ends up getting him a nice dowry from the Pharaoh who marries Abram's wife.⁷ Even if that wasn't the plan, he's not trusting God to look after him, but ops for being deceitful - never a positive quality.



What does God do? I'm sure God could easily have found another volunteer. After all, the qualifications weren't much; just a willingness to follow and trust. Except that's not what happens. God remains faithful, even when Abram isn't.

And God continues to show mercy and grace and steadfast love to Abram and his son and grandson... and that great nation

⁶ it's online through the Sunday zoom link and in my office Wednesdays from 7-8pm

⁷ Miguel De La Torre (*Genesis 20:11*) wonders if selling off his barren wife was actually Abram's plan. He also points out that if Abram was afraid it shows racial profiling as the Pharaoh does nothing to threaten Abram after discovering the deception. Abram even gets to keep the gifts. (I wonder if another option is that Abram was projecting his thoughts or experiences onto the Egyptians.)

that comes from them. All of them make mistakes (some rather large). Even those who are hand picked by Jesus and who study his ways for years doubt, try things their way, and turn away from God. Yet God remains faithful to them, and to us.

This is a mighty blessing that we can learn from Abram. God does not leave us. It doesn't matter how great or inadequate you feel... God will not leave you. As the psalms often say, "*God's steadfast love lasts forever.*"

More than that, God has ideas of how you can pass on this blessing - this love. Because that's what the blessings boil down to: love. The prophets often talk about justice and taking care of the vulnerable (including those who are aliens or foreigners - like they were). This is a way of showing love. All four Gospels include a conversation with Jesus about what is most important - loving God and your neighbour as yourself. This includes looking after physical needs, but also making sure that they know God is faithful and loves us all - regardless of our abilities or successes. Doing this authentically requires being transparent about your faith.

This vulnerability reveals the Good News.

Of course, sharing it often means leaving behind things we find comfortable - even things we feel we need. For Abram it was his nation and family. This meant his safety net, but more. You could even say he left his identity.

Heading into the end of this time I want to share a few examples.

Thinking of people who have left their nation, tribe &

family... my sister⁸ also left home to share God's blessings, and left many of the things that people general consider marks of a successful life. That said, God is faithful and she is happy.

Another group, because God didn't call Abram to leave alone, that left their beloved home is this congregation. The Sanctuary was sold:

leaving the space, many memories, and even some people behind. All so that we could journey forwards and share the Good News with those in need of love, hope & healing.

The last one is a bit of a plug. On the 25th the leader of the Iona Community from Scotland will be speaking at St. Columba in Pointe-Claire.⁹ The Iona Community is kinda monastic. Full members make vows similar to monks: daily prayer and scripture, worship in a community, working for justice and peace, supporting each other and being accountable for time, talents & money, and being a part of the community. They are active with retreat centres, refugees, at risk youth & other vulnerable people and have written worship texts and hymns that inspire people around the world - including here.

Unlike traditional monks, all are welcome and they continue



Pondering God's Promise - Vander Veur Matz

⁸ omf.org/ca/worker/rijke-rombeek/

⁹ Sept 25 7pm at St. Columba | 1 Av. Rodney, Pointe-Claire

to live and work in the world. Linking into today, I remember reading about a couple who were professors, but decided to live on the mean income and donate the rest of their income. They left behind the ability to have a house and nice vacations, or even having money for their child's orthodontist. However, they found that whenever there was a need, God provided a way. Living in faith meant they experienced uncertainty, and blessings - and could share blessings with others.

What is God calling Kensington to now? or calling you to? Abram followed, but not alone. How can this community help each other to leave our fears and securities behind to share God's blessings with our friends, and neighbours, and everyone?

We might be afraid or feel inadequate, but remember the second story: God is faithful.

*To God be all the glory.
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: To Abraham and Sarah.....pg 10 (478)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=r0SM91H0clw

💬 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 a story about a time you left something behind for the unknown. What did you leave (people, places, opportunity, status, security)? What was the risk? How was it a blessing for you? for others? What helped?

Values: How comfortable are you with the unknown?
Reflecting: What blessings does Kensington have?
What still helps to share God's blessings, and what ties us down?
Reflecting: What blessings do you have?
What still helps you share God's blessings, and what has tied you down?
Visions: How is God calling Kensington to share the Good News found in God?
How is God calling you?
Actions: How could Kensington support you? (and you Kensington)
Prayer: ...that we not worry about ability, but follow in faith that God will be there.



Spirit Sightings

Check out the Mission Moment on page 11



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

Today we will be basing our prayers on the prayer book passed around during worship. You can say your own prayers of thanksgiving and concerns to God. If you like, you can use this

one from *Spill the Beans* #13.

Guiding God,

for days when we see the way ahead clearly
and for days beset by mist,
we pray for the faith of Abram to set out on a journey,
not knowing where it will take us,
not knowing who we will meet along the way,
but assured of your presence by our side.

We pray for those forced to make journeys
not of their choosing,
those who flee homes and lands and lives blighted by violence.
May they see you standing by the roadside,
crouching in their hiding places,
languishing in the rubble that remains
of all that they have known and loved.

We pray for all those thrust into environments
that are foreign to them.
May the kindness and compassion of others
bring them comfort and speak to them of welcome.

We pray for those tasked with moving folk on,
forced to uproot folk from all that they have known.
May their words of promise match their actions
and may peace accompany their paths.

God in every uncertainty you breathe the promise of hope.
In every conflict you breathe the promise of peace.
In every act of injustice you breathe the promise of love.

We pray for all whom we know facing the challenge of change,
whether by choice or whether imposed by outside forces,
those who are bereaved,
those who are facing illness,
those whose age and stage in life
presents challenges that are unknown.

Lord God, breathe you faith, your hope and your love
into the lives of this people and this community so that, together,
we may journey on with you, the God of all.
Amen.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Lord, dismiss us with your blessing.....pg 11 (468)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ik783Ea4dXs (dif tune, but familiar)

✦ 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



Oh worship the King

1. Oh wor-ship the King, all glor-ious a - bove; oh grate-ful-ly
 2. Oh tell of God's might, oh sing of God's grace, whose robe is the
 3. The earth, with its store of won-ders un - told, Al - migh - ty, thy
 4. Thy boun - ti - ful care what tongue can re - cite? It breathes in the
 5. O meas-ure-less Might, un-change-a - ble Love, while an - gels de -

sing God's power and God's love, our Shield and De - fend - er, the
 light, whose can - o - py space; whose char-iots of wrath the deep
 power hath found-ed of old, hath stab-lished it fast by a
 air; it shines in the light; thy mer-cies, how ten-der, how
 light to hymn thee a - bove, thy ran-somed cre - a - tion, in

An - cient of Days, pa - vil-ioned in splen-dour and gird-ed with praise.
 thun - der-clouds form, and dark is God's path on the wings of the storm.
 change-less de - cree, and round it hath cast, like a man-tle, the sea.
 firm to the end, our Ma-ker, De - fend - er, Re-deem-er and Friend.
 glo - ry a - blaze, in true ad - o - ra - tion shall sing to thy praise.

Words: Psalm 104; paraphrase, Robert Grant (1779–1838), alt. Music: William Croft (1678–1727);
 descant, Alan Gray (1855–1935) Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Cambridge University Press CCLI #4440603

One More Step Along the World I Go

Unison

1 One more step a - long the world I go,
 2 Round the cor - ners of the world I turn,
 3 As I trav - el through the bad and good,
 4 Give me cour - age when the world is rough,
 5 You are old - er than the world can be,

one more step a - long the world I go; from the old things
 more and more a - bout the world I learn; all the new things
 keep me trav - el - ing the way I should; where I see no
 keep me lov - ing though the world is tough; leap and sing in
 you are young - er than the life in me; ev - er old and

to the new, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you:
 that I see you'll be look - ing at a - long with me:
 way to go you'll be tell - ing me the way, I know:
 all I do, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you:
 ev - er new, keep me trav - el - ing a - long with you:

Refrain

And it's from the old I trav-el to the new; keep me trav-el-ing a-long with you.

The English pacifist and hymn writer Sydney Carter was involved in both Anglican and Quaker communities. Of his hymns, including this one, he notes, "They are songs which can be sung in a Christian context, but they all had to mean something to me because I was often on the edge of not believing."

WORDS: Sydney Carter (1915-2004)
 MUSIC: Sydney Carter (1915-2004); arr. Lionel Dakers (1924-2003)

Words and Music © 1971 Stainer & Bell, Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company)

SOUTHCOTE
 9.9.7.9.Ref.

To Abraham and Sarah

THORNBURY 7676D

D A7/E D/F# G D/F# E7 A /G D/F# G Em7 A Dsus 2 - 1

1. To Ab-ra-ham and Sar - ah the call of God was clear: "Go
2. From Ab-ra-ham and Sar - ah a - rose a pil - grim race, de -
3. We of this gen - er - a - tion on whom God's hand is laid, can

F# Bm G D/F# E7 A /G D/F# G Em7 A7 Dsus4-2 - 3 D

forth and I will show you a coun - try rich and fair. You
pend - ent for their jour - ney on God's a - bun - dant grace, and
jour - ney to the fu - ture se - cure and un - a - fraid, re -

F#m /A Bm6 /D F#m/C# C# F#m C#/E# F#m /A Bm C#7

need not fear the jour - ney for I have pledged my
in their heart was writ - ten by God this sav - ing
joic - ing in God's good - ness and trust - ing in this

F#m (Bm/F# F#m) A/G D/F# A7/E D /C# G/B D/A E/G# A

word:
word: "that you shall be my peo - ple and
word:

D/F# (A7/G D/A) A7 Bm /A G A7/G D (Em A7 D)

I will be your God."

Organ

Words: Judith Fetter (1937-) Music: Basil Harwood (1859-1949)

Words: copyright © Judith Fetter, 1984 Music: copyright © the executors of Dr. Basil Harwood. Used by permission.

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing

TANTUM ERGO 878787

G D/F# G C/E D (C/E D7) G D Em G/B C Am7

1. Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing; fill our hearts with
 2. We give thanks and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's
 3. so that when your love shall call us, Sav - iour, from the

G/D D 7 G C G /B /D D

joy and peace; let us each, your love pos - sess - ing,
 joy - ful sound; may the fruits of your sal - va - tion
 world a - way, fear of death shall not ap - pall us,

/F# G Em D/A A 7 D D /C G/B G

tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace. Oh re - fresh us,
 in our hearts and lives a - bound. May your pres - ence,
 glad your sum - mons to o - bey. May we ev - er,

C B Em D G /B C Am7 G/B D 7 G

oh re - fresh us, trav - eling through life's wil - der - ness.
 may your pres - ence with us ev - er - more be found,
 may we ev - er live in you in end - less day.

Words: John Fawcett (1740–1817) Music: melody from Samuel Webbe's Antiphona, 1792

ev. Peter Rombeek
Kensington Presbyterian Church

MISSION MOMENT Sunday, September 13

Although today's global food production is sufficient to feed everyone on the planet, hunger continues to rise in too many parts of the world. If current trends continue, around 512 million people may still be chronically undernourished in 2030. This September, join PWS&D's annual Journey for Hope—a fundraiser where PWS&D's supporters gear up and walk, run, ride or do another activity they love to raise money for vital food security work around the world. Your participation in and support for Journey for Hope enables PWS&D to actively respond to hunger through food security projects in places like Haiti, Guatemala and Malawi. Funds also help provide emergency food assistance in extremely vulnerable countries, including Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Thank you for participating and making a difference!



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 13 We pray for the children and leaders who are returning to regular Sunday school classes after the summer break.

Monday, September 14 We pray for awareness and access to records of the PCC, and that they will continue to be preserved, consulted, and shared. May they provide an understanding of the denomination's past and provide clarity to guide decisions of the future.

Tuesday, September 15 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Kootenay.

Wednesday, September 16 We lift up our remote congregations, asking for God's guidance as they seek faithful leadership to shepherd them.

Thursday, September 17 We pray for those attending the annual meeting of the Atlantic Mission Society in New Glasgow, NS, from September 18th–20th. May this be a time of learning, sharing and renewal.

Friday, September 18 We pray for all who have joined the Intercultural Church Cohort Pilot Program, that their imagination for intercultural ministry may expand and deepen. We pray that participants will bless and enrich one another in their learning communities.

Saturday, September 19 We give thanks for the guidance and advice of members of the National Indigenous Ministries Council as they work with different groups in the church seeking to support our commitments to truth, healing and reconciliation.