Kensington Presbyterian Church

Growing in faith and sharing God's love since 1786

Sliding is easy

October 11, 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

Help Change the World - through prayer:

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

Zoom Prayer Group: Wednesday at 6:30 am

Safe places to ask questions and build foundations

Bible Study: Wednesday 7-8 online and in minister's office
Join us in exploring the upcoming week's passage

Friday's Food & Film: Join the community pizza at 6:30 (contributions/donations & RSVP appreciated) followed by watching episodes of **The Chosen**, a well made TV show about Jesus' very human disciples who help us wonder how to follow Jesus.

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

new life after a fire - Craig Hannah

Help local people through our dropbox,
collecting non-perishable food for local food pantries, and children's items for *Head and Hands* (especially diapers).

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

Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.
Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the risen one, who lives among us.
Let us worship the Spirit,
the holy fire, who renews us.
To the one true God be praise
in all times and places,
through the grace of Jesus Christ.[2]

Dance of Grace - Mark Keathley

2 from *Worship Sourcebook* 1.2.26

♫ Hymn: Come, children, join to sing.....pg 9 (377)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Owaj33Ounns

Prayer of Approach

Almighty and loving God,
you have given us eyes
to see the light that fills this room;
give us the inward vision
to behold you in this place.
You have made us feel
the morning wind upon our limbs;
help us to sense your presence
as we bow in worship of you.[3]
. . .
As we dedicate this time to you,
we seek to fill our hearts with the vision of the prayer you
teach us: the Lord's Prayer:

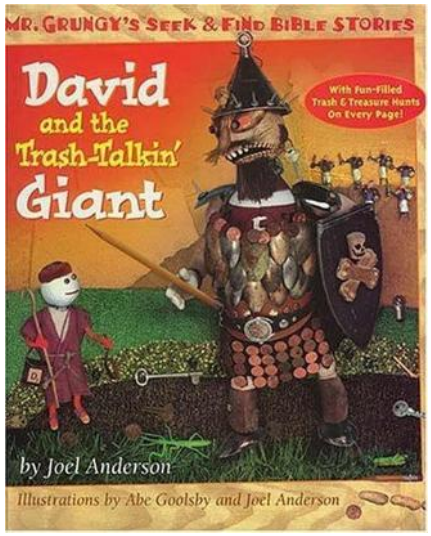
The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)

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.

3 from *Worship Sourcebook* 1.4.36

Listening to God

Children's Time



Today we'll be reading the book *David and the Trash-Talkin' Giant* by Joel Anderson & Abe Goolsby.

With very creative pictures from found objects (aka 'junk') they tell us the story of David being a faithful youngest son who bravely looked after the sheep. To everyone's surprise, he is chosen to be the next king, and even helps the present king with his songs, and then with facing the fearsome of their enemy. David succeeds by having faith and doing it differently. The book ends with the reminder that "David became very famous, but that was just the start.

Men looked at his outward appearance,
but God looked at his heart."

Prayer:

Dear Jesus.

Help us to be like David and focus on helping others,
and to have faith that you will provide what we need.

Amen.

♫ Hymn: Create in me a clean heart.....pg 10

www.youtube.com/watch?v=b7Hk3WFUMvo

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that healing can come between each other,
and ourselves. Amen.

Intro to the readings

Our main passage today features David, but not a repeat of the children's story. That was just a fun reminder of some of the reasons why David is a hero. He also showed respect for God because while he knew God had chosen him to be king, he also knew God had chosen Saul... and so he tried to keep Saul alive - even as Saul tried to have David killed. When David did become king he was the first to rule a united kingdom. (Usually there was the Northern kingdom of Israel and the southern kingdom of Judah. David made Jerusalem the new capital - not favouring either kingdom. It was also near the border on the Judah side.) He is remembered as their greatest king.

A few more details to help your imaginations.

One is that buildings back then had flat roofs. The roofs were used as places to catch a cool breeze, dry food, etc. With the help of geography and prestige the king had the highest roof. He could literally look down on everyone else.

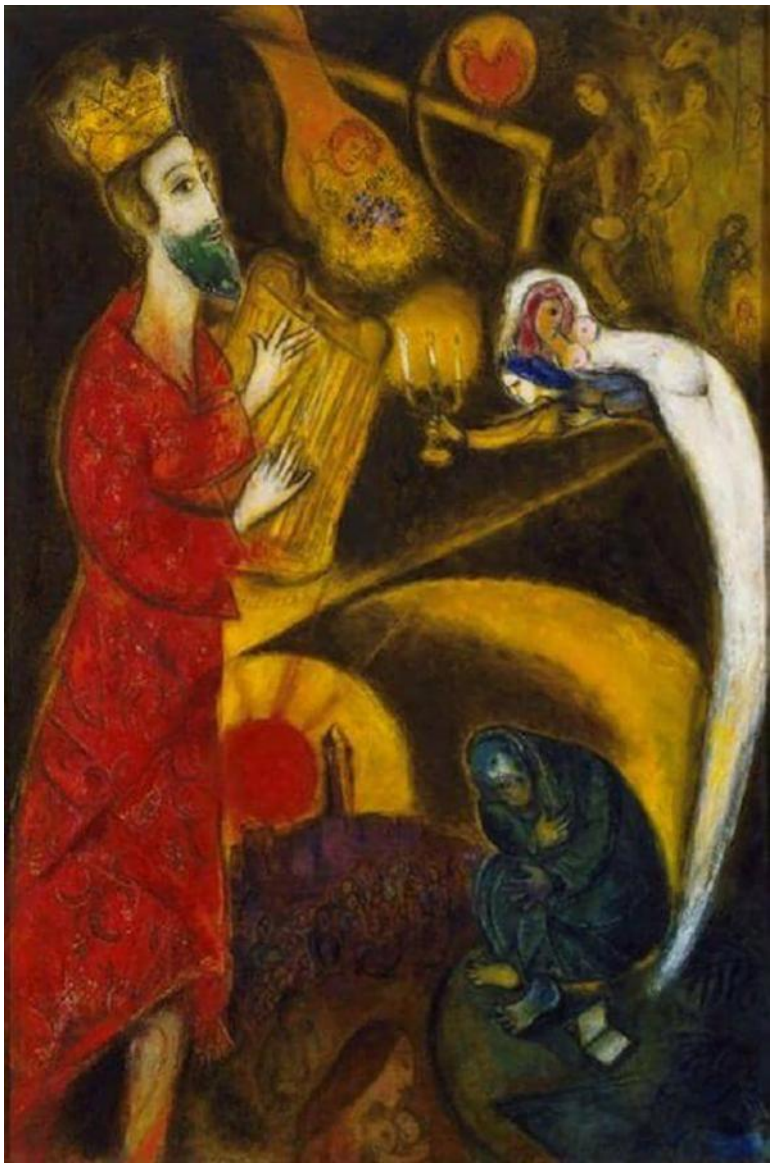
The suggestion to go home to your wife and "wash your feet"... doesn't really mean wash your feet.

The psalm is believed to be written by David as a response to the events in the main passage. We won't say the whole thing, but you can look it up later.

The main story is rather long, so we're going to have multiple readers. Anne will be our narrator. Laura will read the parts of all those who serve the King, whether simply attending his will or commanding his army. Peter is King David. Rose will be the

prophet Nathan.

As you read, I invite you to wonder what we do with this story. What's it say to us now?



King David - Marc Chagall

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

2 Samuel 19 to 2 Samuel 20:9

Psalm 51

Sermon: Sliding is easy

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

So, what do we do with this story? We have the great King David, chosen by God to be the king, ancestor of Jesus and hero of Sunday School classes - not being a good example. In previous generations he was accused of adultery, but in our current understandings it would be rape. The safety policies of the Presbyterian Church in Canada says that somebody who has power over somebody else, such as being in a leadership role, cannot assume that any sexual act is consensual. David had lots of prestige, money, and soldiers - power. We see in the text that he was feared. The messenger sent to tell him of the deaths was told to hold back the news of Uriah's death unless he gets angry... and the messenger decides it's best to share this before the King gets angry. When Nathan goes to talk with him he doesn't just come out with God's anger, he tells a story to ease David into it. David doesn't seem to be a man to say 'no' to. He sees a beautiful woman (not one of his 6 wives) and invites her into his apartment and "lays with her".

This tale shows us how power works on others, and how it can be abused. It's a warning that people in power, like David, may not realize in the moment how they are abusing their power. All of us have some power over others. It can be through admiration, leadership, wealth, or our ability to influence someone to do

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

what we want. Do you realize this?

This story is also about temptation. This is not the David looking for someone's lost sheep or protecting the vulnerable. Here he is the wolf who succumbs to temptation. And it's easy for him. It can be easy for us as well. You don't have the power David had. Our society is different. Infidelity is present in so many of our stories. It's in our songs, books, and TV shows. It's usually presented as consensual, but, in reality, is it?

And our societal, or systemic, temptations include much more. Where is it that we are taking advantage of others? Is it with what is normal in our grocery stories and the impact of those prices on migrant labour. Is it the expectations of travel when we want it or the use of cars & planes and the environmental cost? Is it the expectation of cell phones or AI data banks - and the conflict minerals that are needed for that (the term 'conflict' is included because getting them funds conflict)? What does our society portray as normal behaviour that makes it easy to do something that hurts what God has created as good?

American 한 (Han)
Shin Maeng

And speaking of easy, did you notice how it became easier for David to slide into doing more? He slide from spying & lust, to rape, to murder, to the being undisturbed by the killing of others who just happened to be in the area of his target. We know not to do something really bad… but surely something small won't do any harm. Well, many small things can - and it can take generations to undo the damage.

So, one aspect of this story is the ease that we can be to act on temptation without thinking about the consequences - and that this is easier to do for those with some sort of power.

Another lesson here is the importance of accountability. Bathsheba does something very brave and tells David that she is pregnant. She tries, despite not having any power in the relationship, to hold him accountable. Nathan also holds David accountable for his actions. For both, speaking truth to power is risky, but they survive. David hears them, and while he can't undo the damage he does repent and tries to do better.

I expect you've been in a situation where you have seen someone behaving in an unhealthy way. Could you hold them accountable? Do you find that hard? Do you turn away? Do you use Nathan's technique and tell a story to help them see the consequences of what they are doing? Do you also tie it in clearly so you know they get the point? Do you get help? (that's part of our procedure.) Accountability is important, and whoever is the one who sees the issue is probably the best to start it. Imagine what the story would have been like if the servant David asked about 'who is that woman' and said, 'My lord David, looking in on somebody who is bathing isn't right; look to your own wives.'

and imagine David didn't push him off the roof. Being open

to accountability is also important, and hard. Our society teaches that being wrong is a failure and bad - even when we call it 'a learning experience'. How are you at receiving criticism - even well intentioned?

Sometimes a person will see the damage they've caused without help and try to change. Sometimes, like David, they'll see it and try to cover it up. Sometimes we don't see it. In all cases accountability is important. It leads to change. Take the accusations of sexual assault linked to hockey - both by players and coaches. This has led to mandatory training for the amateur players, volunteers, and staff in what is good behaviour - and how to step in if they see the signs of something inappropriate. Knowing there can be issues led the church to write out how we will keep people safe, and that all leaders should refresh themselves on the policies every year.[5] (For those who are interested, there is a link on our website to the various policies on keeping people safe.)

What do we do with this horrible take of a Biblical hero? We remember that everyone is failable. We remember that we have power over others, and that this can easily lead to harm being done. We remember the importance of timely accountability

... and one more thing. We remember God.
Through Jesus God reminds us that we have the freedom to choose our actions, both beautiful and horrible. Through Jesus, Nathan, and others God will present accountability. That God will stay with us, even in the suffering, and especially with those who are victims, ...and there is hope - because nothing can stop Jesus from coming so we can choose God's love, hope & healing.

To God be all the glory. Amen.

5 You can also see this in how the church has realized that our behaviour with indigenous people's was wrong, and with accountability (and listening) we are trying to make things better.

Responding to God

♫ Hymn Sing: This is a time when we sing several hymn requests. You can join in on YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w

The Lord Is My Light - M Moyers

FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.
Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Reflecting: What are some examples of behaviour that shows up on TV or songs or in the news that comes across as normal, but isn't the way God wants us to live.

Memories: Share about a time when you have held somebody accountable (it doesn't need to be successful). and about a time when you wish you had.

Reflecting: How are you at receiving accountability? Is there a way that works better?

Reflecting: Do you feel like you have power, or are powerless? (may depend on which relationships you think of)

Reflecting: Identify ways that you have power over others (not all others). How can you influence or intimidate others? (social status, money, education, skills, accomplishments, power, ...)

Prayer: ...that we will be able to resist temptations, even if they are seen as 'normal', and help individuals and society to be accountable.

Here's a daily practice idea from the magazine *Spill the Beans* #13.

A Week In The Mirror

Create a weekly menu card for people to place by a mirror that they use daily. Give this out during the service and ask people to use it as an aide memoire for this week's theme of introspection for the sake of our outward living.

Monday

Today I will pay particular attention to how I interact with strangers and people I do not know well.

May I be open minded and gracious in welcome.

Tuesday

Today I will listen to the words I use. Do they build up or cut down? Do they seem harsh or warm?

May I use my voice, spoken or written, to encourage others.

Wednesday

Today I will think about how I listen to others. Do I hear what they say, or am I thinking just of what to say next?

May I use my ears to hear and listen in order to understand.

Thursday

Today I will think about how I use my eyes.
On what (or whom) does my sight linger?
What do my eyes tell of my inner desires?

May I see as God sees, seeing people not objects.

Friday

Today I will pay attention to how I use touch.
With whom am I in contact with?
What form does that physical contact take?

May I be aware of the power that touch contains and use this wisely.

Saturday

Today I will think about how I relax.
Who helps me re-energise?
What activities help me unwind?
How do I help others relax?

May I appreciate the importance of relaxation.

Sunday

Today I will think about how I approach worship.
Do I come to worship to receive, or to give?
Do I come with a spirit of judgement or of grace?

May I approach you, God, in humility with all your children.

Spirit Sightings

That there are policies trying to make it easier for people to make complaints - to hold people accountable for their actions (or in-actions). That this is leading to changes, such as intentional and compulsory training that includes ways to hold others accountable in a way that helps protect the person making the complaint. While it is difficult, there is a movement to change our culture - such as members of the Montreal Police reporting inappropriate behaviour by their colleagues.

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

Almighty and merciful God,
You see the way we live
and treat the world.
And sometimes you are filled with pride
at our ingenuity in creating new ways
to cure diseases
feed people
and find ways to help students learn.
Sometimes you are filled with joy
at the songs we make,
the tastes we bake,
the colours we use
to tell truths beyond words.
and sometimes we break your heart...
May your Spirit help us to see ourselves as you do,
with the joys
but also with the ways we fail you
each other
and ourselves. . .
and help us to help each other
honest words when we see what is wrong. . .
and when we see what is good. . .
and help us to do the same with our society
as we practice here in the church,
let us support each other to share your wisdom
outside the church as well. . .

Lord, we pray today for places where power is abused
hurting those who are vulnerable. . .
We pray those who are abused;
for Chez Doris,
for the unhoused
for the SPVM as they struggle to change their culture
and for all places with systemic issues
that lead to suffering and abuse.

Jesus,
you are the great healer
inviting all who are broken into wholeness.
May your Spirit continue to work in all these situations
and in us
so that all may know your love, hope and healing.

Amen.

♫ Hymn: Amazing Grace .....pg 11 (670)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n145-J8ejg just voices
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tvt6E9N7AQw with guitar
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5p2CbHG9O0s with everything

Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.[6]
Amen

6 2 Corinthians 13:13

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, October 18

Journey for Hope is a Canada-wide fundraiser for PWS&D food security work around the world. This year marks the sixth year that participants from coast to coast have raised funds to support food security in the world. Teams walk, roll, bike or take part in other activities their communities love. Ultimately, Journey for Hope is about partnership—people across Canada working together to plan local events that raise funds for the church's work to ensure that marginalized families in places like the Sudan, Gaza, Malawi, Pakistan, Nepal, Guatemala, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Ethiopia have reliable access to nutritious food. Journey for Hope is just one way to get involved.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 18 (Students and Colleges Sunday) Loving God, we pray for newly ordained ministers; give them courage, insight and good humour in the work you call us to do together in the strength you provide.

Monday, October 19 We pray for congregations with a rich legacy of faith. May God renew their vision and guide them as they seek new ways to serve their communities.

Tuesday, October 20 Holy God, where systems fail, give us courage to speak. Where people suffer, give us hands to serve. And where hope is fading, use us to bring your light.

Wednesday, October 21 We pray that the personal stories, letters, photographs, and other recordings of war continue to be preserved and accessible for the next generations. May these records serve as a reminder of the cost of war and honour the memory of the people harmed by conflict.

Thursday, October 22 We pray with grateful hearts that we may be faithful stewards of all that has been entrusted to us, using our gifts, resources, and lives for God's glory and the good of our neighbours.

Friday, October 23 May we be faithful witnesses to the Gospel, using our minds with discernment and our hearts with compassion, so that all we say and share reflects your love.

Saturday, October 24 (Disarmament Week – Oct 24-30) We pray that all nations will sign and ratify the Arms Trade Treaty and give thanks for peace-building organizations like Project Ploughshares.

377 Come, children, join to sing

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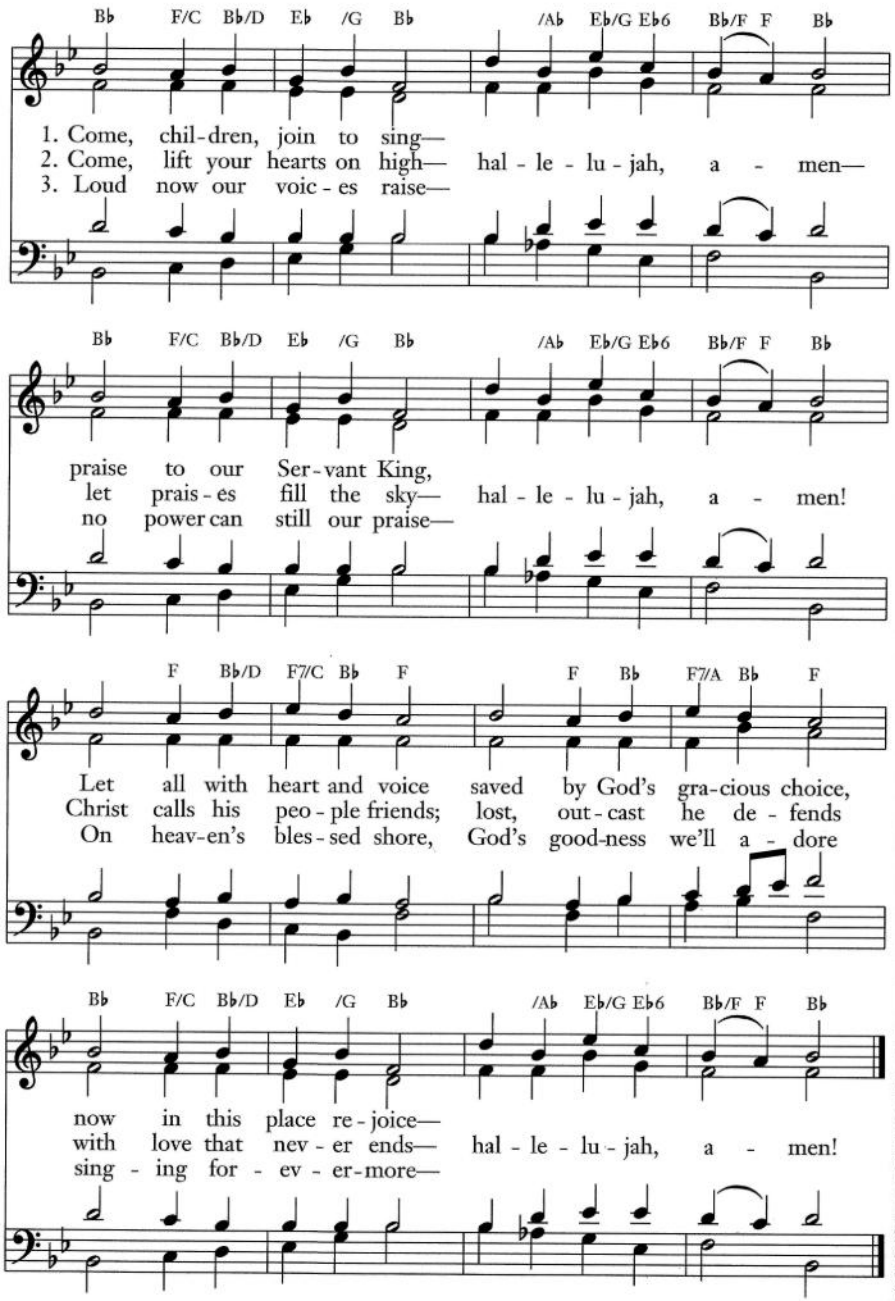
Words: Christian Henry Bateman (1831–1889), alt Music: Anonymous

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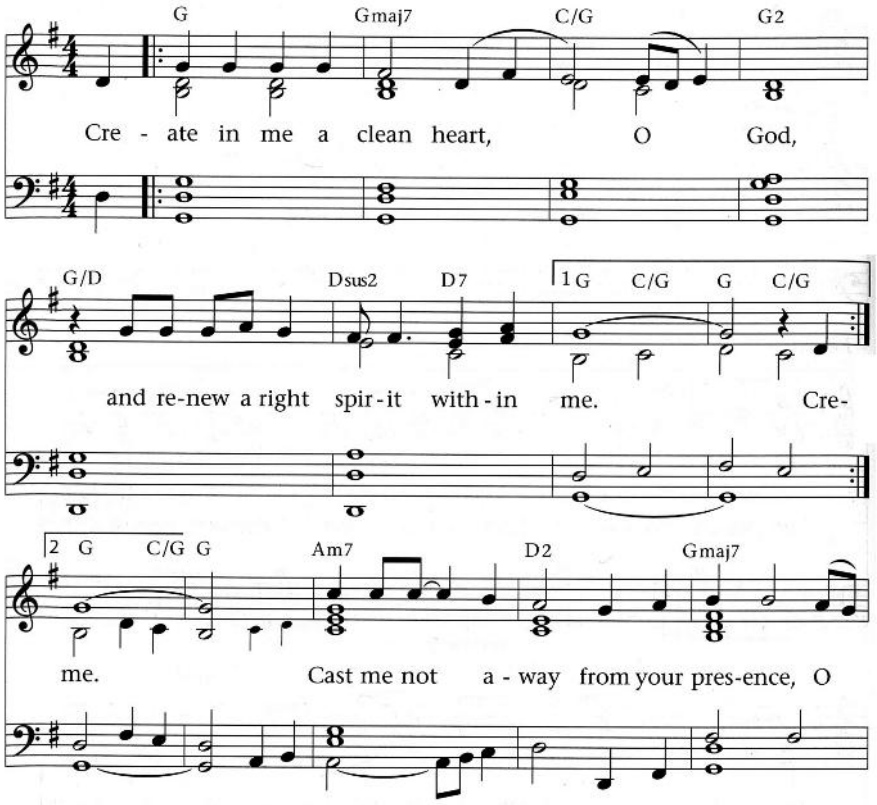
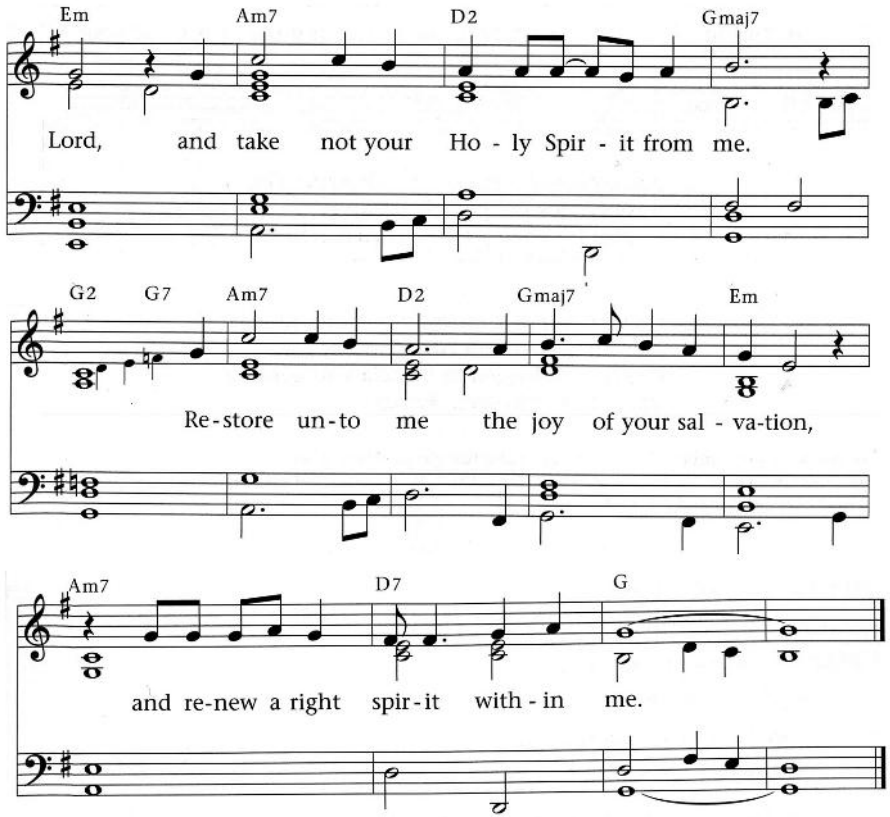
Create in Me a Clean Heart

Words: anonymous, P.D.
Music: anonymous; arr. Sharon Bradimore (b. 1954) © 2001 Faith Alive Christian Resources

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I was, I am - Rosa Datoc Dell

670 Amazing grace

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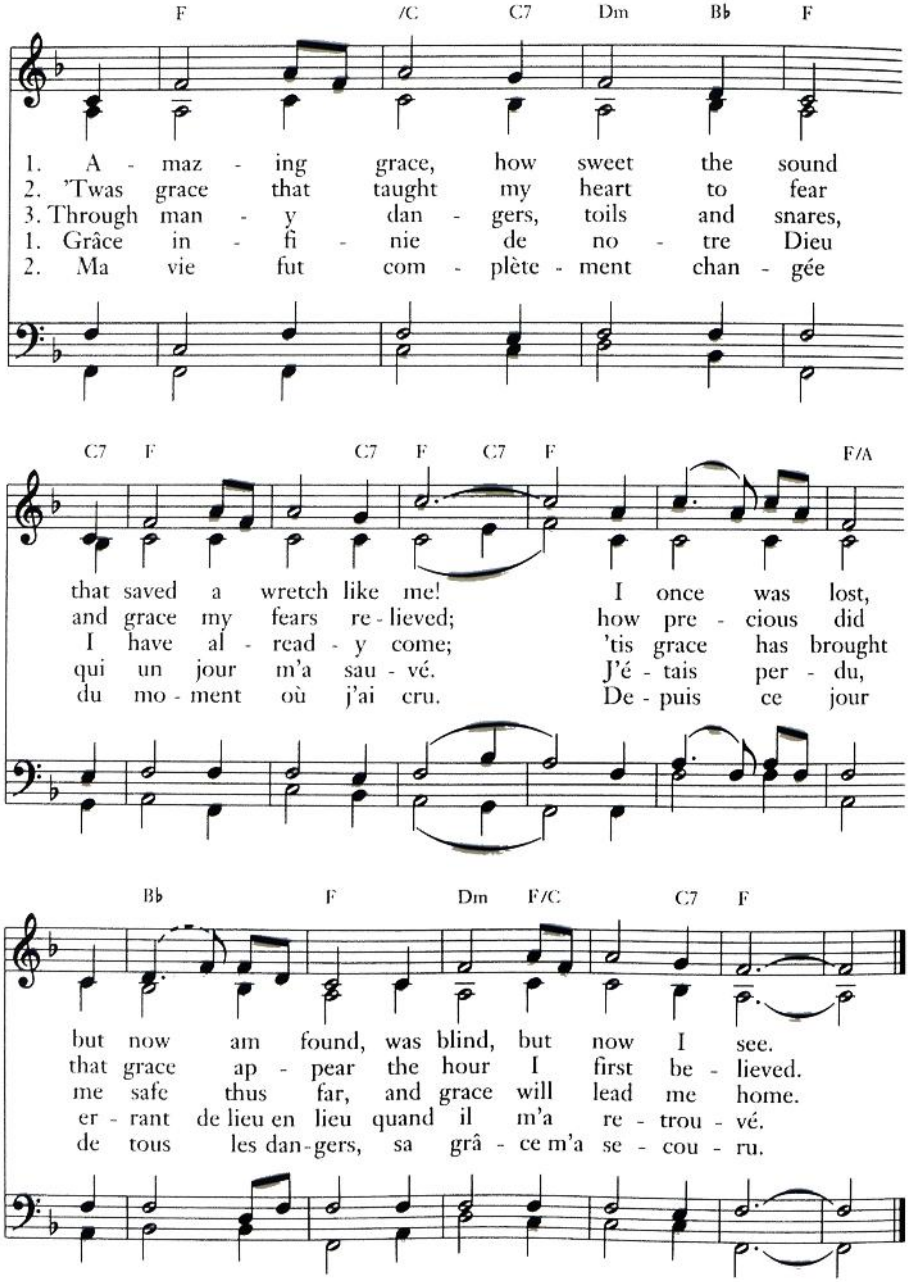
4. The Lord has promised good to me:
this word my hope secures;
God will my shield and portion be,
as long as life endures.

5. What thanks I owe you, and what love—
a boundless, endless store—
shall echo through the realms above
when time shall be no more.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise than
when we'd first begun.

3. Dans mes épreuves et mes labeurs
suffisante est sa grâce.
Je peux toujours compter sa faveur
à chaque heure qui passe.

4. Quand nous aurons pendant mille ans
célébré ses louanges,
nous pourrons comme au commencemen
lui offrir nos hommages.

Chinese (Mandarin)

1. Qí yì en diǎn! Hé děng gǎn tián!
Wǒ zuì yé dé shè miǎn!
Qián wǒ shí sàng, jīn bèi xún huí;
Xià yàn jīn dè kàn jiàn.

Cree

1. Mamaskach sakihiwewin
Kapimachihiwet
Pikwataw nikiwaihon
Anoch maka niwap

Mohawk

1. Ioh ne ra a kwat ra o ten raht
ne se wa ah tsia tah kwen
wa ka a tsia a tah ton ha tie es kwe
ses ha tsia a tah tsen rion.

Ojibway

1. Kihcishawencikewin
kaapimaaci' ikoyaan
Ninkakippiinkwenaapan hsa
Nookom itahsh niwaap

Words: John Newton (1725–1807); v.5, William Cowper (1731–1800); v.6, A Collection of Sacred Ballads 1790; Mohawk, Josephine S. (Konwenee) Day (1905–) Music: Columbian Harmony 1829

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