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

What is Wisdom?

October 25, 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)

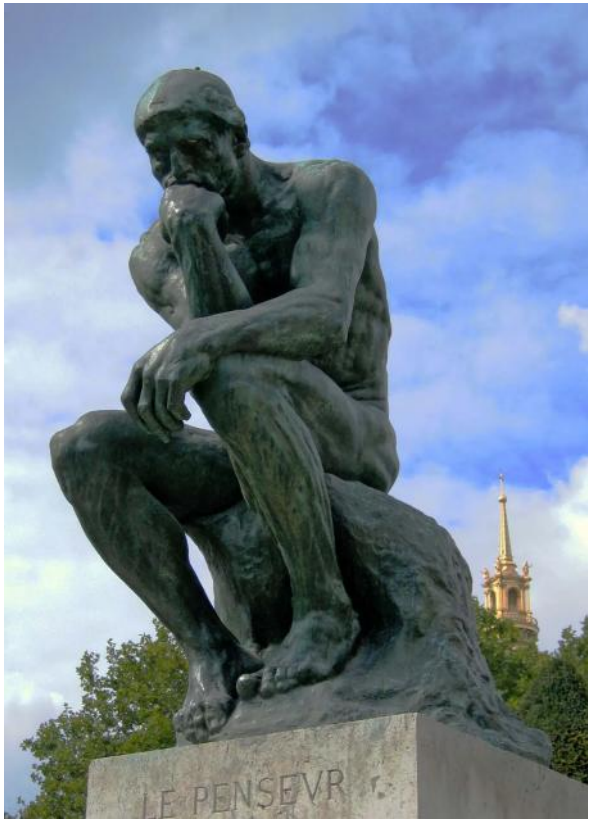
Zoom Prayer Group: Wednesday at 6:30 am

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.



Thinker - Auguste Rodin

New Hope: Grand Carnival of Curiosities & Games - Oct 28 1-2:30
Step right up and join us for vintage carnival fun!

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

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca
514-773-4620
Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com
Rose Ngo Mbenoun (Clerk of Session). .admin@Kensingtonchurch.ca

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

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.
We gather, alive to the Word of God.
You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,
ready to listen and respond with heart, soul, strength, and mind.
We listen, alive to the Word of God.
You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom,
sometimes startling and unexpected,
sometimes still and quiet,
but always dwelling among us.
We watch and wait for the Word of God.[2]

Ecce Homo - Munkácsy

2 *Worship Sourcebook 1.2.36*

Our opening hymn is based on today's Psalm (72).

♫ Hymn: In your hands alone.....pg 9
go to our YouTube page for today's service
www.youtube.com/@kensingtonchurchmontreal2543

Prayer of Approach

Loving parent,
we are blessed by your unending love for us.
We are amazed by your generosity to us.
We are humbled by your wisdom and mercy
when you deal with us.

Loving parent, you give us so much,
a life to enjoy and discover more of you,
a family to care for us and guide us,
a home to protect us and keep us safe.

Forgive us when we take these gifts for granted,
for the times we forget to be grateful for them,
or the times when we misuse or abuse them.

Help us to be grateful for all that we have,
and to share our gifts with everyone,
no matter who they are or where they come from.

May we be as wise as Solomon
and as compassionate as Jesus
in all of our daily living,
so that your kingdom come, here and now.

In the name of our Saviour we pray.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news:
Christ died for us while we were still sinners;
this proves God's love toward us.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!
Amen.

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

As we try to follow Jesus, let us try and be shaped by the prayer he teaches: the Lord's Prayer:

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.

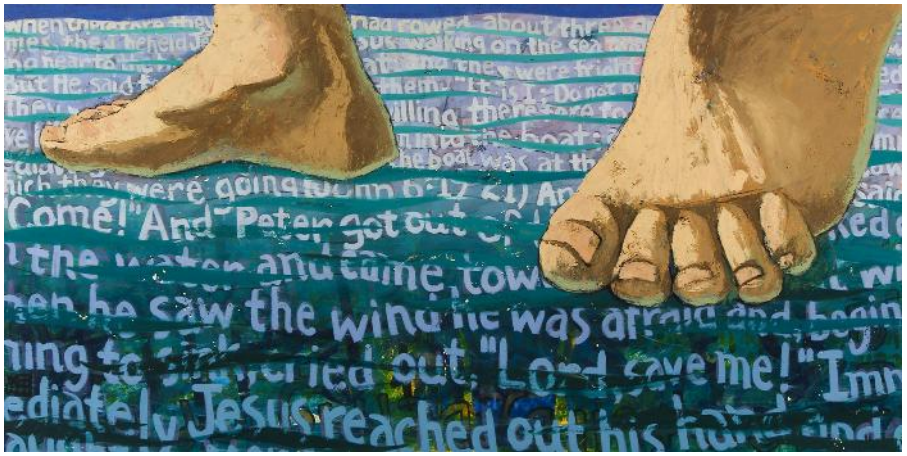
Listening to God

Children's Time

What are the qualities of a great leader?
ex. *wise, just, caring, fair, listens, makes hard decisions, vision, helps, ...*
Do you think it's hard to be all that?
...especially as people have different ideas about what it means.
Jesus wants us to follow him,
but do you think he wants us to be leaders as well?
Yes, he does.
and this list has good suggestions on it,
though we can also remember when Jesus summaries all the commandments of God saying, "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.*" When in doubt, focus on being loving (which doesn't mean always saying yes).

Prayer:
Dear Jesus,
help us to follow you, and be good leaders.
Amen.

♫ Hymn: Be thou my vision.....pg 10 (461)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A0VpaiwjqhY (church)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=YxvXGgSlRcs (big church)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ihJAJA4ibEs (solo with cello)



get out of the boat - Forte

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that we will draw closer to you.
Amen.

Intro to the readings

Last week we heard a story about the great king David… in which his actions were horrible. He's forgotten the power he had was a gift. With help he realized the terrible nature of what he'd done there were still consequences.

If God asked, what would you wish for?

. . .

Last week we heard a story about the great king David… in which his actions were horrible. Even though he realized, with help, the terrible nature of what he'd done there were still consequences.

One of consequences of him practising intrigue and violence was that there was a lot of political intrigue and fighting about who would succeed him. While Bathsheba didn't speak much last week, she was instrumental in getting her son Solomon onto the throne. This, and David's last instructions, take up the first two chapters of 1 Kings.

This book is about the various kings of Judah and Israel, usually two separate kingdoms, which follow David. It's part of a series of books that includes: Joshua (about taking the Promised Land), Judges (in which God raises up leaders as the need arises), and Samuel (the start of them having kings with Saul & David).

The books were written during the early part of the exile, and they reveal an unease with their kings. Right from the start of the people asking for a king (everyone else has one) God suggests that just having him is best - that human kings end up taking a lot from the people and doing what they want instead of serving the people …and this tends to happen. Sometimes we read celebrations of the kings, and more often we read criticism - even in the same story. Today's story is mostly a celebration, but there are hints of disapproval.

Another group that the text or narrator has difficulty with are sex workers (prostitutes). These are women who function outside the social order - which means they bring disorder. Yet they are financially independent like a man. Earlier stories of sex workers tell of Rahab owning her own home and being head of the household. When Judah negotiates with Tamar, it is with an equal, not a woman. The Gospel According to Matthew includes only four women in Jesus' genealogy: Bethsheba is one, Ruth (who isn't an Israelite), and the two sex workers Rahab and Tamar. Like the kings, there are texts that are critical of sex-workers, and those that admire them. It's good to note that in today's text there is no judgment about the women being sex-workers. This just explains why there is no man speaking for them.

What's this mean for us? We need to realize what we assume and feel when we hear about kings and prostitutes or sex-workers. They might be worse or better in the Bible than we assume… or both.

I also want you to know that there is a tragedy in today's passage. A baby dies. The event isn't a focus, but the impact is.

Paying attention to your assumptions, and remembering that this was written during the time of the exile, you can consider what the writers are trying to remind people of with these stories. What are they encouraging?

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

1 Kings 3: 4-28

Psalm 72 1-7, 12-14, 17-19 (but you can read it all)

Judgement of Solomon - Rubens

Sermon: What is Wisdom?

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

I don't know what you thought of earlier when I invited you to think of a wish, but I was reminded of a joke. I heard it from a celtic punk band. 'A man, Paddy, was staggering home from the pub when he heard a sound from a bush. There he found a wee leprechaun was stuck. After freeing him the leprechaun was very thankful and exclaimed, "Paddy, I'll grant ye three wishes. What would you like." Paddy asks for a pint of beer that'll never be empty. 'No problem," replies the leprechaun, "here ye go." Downing it and watching it fill up again Paddy is amazed. The leprechaun asks what's next. Paddy exclaims, "Och, I'll have two more." '

It's funny because of how unwise the choice is. I'm sure you did better, as did Solomon when he shared, "*I don't know the 'ins' and 'outs'*[4] of being a good king, and then wished for "*an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil.*" He feels in over his head, but he asks for more than knowledge (the ins and outs). He asks to know good from bad.

Solomon is famous for his wisdom, but he's not the first to wish for it. It's one of the first human wishes in the Bible. If we go way back to the third Chapter of the Bible (Genesis 3) we hear about Adam and Eve wanting to know the difference between good and evil, except in this case it's a bad thing. Why is one instance good and the other bad? and what is wisdom anyway?

Looking up the definition of wisdom we find it means the ability to discern inner qualities and relationships; to have good sense. That seems like a good thing for everybody to have. Discerning inner qualities and relationships also sounds like what Solomon, Adam & Eve are after when they talk of knowing the difference between good and evil. So, what's the problem? Why does God approve of one and not the other?

I think it's similar to the reason the mother receives her child back.[5] She doesn't get the baby because of good record keeping, or DNA tests, or any form of knowledge. She receives her baby

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 interestingly in says "I do not know how to go out or come in", which despite 2.5 thousand years this phrase crosses cultures and languages to be very similar to us saying, "I don't know the 'ins' and 'outs' "

5 interestingly, there are similar stories in India, except there the mothers are told to pull the child out of a circle, and the real mother lets go when the baby cries.

back because she shows compassion and is willing to sacrifice for another [As was observed at the Bible, rather reminiscent of God & Jesus].

Adam and Eve are different. They want wisdom so they can be like God. To get it they take without asking - actually doing what they were told not to. Solomon asks, and the LORD gives. Solomon asks not because he wants to be great or like God, but so that he can help/serve others. This desire to use a blessing from God to help others is what pleases God.

What about your wishes? . . . You're first one, and your thoughtful ones? Are they like Adam & Eve: trying for increased status or power or control? Is your first wish like the grieving mother. I imagine she is not able to see a way out of her pain and she is now just trying to drag others into the pit with her - seeking some solace knowing that others feel her pain. Is your wish about you? or is it like Solomon: thinking of how this gift could help others.

and perhaps gifts are a good way to think about it, because I feel this is beyond wisdom - or that wisdom is bigger. Part of wisdom is discerning; considering what is going on underneath an action. The wise consider what is behind our wishes, and what we do with our gifts.

Our passage includes a story of how Solomon uses his gift of wisdom. He did help people. He's also famous for his building projects - built with heavy taxes and forced labour. It seems that it can be hard to maintain your focus over time. Solomon's focus shifted from helping others to helping himself, and many people suffered. It even led to the kingdom splitting back into Judah and Israel.

What are our wishes?
What have we been given?
What is our focus?

Kensington is blessed with a building. Do we try to make it a glorious altar to God, like Solomon's Temple? or do we look for how it can help people know God and experience God's love, hope & healing?

Kensington is blessed with finances - thanks to many who have donated now and in the past (including through their investments and Wills). They won't keep us forever, but there is enough for us to dream and try things. What do we wish for... and do?

Kensington is blessed with skills and wisdom. People here have a great variety of experiences and learning - fertile ground for wisdom. You know the community, know languages, and many other things.

We could be a small version of the great service clubs - like the Rotary or Lions or Shriners - but we are called to more. How can we help build God's reign so that everyone knows God's peace, love, hope & healing?

What have you already been granted?
What is your focus?
What is your wish?

To God be all the glory. Amen.

Responding to God

♫ Hymn: A Mighty Fortress.....pg 11 (315)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=PB5XvHq8UHk

boy with loaves and fish

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: Remember wishes you had as a kid? as a teenager? as a young adult?

Values: What do you wish for?
What are your dreams?

Values: What do you wish for Kensington & the community?
What are your dreams for Kensington & the community?

Reflecting: How could your wishes become focused in a wrong way? a right way?

Action: Talk with a neighbour, family member, or colleague about wishes - listen to theirs and share yours.

Prayer: ...that our wishes may align with God's - changing the world for the better.

Spirit Sightings

One place I saw the Holy Spirit working this week was in Mille Isles. As I mentioned in the Friday email, they hosted this month's Presbytery meeting. It was lovely to share in their community, to hear how they work with others, and how they are wondering what they can do next.

Another place was with the NDG Community Council. They had a meeting her Thursday night to share where they came from and ask how they should continue. Through the Community Council priority sectors of the city are identified and they advocate for support to be put in. They also help coordinate different community organizations so that we can support each other - which seems wise.

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 our prayer will be based on what people write in our communal prayer diary. Please feel free to also create your own prayer, or adapt this one from *Spill the Beans* #13.

God of wisdom and compassion,
listen to our cries as we share our deepest hope and desires.

We come before your throne seeking your justice and mercy.
We come thankful that no matter who we are
or what we believe you make time for us.

Merciful one,
hear us as we place our requests and help us
to be patient and accepting of your response.
We bring before you parents who have lost a child,
comfort them and give them strength to face tomorrow.
We bring before you children who have been
orphaned or abandoned,
give them loving homes and families to care for them.
We bring before you situations
where people are disagreeing with each other,
may they find peaceful and acceptable solutions.
We bring before you places where violence or threats
are endangering the safety of people,
may you keep them safe and bring peace to their lands.
We bring before you in a moment's silence
the people and places that lie heavily
on our hearts and minds.

. . .

Merciful God, thank you for your time,
for your willingness to listen and answer all our requests.
Give us patience to wait for your response
and a desire to be the answer when you ask us to.

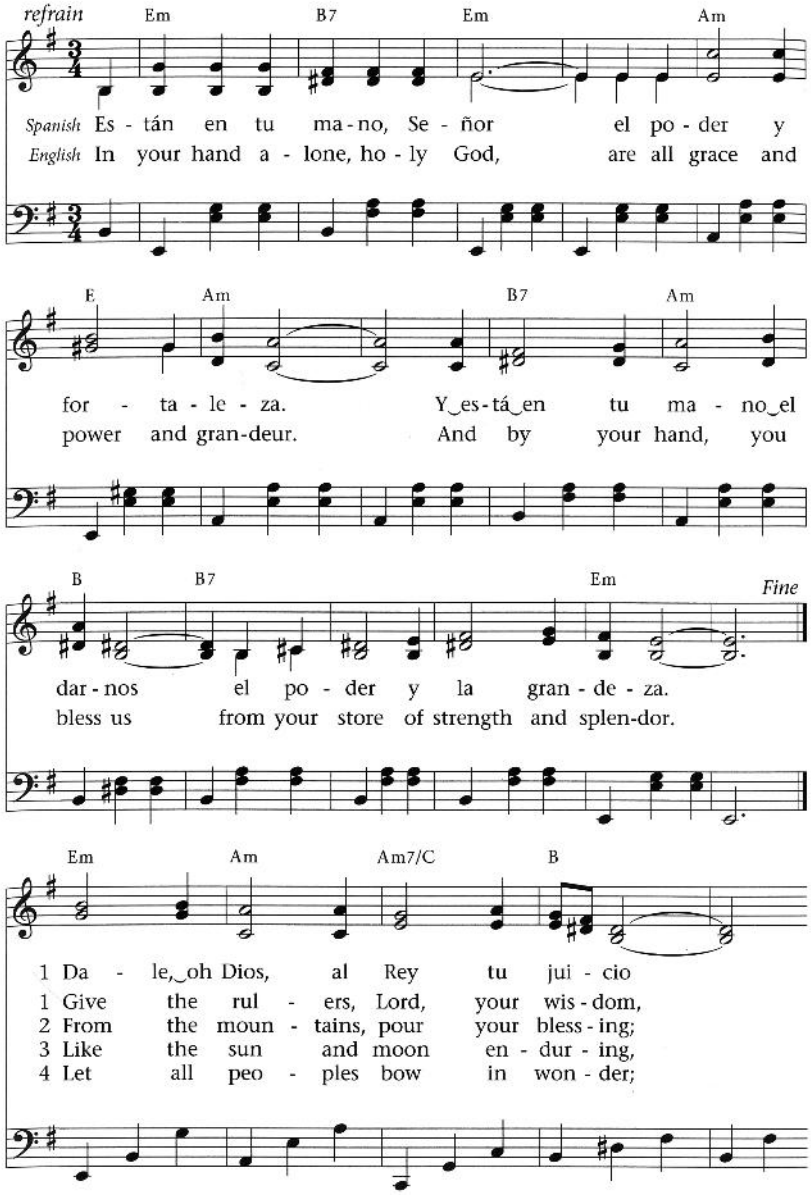
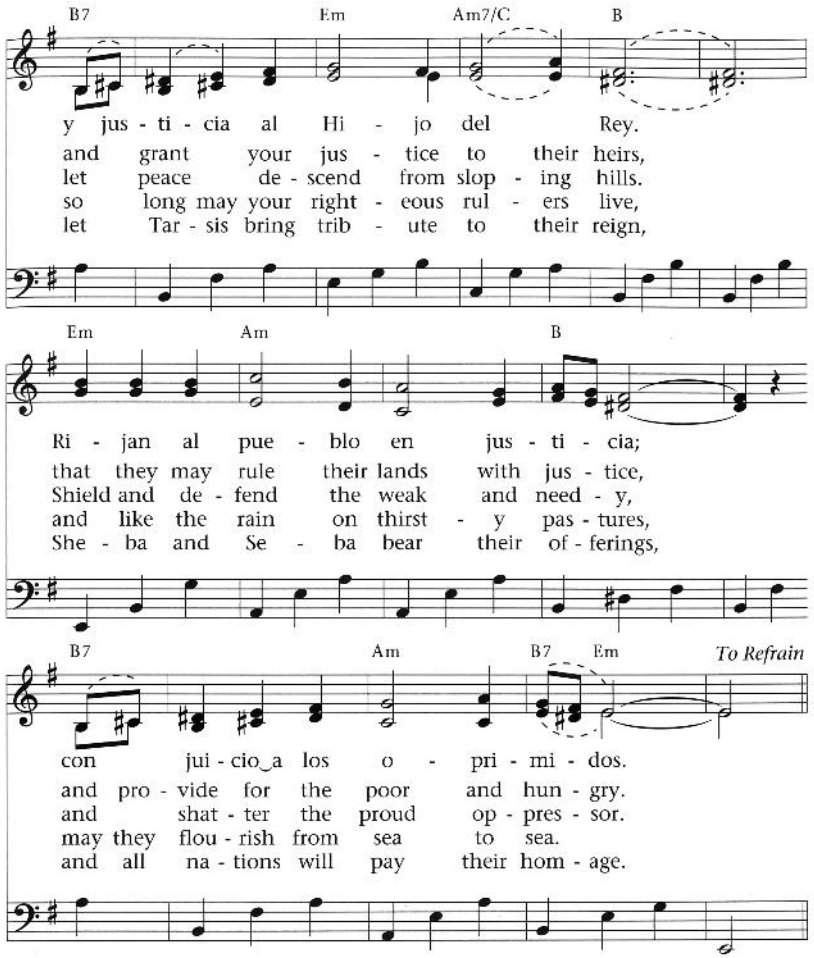
In your mercy, hear our prayers.
Amen.

♫ Hymn: God of grace.....pg 12 (490)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i1G6uArjXYI

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

72D Están en tu mano / In Your Hand Alone

(continued) 72D

2 Paz dará el mon-te_al pueblo;
dará el collado justicia,
defensa al necesitado
y quebrantará_al opresor.

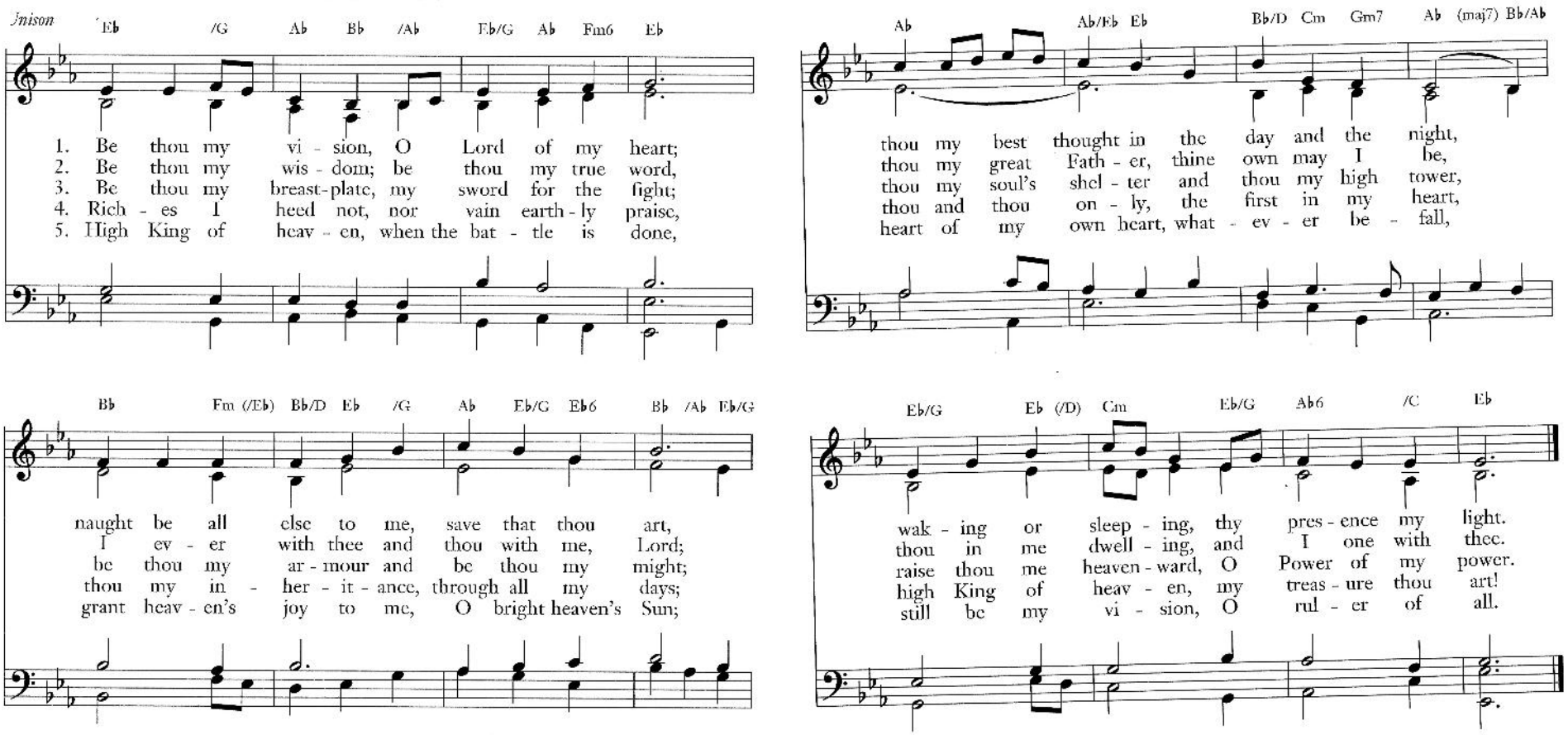
3 Mientras duren sol y luna
eternamente vivirá
cual lluvia regará el campo,
regirá de mar a mar.

4 Y le_adorarán los pueblos;
Tarsis pagará tributo,
Sheba y Seba frutos darán;
y le servirán los reyes.

Words: Louis Olivieri; tr. Mary Louise Bringle (b. 1953), 2011, © Louis Olivieri
Music (HERMANAS JESÚS MEDIADOR): Pedro Escabí; arr. Marcus Hong © 2011 Faith Alive Christian Resources
CCLI #4440603 One License #A-719461

461 Be thou my vision

SLANE 10 10 10 10

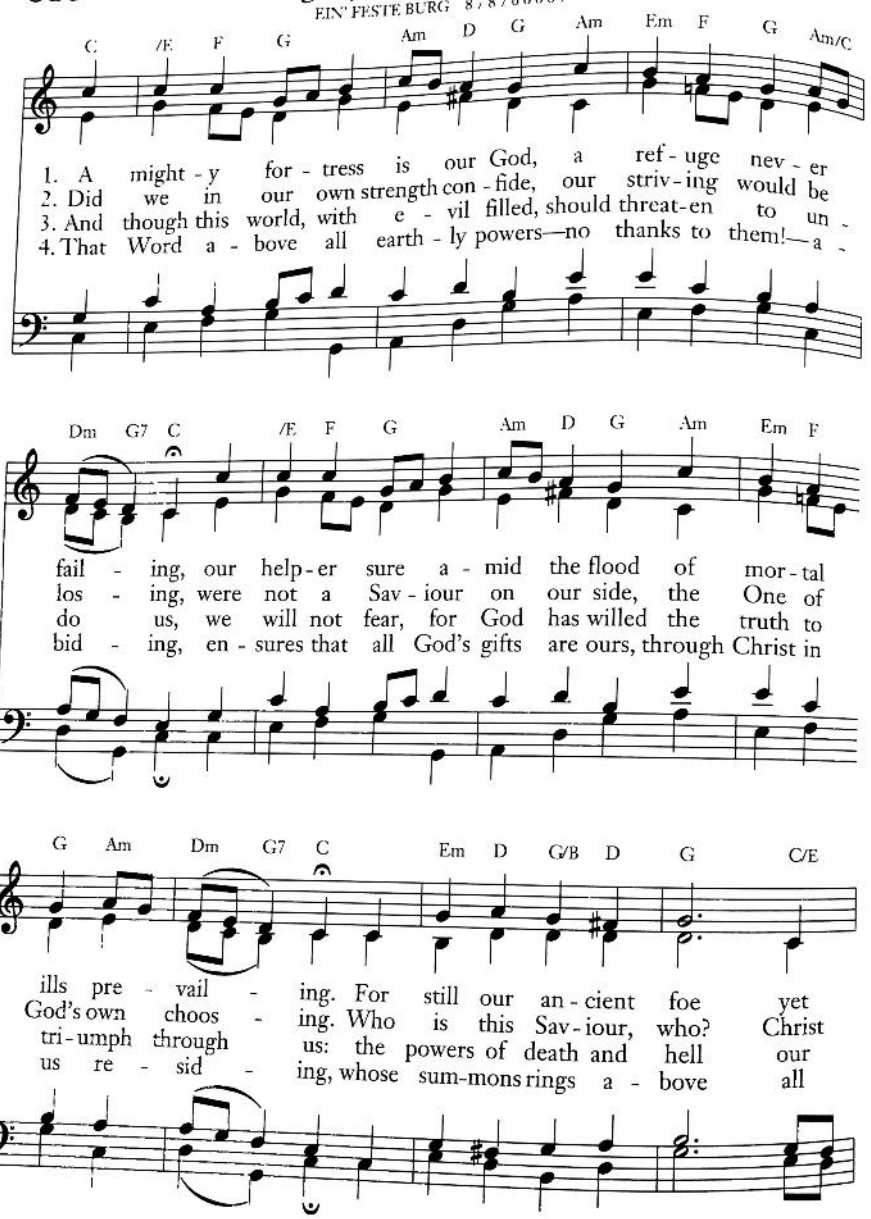
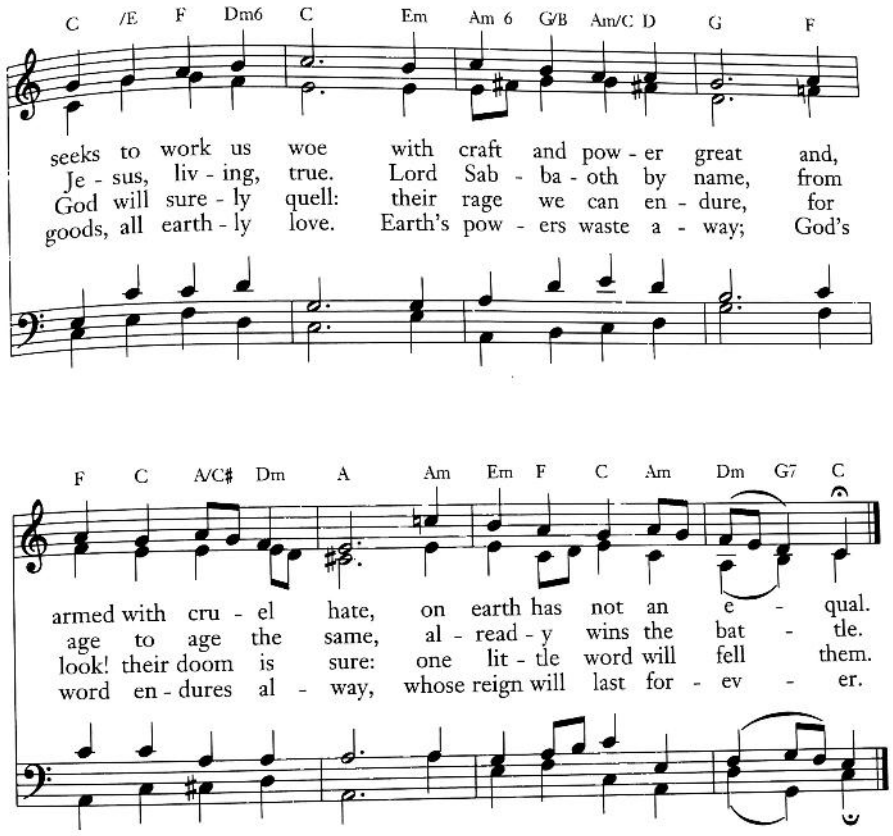


Words: Irish anonymous, 8th century, translation, Mary Byrne (1880–1931), paraphrase, Eleanor Hull (1860–1935), alt Music: Irish traditional; harmony, Erik Routley (1917–1982); descant, John Wilson (1905–1992) CCLI No. 4440603

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

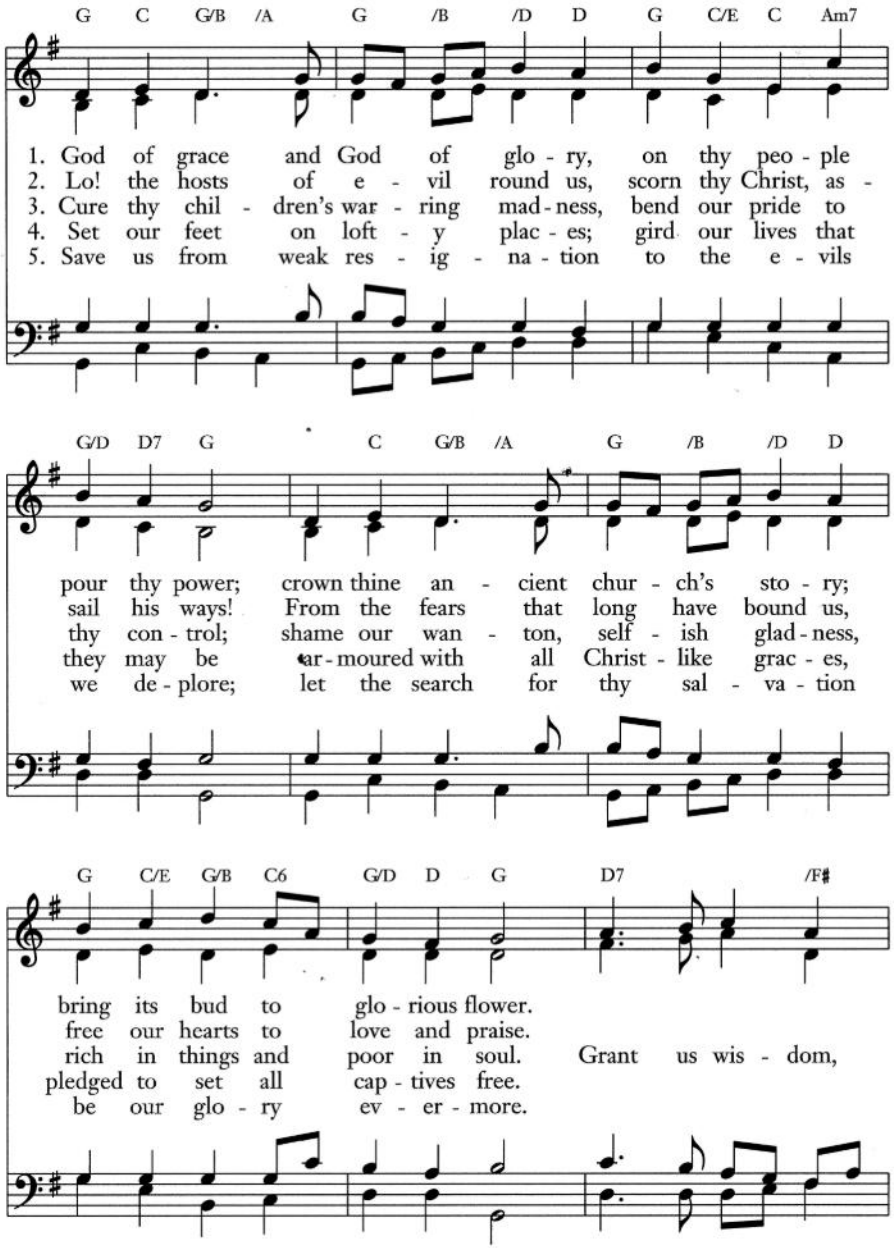
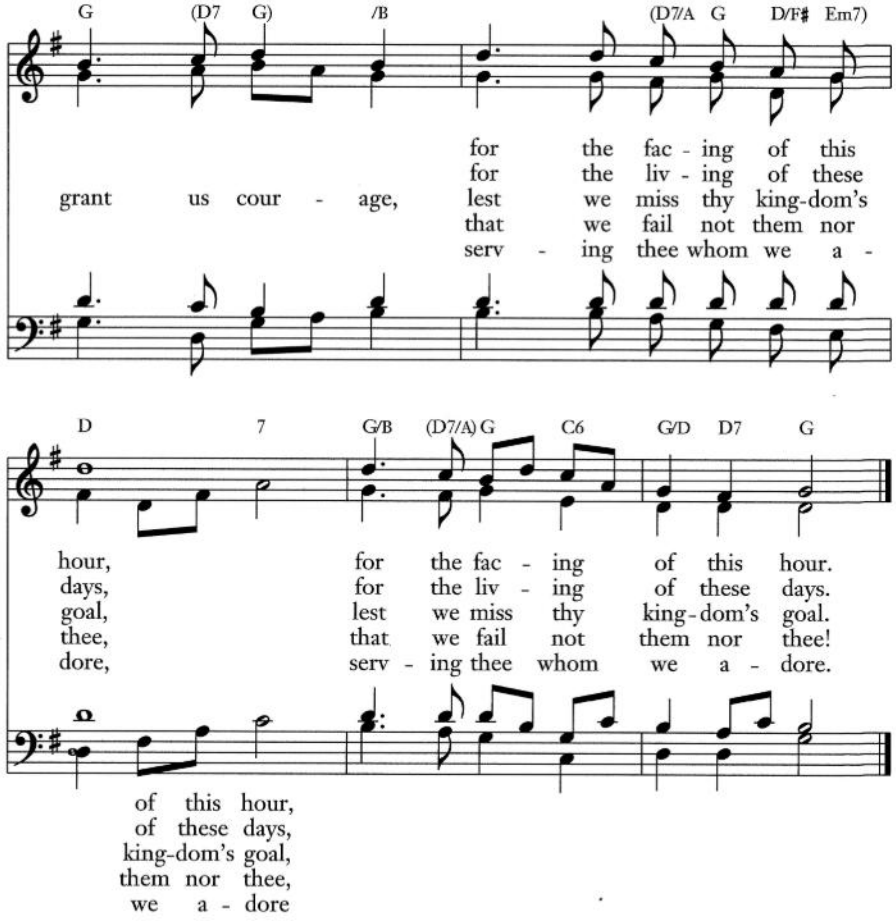
315 A mighty fortress is our God

EIN' FESTE BURG 878766667



Words: Psalm 46; paraphrase, Martin Luther (1483–1546), translation, Frederick H. Hedge (1805–1890), alt
Music: Martin Luther (1483–1546); arrangement Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612)

Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: public domain

490 God of grace and God of glory

Words: Harry Emerson Fosdick (1878–1969), alt Music: John Hughes (1873–1932); descant, Malcolm Archer (1952–)

Words: public domain Music: Reprinted by permission of C.A. Webb; descant, copyright © Kevin Mayhew Ltd., 1990

MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, October 25**

In Mwanyesha, Malawi, Vincent Ng'ambi lives with his wife and five children. They previously struggled in a leaking thatched house and faced food shortages due to climate change, making farming unreliable. After joining the Lupembe food security project, they received training in climate-smart agriculture, self-help groups and household visioning. The training helped increase their maize production, enabling them to build a safe home. "We are grateful and proud. Thanks to household visioning, we dreamed bigger and set goals. Our new brick house with iron sheets symbolizes our hard work and a better future. We'll live in it and finish with cement flooring and windows next year," Vincent shared with tears. This project is an initiative of PWS&D's partner, the Synod of Livingstonia Development Department.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 25 We pray for Knox College students as they step away from scheduled classes for Reading Week, that they will be refreshed and renewed as they prepare to return for the final assignments and commitments of the Fall 2026 semester.

Monday, October 26 (Intersex Awareness Day) We give thanks for intersex advocates who promote respect, human rights and informed consent in health care.

Tuesday, October 27 We pray for presbytery Ministry Committees and Students' Committees, that God's grace and wisdom would guide them in their work of discernment with candidates for ministry.

Wednesday, October 28 As Christians in the Middle East live with daily fear, we thank God for the commitment and faith of Nader Abuamsha and Bassem Thabet and pray for the work of the Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR).

Thursday, October 29 We pray for the Change Leadership Team as it works with interested congregations to implement a professional payroll system, reducing administrative burden on local ministries and relieving stress for ministers and staff.

Friday, October 30 We pray for music directors, organists, praise bands, choirs, and all who lead God's people in joyful song and praise each week.

Saturday, October 31 (Reformation Day) We pray that the Church may always be renewed by God's Word, rooted in God's grace, and led by the Holy Spirit to follow Jesus Christ with humility, courage, and love, serving the world for the glory of God.

Begging Jesus - T Schmalz