

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love
since 1786

Everyone's included

November 1, 2026

Welcome, we come to you from the unceded 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

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: not Nov 6th - returning Nov 13th

Presbytery Youth Worship: here on Nov 14th
5:30 dinner, 6:30 worship

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).

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



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

♫ God welcomes all: youtu.be/yDLgCFD7qNw?t=1

♫ Hymn: All people that on earth do dwell.....pg 10 (65)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xM6Ke4lKJM
www.youtube.com/watch?v=UXX_3nWbpTc (just piano)



Prayer of Approach

Loving God,
we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.
You are greater than we can understand;
open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths
you have shown to us in Jesus.
You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;
help us to give ourselves to you in worship
so that we learn what you want us to be.
You are wiser than we can know;
still our minds as we worship you
so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.
Loving God, in Jesus
you chose to come to the world in humility.
You chose the path the world saw as foolish.
You used what the world considered weak.
We worship and adore you.
Amen.[2]

Listening to God

Children's Time

Today's Bible story wouldn't happen without a very important character: a girl. We don't know her name, but she's still a kid (not even a teenager). And she's not an important girl, like a princess. Still, without her the story would have had a sad ending.

I won't tell you what she did, but I think it's a good reminder that people who are young, or not important can make a big difference.

For a lot of history girls (and women when they grew up) were not considered as important as men. It was only 86 years ago that women were allowed to vote in Québec! Our next song refers to a bunch of different women in the Bible. - many who aren't named As we sing, listen for what they did.

But before we sing, let's pray.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Help us to remember that everyone is important
and can help share your love.
Amen.

2 *Worship Sourcebook* 1.4.42

♫ Hymn: Woman in the night.....pg 11 (657)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GItn6BpInk

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may listen to your voice, and do as you ask.
Amen.

Intro to the readings

Two weeks ago we heard about King David not being very wise. Last week King Solomon was wise, though it didn't last. His later practices of heavy taxes and forced labour led to the northern part of the kingdom separating. They didn't quite go back to the way it was before King David had united the twelve tribes. They kept the idea of a king. Between Solomon and today's passage they had several (seven) kings.

It's good to know some things the original hearers of the story would have just known.

Status is very important. Being lower on the social hierarchy means you are less than they are. Losing to somebody else means you are, obviously, less than they are. Being a foreigner, or a woman, or a slave all makes you less... though wealth can help. As you listen, compare the status of people and their behaviour.



You'll hear about somebody tearing their clothes. When somebody tears their clothes it is a sign of grief, morning, or anguish.

You'll also hear about the River Jordan. It's helpful to have a good picture in your mind of this famous river. South of the Sea of Galilee it's not big. It's been described as a muddy backwater.

Those are all things that the people in the story would have known, and the audience for the text when it was written down several hundred years later, even though they were living in exile with those who had defeated them, and their gods. Some big questions during the exile were: What does this mean about our God? and How do we live now?

This also links it to us. Again this week the government has reminded us that we live in a nation that, at least officially, draws its values from elsewhere - and other sources of values or expressions of faith shouldn't be public.

As you listen to Yuka reading the passages, look for how people behave - and how you'd expect them to behave.

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

2 Kings 5: 1-15a (the rest is good too)
Psalm 111

Sermon: Everyone's included

Dear Lord, please bless the words of my mouth
and the meditations of all our hearts.[4] Amen.

What was the story about?

Naaman is sick and is cured. Does that mean it's about how to cure skin disease? Just go to bathe in a murky river and you'll become clean? That sounds ridiculous - especially to do it 7 times in the southern Jordan.[5]

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 I wonder if Elisha added the seven times as a joke.

No, it's not about how to cure skin disease.
But then, what is it about?



Naaman is cured - c.1150

One aspect is that it's about faith. Where do you place your faith? While it's true that Naaman is healed of his disease, he comes out with an amazing statement of faith. The leader of another nation's army, who has won battles against Israel, should know (in the understanding of the time) that he and his gods are stronger and more powerful than the Israeli ones. Yet he comes out with, "*Now I know that there is no God in all the earth except in Israel.*" This is pretty uncompromising. It's not a statement that your god can heal better on his home turf, or is having a good day. He says there is no other God - anywhere.

How did his worldview change so radically? He listened to others. Something I think is surprising about the story is that the great general listens to those who are below him - as do many in this story.

The listening starts with a foreign slave girl. There are so many strikes against this girl. She's a girl, not even a woman. She's not male, making her property... and she's a slave - so another reason she's less than human. She talks of a god whose people were defeated... so is less powerful. It's amazing she still has faith in God, yet she does find hope in God... and has the courage to share with her mistress. It's a miracle her mistress listens to her. Then there's Naaman who listens to his wife (given the legal status of woman, this wasn't a given). His king listens to him on an issue not about war... and knowing that the advice comes from a foreign slave girl. And the listening continues. The distraught king of Israel doesn't know what to do, but listens to the prophet Elisha. When Elisha doesn't show the respect Naaman deserves, he doesn't burn the house down. Instead he listens to his servants and, reluctantly, does as he's been told. To his surprise, perhaps even shock, he was healed. Listening and acting on what God says leads not only to a cure, but to a bold statement of faith that there is only one God. One aspect of this story is coming to faith.

Another aspect is about how God works.

Naaman is expecting the God's representative to come out, call on the name of God, wave his hands around and there would be a dramatic cure.[6] What happens is very low key. Elisha just sends out a messenger saying, 'go wash in the river'. It's almost ordinary. Why couldn't he have done this at home where the rivers were at least clean. This God he's been told to place his hope in doesn't make sense.

Others were probably thinking that as well. God is working through and with people who are competitors with The Chosen People. The text tells us that God gave victory to Aram over Israel. Now God is healing the general who defeated them. If this is how God works, who is included and who isn't? Doesn't God respect the Chosen People?

6 Naaman would have appreciated Elisha's predecessor Elijah - 1 Kings 18

Though the question could also be asked the other way, do they respect the LORD? It's interesting that the girl taken away into slavery and living in a kingdom of other gods has more faith than the king of Israel.

Which points out another way that God works. The LORD doesn't seem to respect status or power or might or wealth. God is working through those who are looked down on, or ignored - such as the slave girl, servants, and simple messengers. God heals Naaman not because he offered great wealth or had achieved a respected status, but because he listened and did.



And these points are what the story is about. Everyone is invited; everyone is included: chosen and alien, insider and outsiders, believer and not, powerful and not. God isn't helping the Israeli King who isn't listening or doing, but does help Naaman who does listen and acts. And who starts it all off? A humble nobody with the courage to share where she sees hope.

And these are the lessons to those in the story, and those living in exile, and to us living in Québec where our source of hope is challenged. Can we listen to those normally overlooked? Can we show the courage to share where we find hope?

To God be all the glory
Amen.

Responding to God

♫ Hymn: Simply Trusting.....pg 10 (689)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tXpo1VuxC8U

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: Identify a situation that needs God's attention. How would you like God to act in it? What are some unexpected (crazy) alternatives?

Reflecting: How are you at taking advice you don't want to do?

Reflecting: Who do you listen to for advice? Does this include anybody considered vulnerable, or too young, or without enough status for a good answer? What are sources/people that are not part of your advice circle? How could you broaden your circle?

Action: Where do you find hope? Practice sharing this out loud with your partner.

Prayer: ...for opportunities to share hope, and to be open for God's unexpected ways.

Spirit Sightings

Last week at the Presbytery meeting we dedicated a good chunk of time to discussing the difficulties and possibilities of congregations who don't have, and aren't likely to ever have, a minister. We didn't come up with a solution.

However this week I discovered a webinar[7] on our national church website about another Presbytery that not only had this problem, but figured out a way to help. I think it's an important

7 There are many on the website. You can check out the categories here: presbyterian.ca/leadership-webinars. Likely to be the most interesting are: Adult Education, International, and Justice - but explore as the Spirit moves you.

lesson: we are not alone in our problems, and we don't have to solve them alone. We do need to ask, to listen, and then to act. This is a way that God works.



Road to Emmaus - Fritz von Uhde

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: Let us talents & tongues #1-2.....pg 12 (563)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=6P16IQrkbNU



Invitation to the table

The LORD invites everyone to the Table. It doesn't matter if you're a powerful leader who has done insulting or horrible things, or a simple slave girl. More likely you are somewhere in between - with elements of both.

Your past doesn't matter. You don't even need to have made a great belief statement. What matters is that you listen and act. Hear the invitation, and come to the table.

C'est la volonté de Dieu
que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
partager ce repas.

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.

As we come together to share this taste of Lord's Supper,



Liturgical Table - Jan Richardson

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.

O Lord, our God, creator of the universe,
you are a wonder.
We look around us at creation
and it works in such unlikely ways.
Like the wonder of the water cycle,
or gravity
or the ways that our bodies work.
and the variety in other living things.
We look around us for you
and see you in expressions of love and hope,
often present in unlikely ways.
You are a wonder
and it is right to give you thanks and praise.

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.

We recognize that the One who came is Jesus.
Even though you came in such an unlikely way.
A helpless baby to a powerless family,
sharing your love
and changing the world.

Thinking of your stories
we admit that we do not always listen to you
or follow your instructions.
We find ourselves giving our attention to those with status,
and worrying about status over people.
we find excuses not to share your love and hope
whether worried about consequences or change,
or distracted by our needs and comfort.

Now, in this moment, we recognize that when we don't listen for you to act in unlikely ways we stand with those who lead you to the cross.

and so we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

May your Holy Spirit help us to hear your forgiveness
and live into your way of living.
Open to it's unlikely ways
and joining with surprising people
to experience your love, hope, and healing
through the wonder of your imagination.

As we look around we see suffering in the world.
We admit we don't have the answers,
and pray for you to help
...even if it means ways beyond our imagining
or ways that involve us.

LORD, we pray for:
- those who need to know you
- those who need the courage to share their faith
- those in need of physical, mental, or spiritual healing. . .

Lord,
as we think of your ways of working
we are reminded of the prayer you gave us
Let us pray together the Lord's prayer:


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.

O Lord, our God, creator of the universe,
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.

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
our differences are not divisions
and we are one body working together.
May we be filled with your Spirit
so that your love, hope, and healing
overflows into everyone we meet
Unissons-nous à ton Esprit dans le monde.
Amen.

♫ Hymn: Let us talents & tongues #2-3.....pg 12 (563)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=6P16IQrkbNU

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)
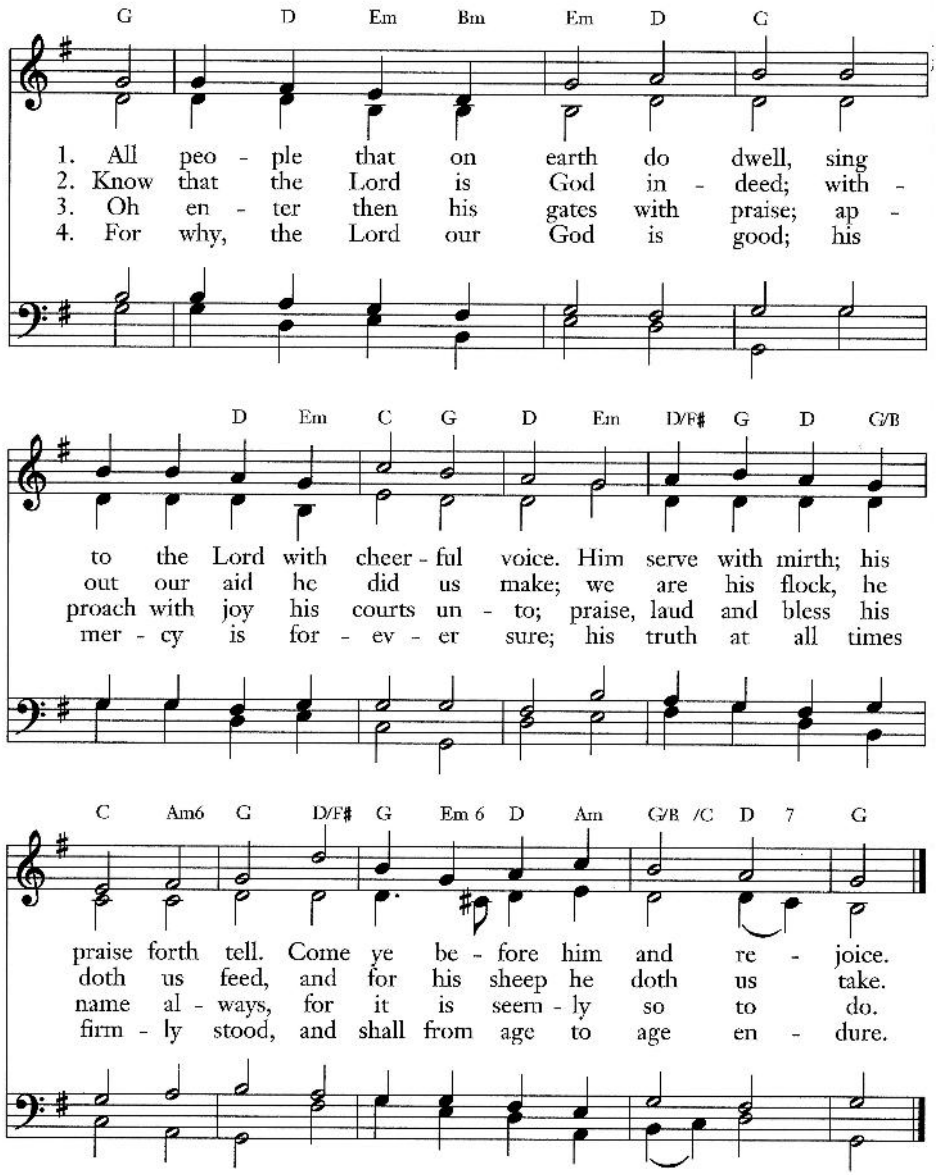
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you. Amen



Psalm 100

65 All people that on earth do dwell
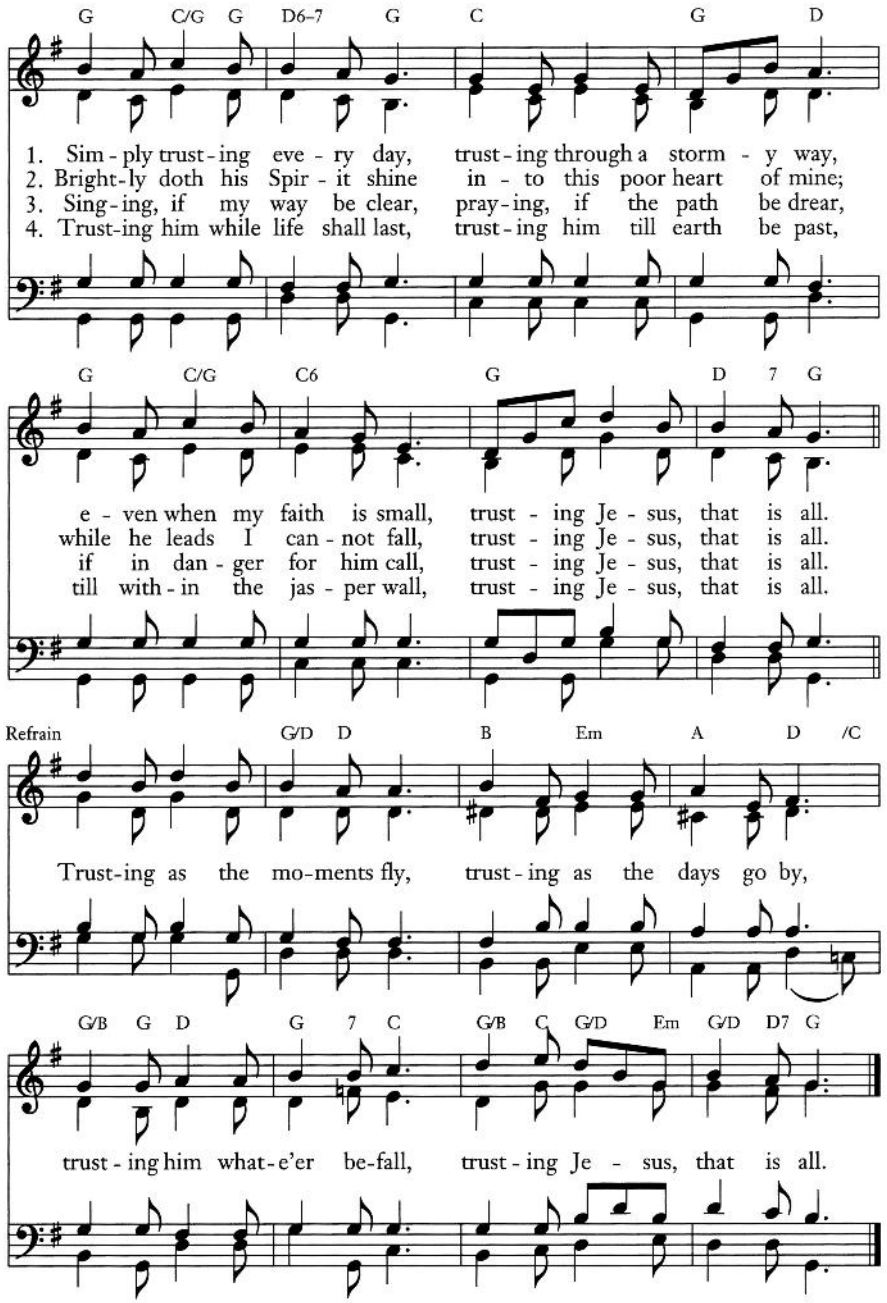
OLD 100th 8 8 8 8 LM



Words: Psalm 100; paraphrase, William Kethe (c. 1535–1594) as in Scottish Psalter 1650
Music: Genevan Psalter 1551; last line from Ravencroft's Psalter 1621; fauxbourdon, John Dowland (1563–1626) *Words: public domain Music: public domain*

689 Simply trusting every day

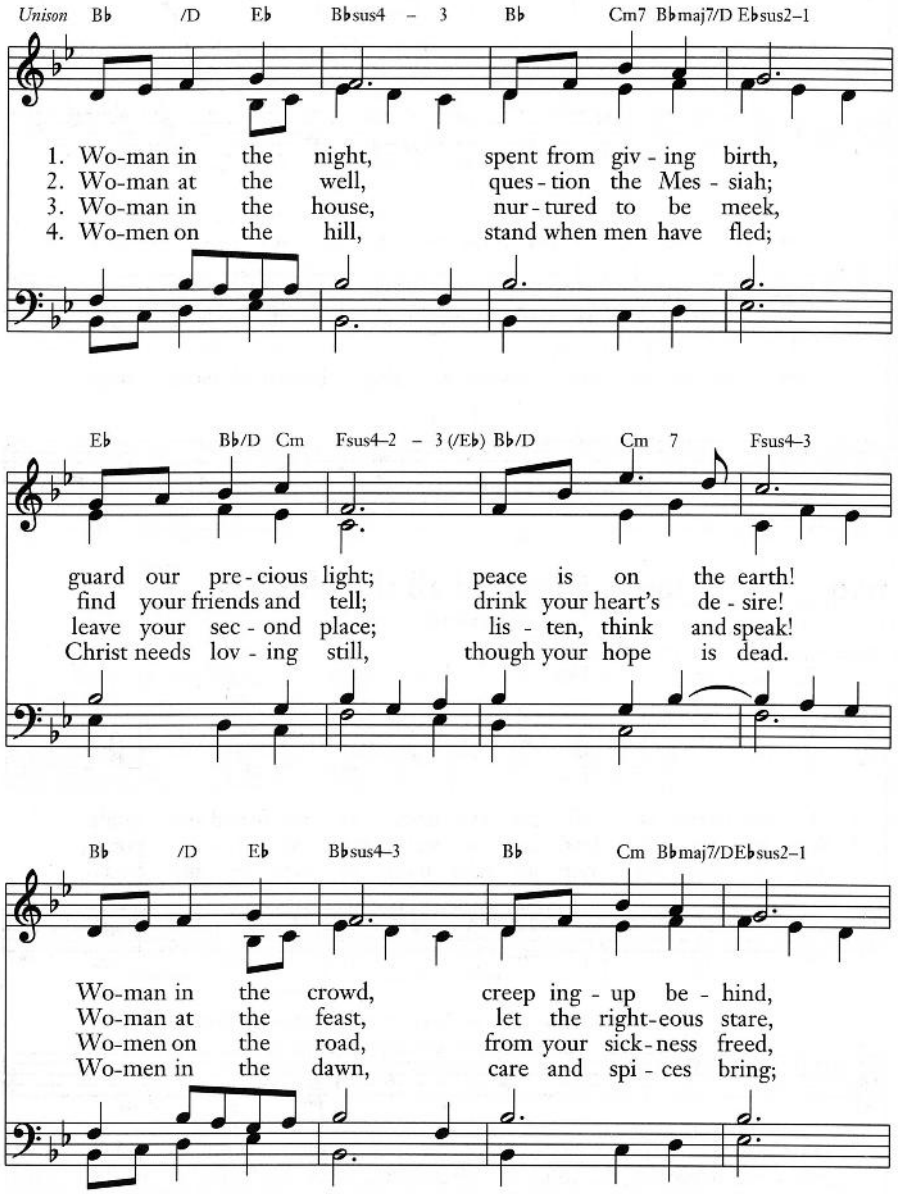
TRUSTING JESUS 7 7 7 7 with refrain

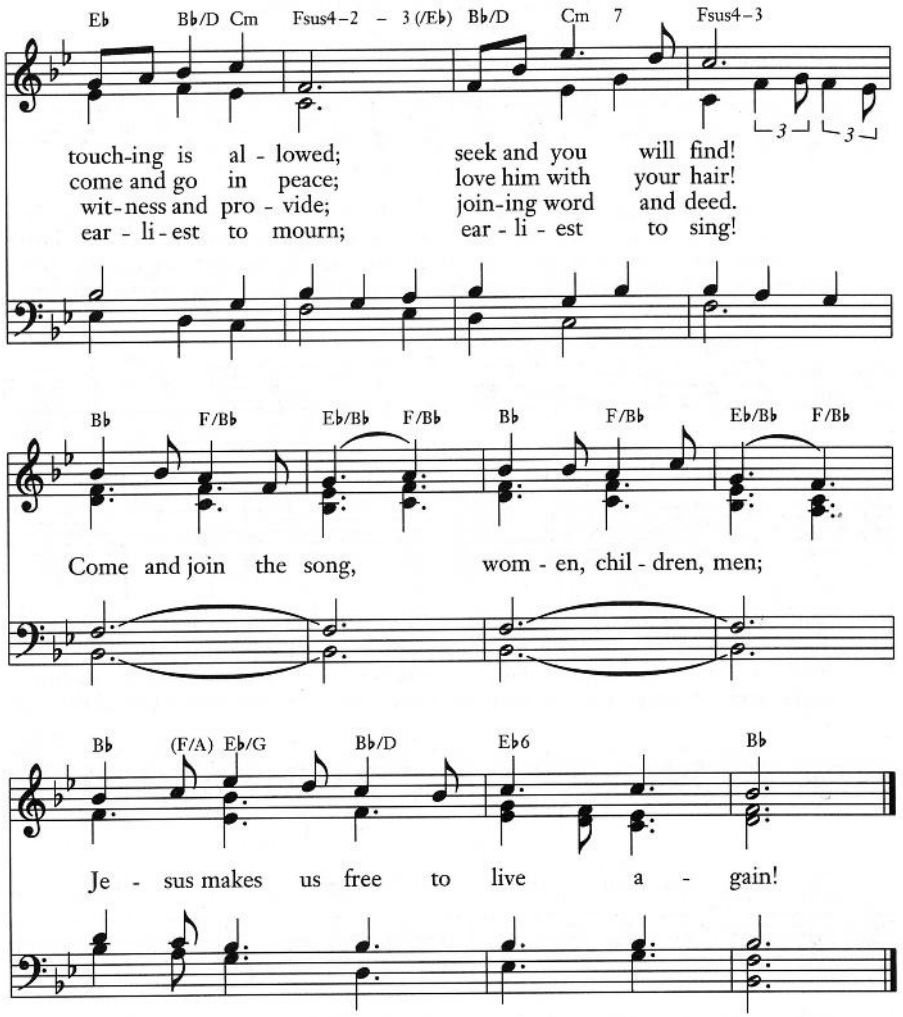


Words: Edgar Page Stites (1836–1921) Music: Ira David Sankey (1840–1908)
Words: public domain Music: public domain

657 Woman in the night

NEW DISCIPLES 10 10 10 10 with refrain (10 9)
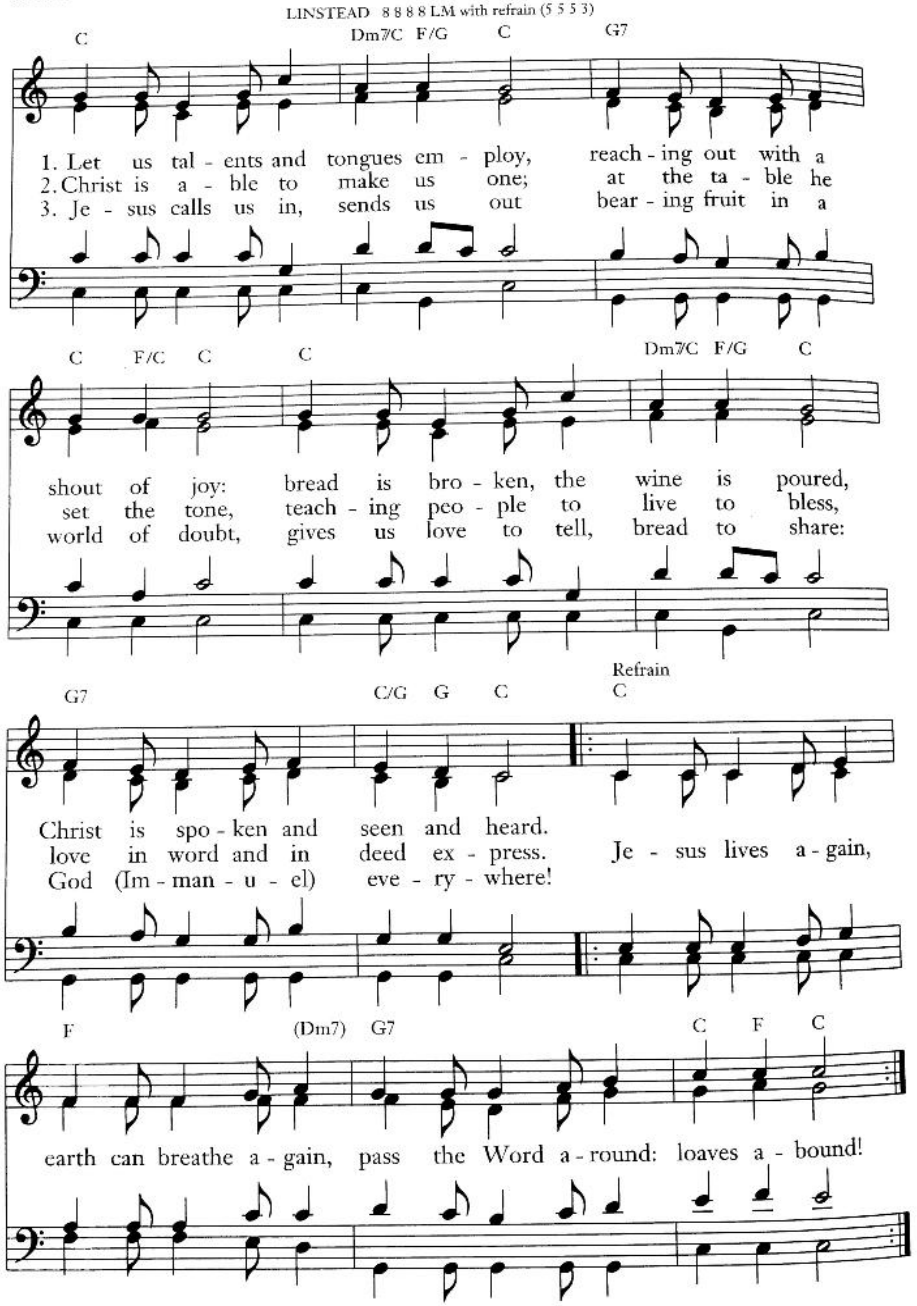




Words: Brian Wren (1936–) Music: Alfred Fedak (1953–)

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563 Let us talents and tongues employ

LINSTEAD 8 8 8 8 LM with refrain (5 5 5 3)



Words: Fred Kaan (1929–) Music: Jamaican folk song; adaptation, Doreen Potter (1925–1980); arrangement, Andrew Donaldson (1951–)

CCLI #4440603

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MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, November 1**



In Guatemala's Quetzaltenango region, many Indigenous farmers face food insecurity. Margarita is a single mother caring for her two nephews and her half-sister, who has a developmental disorder. Like many in her area, she must travel to access enough productive land to grow food. "What we harvest is not enough for the whole year," she shares. Margarita was chosen to help lead her community to greater food security through a program with Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas, a locally-based association of indigenous women supported by PWS&D. The project helped her grow consistent food for her family and share new techniques with others. "Now I plant my vegetables, even if it's only a few, because Fraternidad is training me." Regina adds that she also raises chickens now, as well as growing vegetables and herbs at home.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 1 (All Saints Day) We give thanks this day for all the saints who have gone before us—and remember the work of the Reformers.

Monday, November 2 We pray for the Atlantic Mission Society as they faithfully seek to live out their purpose to glorify God and to support with prayer, study, and service mission endeavours through The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Tuesday, November 3 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Mark Glanville and the Centre for Missional Leadership Team at St. Andrew's Hall, as they equip pastors, ruling elders, and laypeople for Christian work and witness across the country.

Wednesday, November 4 November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We pray for the healing and wholeness of all people harmed by domestic violence. Let us seek to be churches and communities that remove stigma and isolation and advocate for culturally appropriate and trauma-informed supports for people facing violence at home.

Thursday, November 5 We pray with grateful hearts for the students, staff and faculty of The Presbyterian College, Montreal as they meet the challenges and share in the joys of this academic year.

Friday, November 6 We pray for the Committee on Education and Reception as it meets on November 6th and 7th, that it may do its work with wisdom and grace.

Saturday, November 7 We pray for ministries that reflect God's love by welcoming newcomers to Canada with compassion, friendship, and practical support as they begin new lives in our communities.