

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

Who do you listen to?

November 8, 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.



Surrendering it all to Jesus - Robert Young

New Hope: making sandwiches for people in need Tue Nov 10, 1pm
Nov 17, 1-2:30 pm, Fall Prevention

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).

Farewell to Principal Roland DeVries Nov 25. 5-7pm
at Presbyterian College. RSVP by Nov 11

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

Read the Bible in a year: starting November 29
Join others in reading through the Bible in one year (3-4 chapters a day). Let Peter or Rose M know if you are interested.

Contacts

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Rose Ngo Mbenoun (Clerk of Session). .admin@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Ceremony of Remembrance

Invitation to Remembrance

This is the Sunday closest to Remembrance Day, and so before we gather to worship God, you are invited to remember those who have sacrificed to bring peace for others.

♫ Pipes: March

As we prepare for the moment of silence, I'd like to share the words that Chaplain General Lisa Pacarynuk shared at a memorial service for come of the people killed recently at CFB Wainwright.[2]

We gather with heavy hearts to remember Sgt Morgan Wong, Pte Aidan Goulding, Pte Shane Farrell, and Hayden Lykkemark,
And to acknowledge those who grieve,
And those whose wounds have changed their lives forever.
We stand alongside their families, friends, teammates, and all who now suffer.

Words cannot fully express the sorrow of the lives cut short or the emptiness left behind.
We remember beloved sons, brothers and brothers-in-arms, friends and teammates.

We hold the injured in our hearts. We acknowledge the depth of pain for all touched by this event.

We are deeply grateful for those who responded with so much courage, compassion, and professionalism during this devastating time;
may they also be upheld by loved ones and caregivers as they recover from the wounds we cannot see.

May we all be strengthened and comforted today by the spiritual tradition, cultural practice or personal beliefs that we hold.
May we take solace from those gathered here and those friends from around the world who share the grief of those lost in service to country

Let us be there for one another in times of sorrow and times of joy.
May the loved ones of our fallen be surrounded by care, may the wounded find healing and hope
and may all who mourn find comfort and strength, today and in the days to come.
We will remember them.



♫ Last Post:

Moment of Silence

♫ Pipers Lament

Poem: They shall not grow old.....Peggy Wegrich

♫ Reveille/Rouse

♫ O Canada.....pg 8 (833)

♫ Pipes: March

Approaching God

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

2 you can find this and a prayer from the Presbyterian Church Moderator here: presbyterian.ca/2026/10/20/a-prayer-by-the-moderator-on-the-news-of-fatalities-and-injuries-at-canadian-forces-base-wainwright-alberta/

Call to worship (Psalm 85:7-13)

Show us your unfailing love, O God, our Saviour,
and grant us your salvation.
Listen to what the Lord our God says:
He promises peace to his people,
who are his beloved saints.
The Lord will indeed give what is good.
Righteousness goes before him
and prepares the way for his steps.
May the Lord make his holy face to shine upon us
May we see God's face and so know peace.

♫ Hymn: How firm a foundation.....pg 9 (685)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=kA4bTqCjLQw



Wondrous Love - Linda Witte Henke

Prayer of Approach

Almighty God,
you created us in your image.
We don't like being ignored,
especially when we can save someone grief.
What do you feel?
annoyed?
frustrated?
offended?
Here and now we are listening for you,
but we confess that's not always true.
It is so easy to listen to our society
and focus on ourselves,
ignoring you and your ways.
You sent the commandments, the prophets, Jesus, and others
since - reminding us of your values:
...to build to share joy, not for ourselves
...to trust you with our needs, and not want more
...to work at serving others
We hear this,
but we also listen to other voices,
promising us more comfort, if only we give up on you
and follow them.
Please Lord, forgive us. . .
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

When I was in school, sometimes people didn't get along. They might be teasing that wasn't appreciated. Or somebody might take things from another person's lunch. Sometimes there was even fighting. Our teachers taught us ways to respond.

Have your teachers taught you things to do if there is bullying or a fight? . . . [*tell a teacher, get help, use words, say 'no'*]

These are good ideas. Our next hymn is called, *Make me a channel of your peace*, and we can all think of your ideas as we sing it. But first let's pray...

Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Help us share your ways of living
so that everyone can live in peace.
Amen.

♫ Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace.....pg 10 (740)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=daGWdbrSGBM



acts of kindness - Karma

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that we will listen to you above all others.
Amen.

Intro to the readings

The last couple of weeks we've had passages from the book of Kings, which tells stories of the kings of Judah and Israel (the southern and northern kingdoms of the Hebrew people). It's not the only place to hear these stories - there's also the various books of prophets. Prophets tell people the word of God, and often it's aimed at the leaders - the kings. Sometimes these are words of hope, but often they are warnings to change or face the consequences. Today's passage is set in Jerusalem, the capital of

the southern kingdom of Judah. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was smashed about 20 years earlier. We're going to hear the version in Isaiah.

It's interesting to know some of the international politics of the time. Assyria was the dominant kingdom to the north and across to the Persian Gulf through Iraq. Their rival was Egypt. At times their borders expanded to touching, but when there were internal struggles the borders shrank. There had been quite a while when these big empires were focused inward and border nations, like Israel and Judah, had a chance to live somewhat independently - and prospered. At the time of this story Judah and their neighbours were having to pay Assyria a tax. When the Babylonians started a rebellion they decided to have one themselves - and got support from Egypt. However Assyria got its act together, squashed the Babylonian challenge, for now, and have turned their attention to the area around Judah. You'll hear more about that in a minute.

One of the characters that speaks a lot is 'the Rabshakeh'. This is a high ranking Assyrian official. The text tells us the Rabshakeh, with the Assyrian army, are coming from Lachish. This was the second most important city after Jerusalem - and to the south-west... the opposite side of Jerusalem as the Assyrian Empire. The Fuller's Field is on their way.

Isaiah is a big book, which is why it's the first of the prophets section. It covers about 2½ centuries. It doesn't pretend to be written by one person, but is rather Isaiah and his disciples. Despite all this, the themes are consistent: that there is breach between the people and God, that social justice needs to happen, and that there will be judgment, punishment, and transformation.

Today's main passage is from near the end of the first section that happens prior to the exile. The second passage is part of a summary at the beginning of the book. We'll use it as our responsive psalm.

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

Isaiah 36
Isaiah 37: 1-7
Isaiah 2: 1-5



Monty Python

Sermon: Who do you listen to?

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

Have you heard a passage like that on Sunday before? The Rabshakeh delivers some pretty strong insults. But why are the people of Jerusalem having to listen to this psychological warfare? Why didn't God stop the Assyrian army from taking down all their fortified cities?

Why? They had listened to themselves instead of God. And now they had to listen to the Assyrians gloat. They listened to their desire for more: more comfort and wealth, more control and power. To get this they turned to the ways of their

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

neighbours, importing not only goods, but beliefs and values. Even when God sent Isaiah to warn them that their pride would lead to their fall, they continued to listen to themselves… until they had to hear the Rabshakeh at the door trying to convince the populous to give up.

And one of the things the Rabshakeh said (on behalf of the Assyrian king) was, "The Lord said to me, Go up against this land, and destroy it." Why didn't God stop the Assyrians? Because God sent them to the chosen people who weren't listening. Assyria did listen to God, and it was going well for them… until they also were filled with pride and stopped respecting the Lord God Almighty. This led, as Isaiah says, to the downfall of the arrogant servants of Assyria.

Now, with an army at his door fresh from conquering the rest of the kingdom, King Hezekiah seeks out God. This, and the Rabshakeh disrespecting God, turns things around.

I expect you can see modern parallels to what's going on here. It's somewhat depressing that people are still hurling insults at each other. That they are still killing others because they think they are more important. Still not trusting God to provide for their needs, but need to take more and more for themselves.[4]

But imagine everyone turned to God? If everyone listened to God? Isaiah gives many "Woe to you" speeches, but also hope filled visions of transformation. We said one of them today. Everyone, including other nations, are listening to God. They are flowing up to the heights - which is not the way anything usually flows. Their listening to God leads to peace - which can seem as unlikely as flowing uphill. When people listen to God they will be able to turn their weapons for death into tools for life.[5]

From where will this peace come? "The mountain of the Lord's house, the word of the Lord from Jerusalem." If I were Jewish I'd think of the Temple on the Temple mount. But I'm Christian, so I think of Jesus. An interesting geological detail, The Mount of Olives where Jesus prayed before the crucifixion, Golgotha where he was killed, and the likely site of the tomb where he rose again are all higher than the Temple. The Christ The Christ is also referred to as the Word of the Lord - and Jesus' words have the same themes as Isaiah of trusting God to lead you into life - a life filled with mercy and peace.

When will peace happen? When people listen to God. This won't happen all at once, but one person at a time. RAWtools[6] is an example. After the 2012 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School a friend of Mike Martin questioned owning a similar gun. Inspired by Isaiah, they took it to a blacksmith. The AK-47 was dismantled and turned into a shovel and rake. This led to him starting RAWtools, a non-profit that creates dialogue in communities, provides nonviolence training, and have turned more than 6 000 guns into tools and art (so far). They now have locations in four states, and have inspired others to start something similar.



RAWtools

4 I read again this week that we can produce enough food to feed everyone, but we make other choices.

5 There will also be less widows and orphans with the farmers not being fodder for the king's interests.

6 rawtools.org
reasonstobecheerful.world/nationwide-movement-turning-guns-into-garden-tools

When will peace happen? When people listen to God - one person at a time. You and I are part of the answer. But it doesn't stop with us. Jesus also tells us to go out and share the Good News. While the Holy Spirit goes ahead of us, God also invites us to show the way of mercy and peace.

To God be all the glory.
Amen.



Responding to God

♫ Hymn: Lord, Speak to Me.....pg 11 (767)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7OQ4P7dXpYk (quiet)

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: What do you do to feel at peace?

Etching: Can you think of a specific example where you trusted God rather than what made sense, and it led to a positive experience?

Values: Do you know someone who might need some peace? Brainstorm with each other how you could help them know peace.

Action: Is there a relationship in your life that causes you not to be at peace? Share this, and if you want suggestions (or not).

Reflecting: Identify specific examples of how our society does not respect God's values. Can you think of negative consequences?

Visions: When the world is all at peace, imagine what that will be like. What elements of now will God want; that God says is good? What will change?

Prayer: ...that we can live into God's peace, and share it.



Flower Thrower (West Bank) - Banksy

Spirit Sightings

Looking after others, especially those who can't look after themselves, is a mark of the Holy Spirit. Remembrance Day is a good time to remember those who risk their lives for others.

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. We will also be praying for those serving in the military and as first responders - all those who risk their lives to protect others.

We are surrounded with stories:
good news stories,
bad news stories,
true stories,
rumours.

We are surrounded with rumours:
rumours quickly dismissed,
rumours which cause questions,
rumours which destroy people,
institutions,
nations.

Silence

We pray for all who are suffering
or who continue to suffer
as the result of the thoughtlessness of others.
May they take some shade of comfort
in knowing that you know the truth.
We pray for healing of heart and reputation.

Silence

God of grace,
we pray for those
who know that they have hurt others,
sometimes unaware of their actions before it is too late.
May they know that the past cannot be undone,
but the future can be different.

Silence

Lord, may we turn words from weapons to wisdom,
our actions from hurt to healing.
May we change the rumours attached to people and places
to bring about positive change
in a world that needs it so desperately.
For your love's sake we pray.
Amen.

♫ Hymn: In Christ there is no east or west.....pg 11 (480)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tEwLle8Ue4Y

Benediction
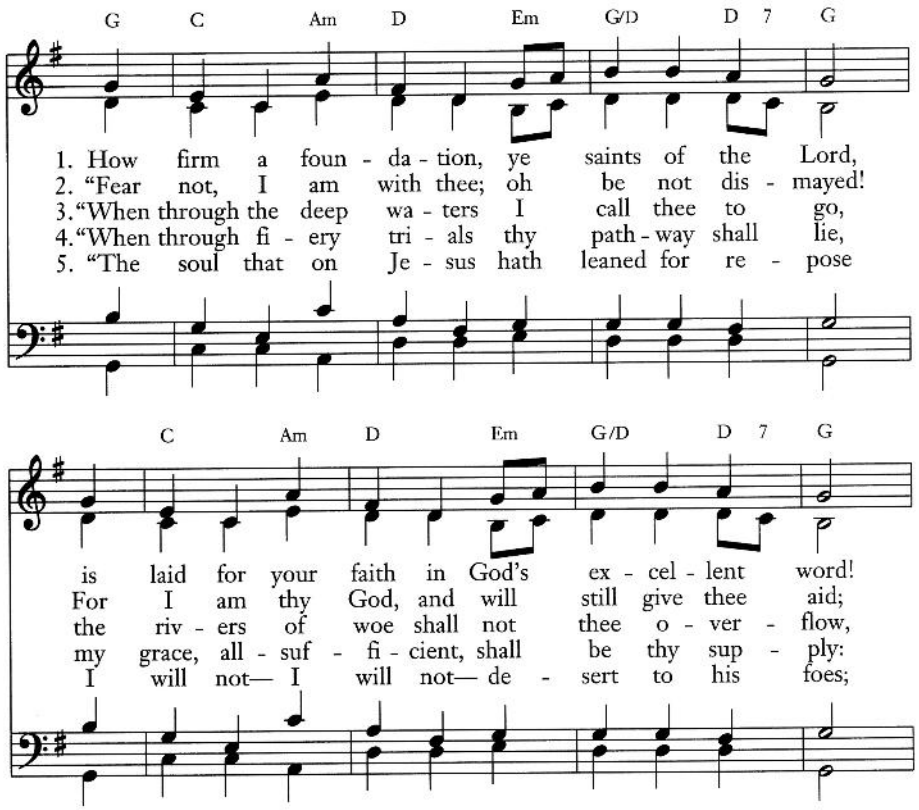
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.[7] *Amen*
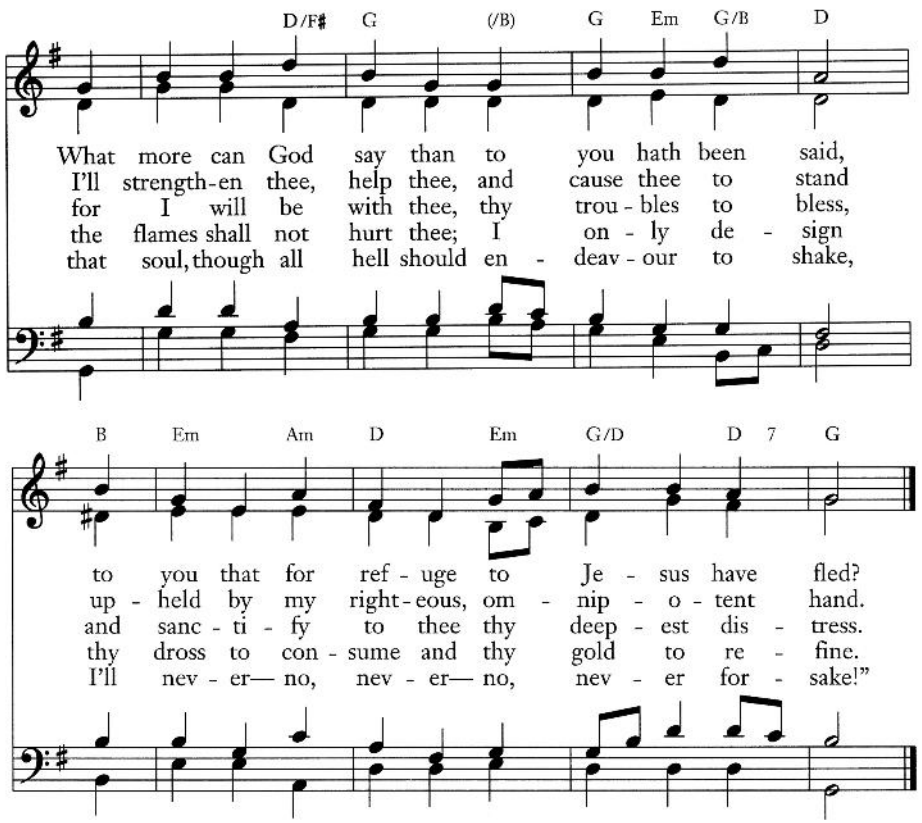


7 2 Corinthians 13:13

685 How firm a foundation

ST. DENIO 11 11 11 11



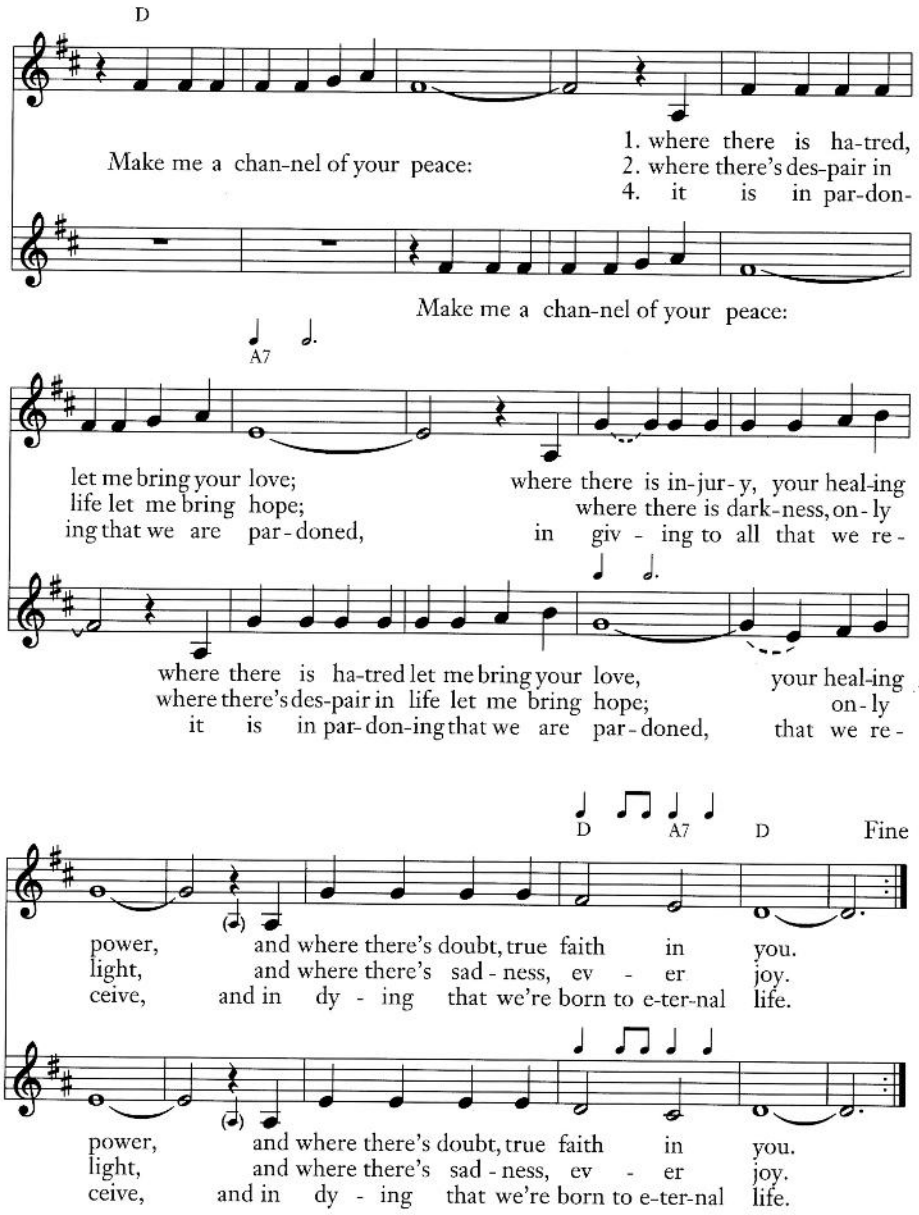


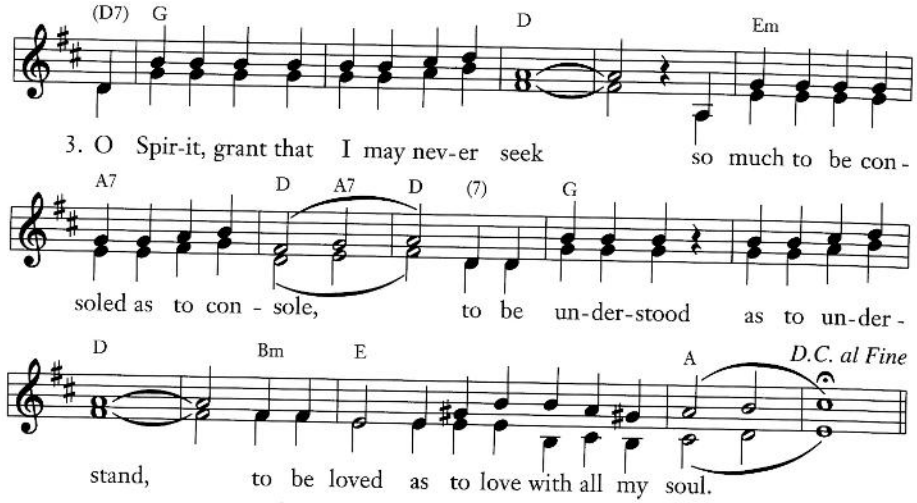
Words: K in Rippon's Selection of Hymns 1787 Music: Welsh hymn

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740 Make me a channel of your peace

MAKE ME A CHANNEL 8 10 10 8
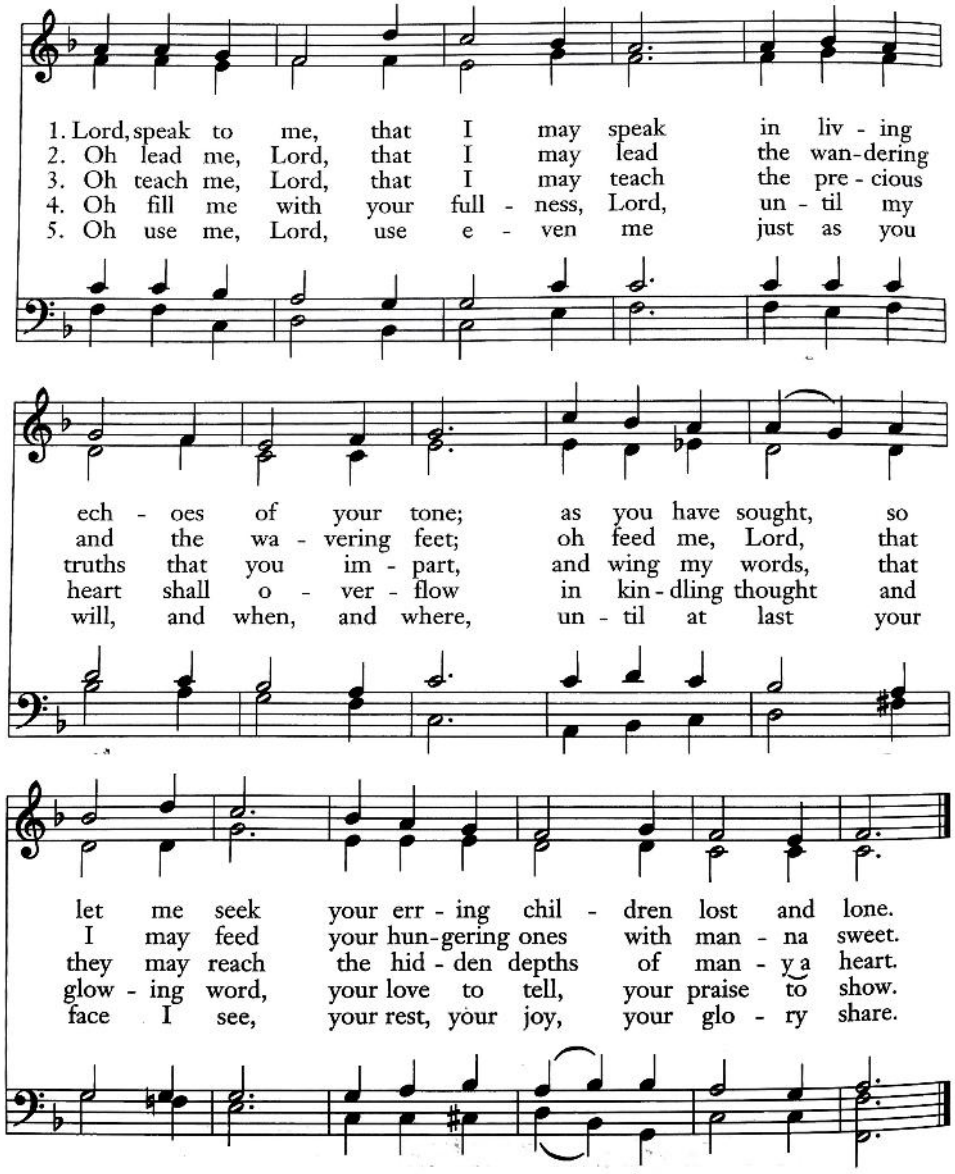




Words: Saint Patrick of Ireland (372–466) Music: Sebastian Temple (1928–); arrangement, the compilers of Praise Ways

Words: public domain Music: copyright © Franciscan Communications Centre, 1968
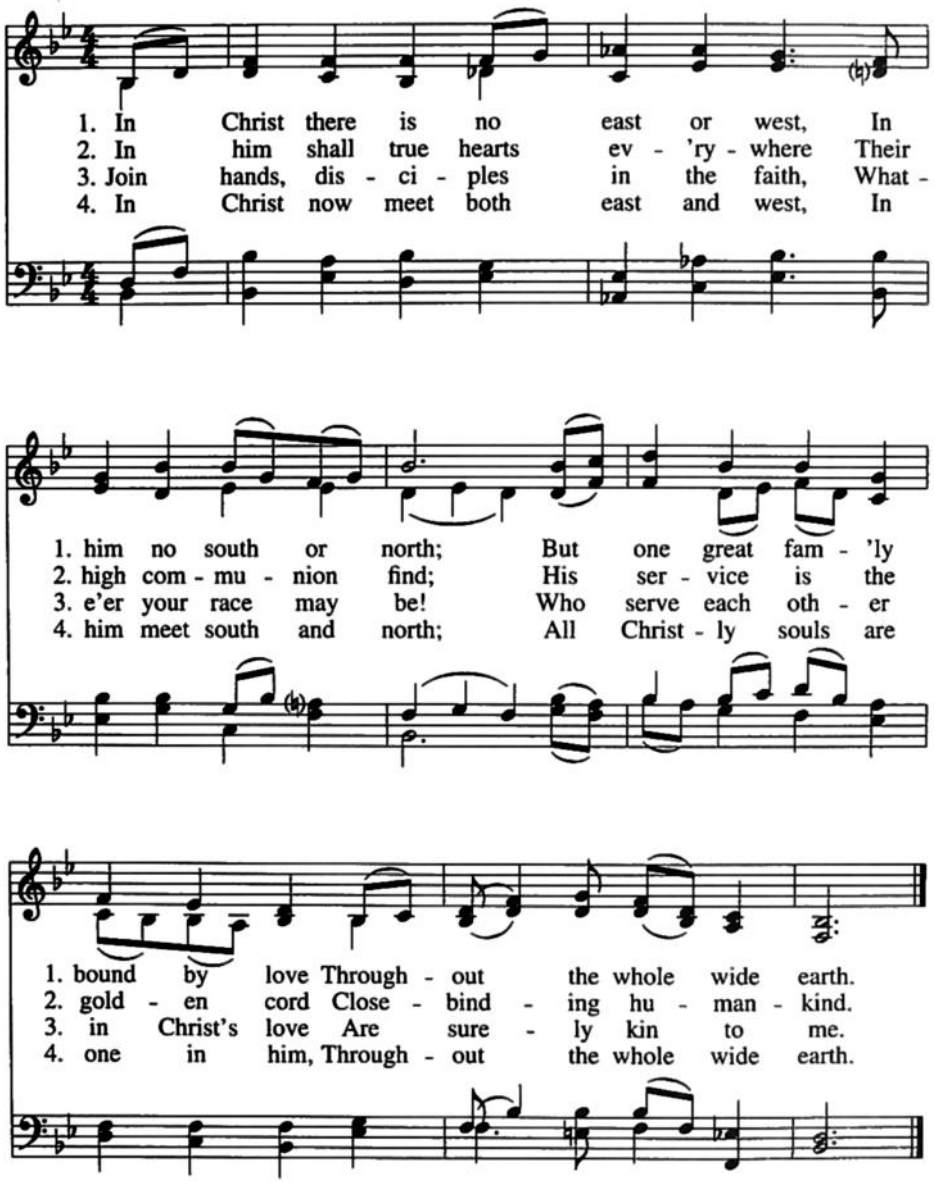
767 Lord, speak to me



Words: Frances Ridley Havergal (1836-1879) Music: Samuel Sebastian Wesley (1810-1876)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

IN CHRIST THERE IS NO EAST OR WEST 548



Text: CM; based on Galatians 3:28; John Oxenham, 1852–1941, alt.
Music: McKEE; Spiritual; adapt. and arr. by Harry T. Burleigh, 1866–1949.

MISSION MOMENT **Sunday, November 8**



The Nigerian Presbyterian Church was established through a mission partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the Presbyterian Church of Nigeria. With support from Presbyterians Sharing, the congregation welcomed the Rev. Dr. Ukoha Ngwobia Ukoha from Nigeria in 2025 to serve as its minister. Together, they are creating a caring faith community where newcomers to Canada can experience God's love through friendship, worship, and practical support. As families navigate the challenges of beginning life in a new country, the church offers encouragement, connection and hope.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 8 On Indigenous Veterans Day we pray for and honour all First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who have served in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Monday, November 9 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca.

Tuesday, November 10 We pray for the Rev. Lara Scholey, Moderator of the 151st General Assembly, as she participates in meetings of the Life and Mission Agency and Assembly Council this month.

Wednesday, November 11 (Remembrance Day) We pray for those serving in the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring spiritual guidance and support to our troops and their families at home and abroad.

Thursday, November 12 As we look to the 100th anniversary, we give thanks for the many people who have nurtured the partnership of the PCC and the Korean Christian Church in Japan.

Friday, November 13 As the land begins its season of quiet rest, we pray for the guests who seek time away at Crieff Hills Retreat Centre. May they be blessed with renewal and transformation during their stay.

Saturday, November 14 We pray for the Change Leadership Team as it seeks to understand and address barriers to implementing innovative models of ministry that can renew and strengthen our witness to the Gospel.



Remembrace Day poster 2026 - Chaelyn Han