



Kensington Presbyterian Church

What do you see?

February 21, 2021

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer, or even in small groups outside.

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

Lent with the Moderator: Leaning into the Promises of God

Sunday, February 21 from 4-5 p.m. for a shared time reflecting on Bible passages for Lent or our current challenges. Register here: <https://presbyterian.ca/2021/02/01/lent-with-the-moderator/>

Lent Activities: If you are interested in other opportunities for Lent, please check out last week's bulletin.

Rev. Peter will be away for the next two week on Study Leave, and then vacation (child care) during March break. As a result...

Clara Maranzano will be leading worship again.

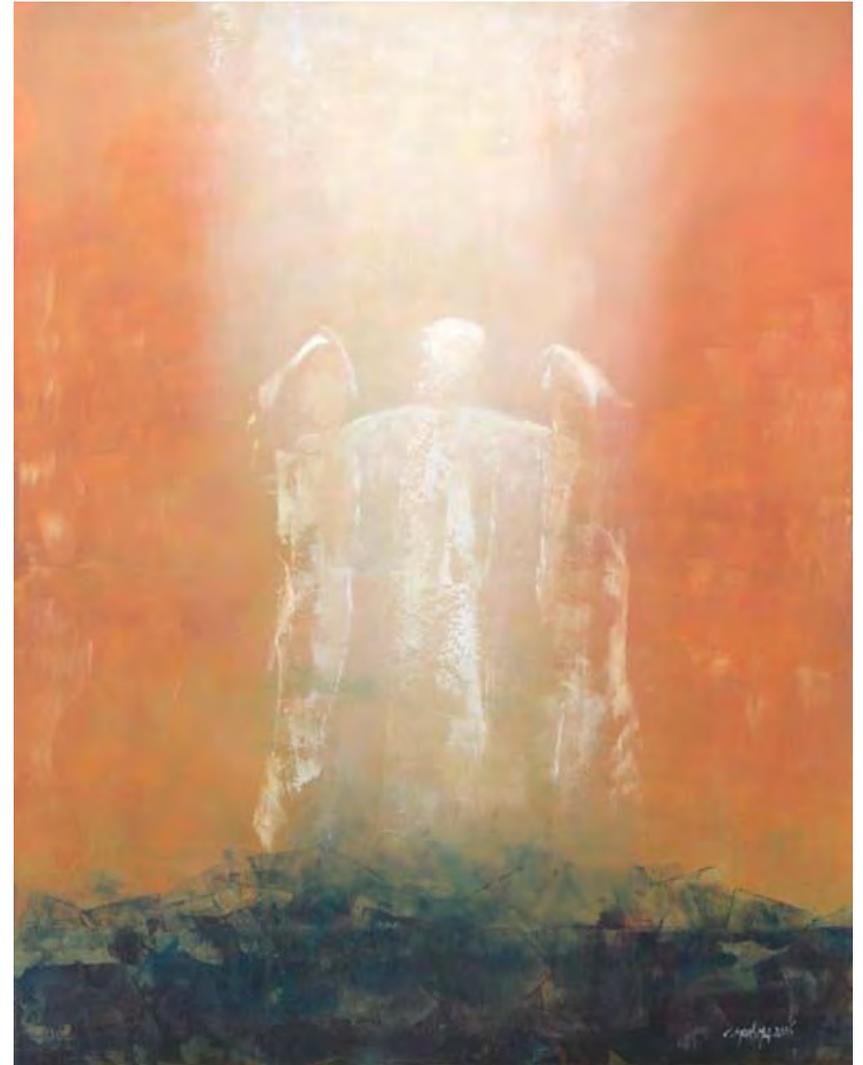
Communion: will be delayed a week to March 14th.

Prayer Group: as a group, we'll take a break until March 10th.

Pastoral Care: If you need pastoral care, please contact your elder or the church office.

Live Worship: After Montréal is no longer a Red Zone, Session will reconsider when we feel it is safe to open. If you would like the Zoom information, please contact Peter.

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



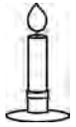
Transfiguration of Jesus - C Monsma

Contacts

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Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca



Approaching God



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



Call to worship (which is from the PWS&D (Presbyterian World Service and Development) and is being used by congregations across Canada)

Lent is a journey with Jesus toward Jerusalem,
toward the cross, toward resurrection and new life.
We will be transformed and blessed on this journey.

We are pilgrims on a journey.

We are travelers on the road.

We undertake the journey knowing we will not remain the same.

We are pilgrims on a journey.

We are travelers on the road.

The journey will take time.

We will feel the strain in our bodies and in our souls,
yet love will urge us onward.

We are pilgrims on a journey.

We are travellers on the road.

Let us start the journey with prayer:

**God of all times and places,
as we begin the pilgrimage
from life to death to new life,
you will surprise us
and nurture us.
We put our trust in you,**

**knowing you will guide
and provide for us.
In the name of Jesus we pray,
Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Follow me, the Master said.....pg 9
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDc5SJoX-DQ



Prayer of Confession

Amazing God,
as we gather with you we admit that sometimes we don't get it.
We speak when we should listen,
and are quiet when we should speak.
We act when we should be still,
and are still when we should act.
There are even times when we want to take you aside
and tell you that what you intend is too demanding.
Please forgive us for the pain that we cause
and the suffering we allow. . .

Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Here the good news as shared by Paul to the Corinthians - & us
Now the Lord is the Spirit,
and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom.
And all of us, with unveiled faces,
seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror,
are being transformed into the same image
from one degree of glory to another,
for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit.
In Jesus Christ we are forgiven and transformed!
Praise be to God!²

2 2 Corinthians 3: 17-18 Worship Sourcebok H.2.4.1

 Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)
Jesus left us a prayer to guide us into a healthier relations with God and each other. Let us join with Christians around the world, saying...

**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.
Amen.**

Hymn: You Lord, are both lamb and shepherd.....pg 10
youtu.be/2UINbIPzMYo?t=3503

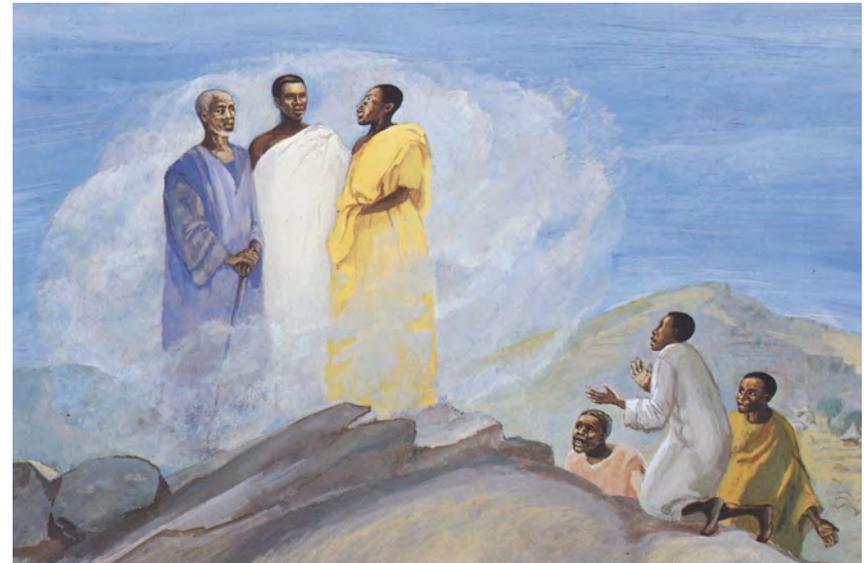


Listening to God

 Prayer³
Holy God,
you revealed to the disciples
the everlasting glory of Jesus Christ.
Grant us, who have not seen and yet believe,
the gift of your Holy Spirit,
that we may boldly live the gospel

3 Worship Sourcebook H.3.1.1

and shine with your transforming glory
as people changed and changing
through the redeeming presence of our Savior.
Amen.



Transfiguration from Jesus MAFA

Intro to the readings

- Today's passage from Mark is a big jump. We go from the beginning right to the middle. There's a reason for this... it marks a big turning point in the book. So far Jesus has been going around teaching and healing. After this the journey focused on Jerusalem and what will happen there.
- The psalm paints us a picture - I invite you to imagine being there.

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

[Psalm 50: 1-6](#)
[Mark 8:27 to 9:9](#)

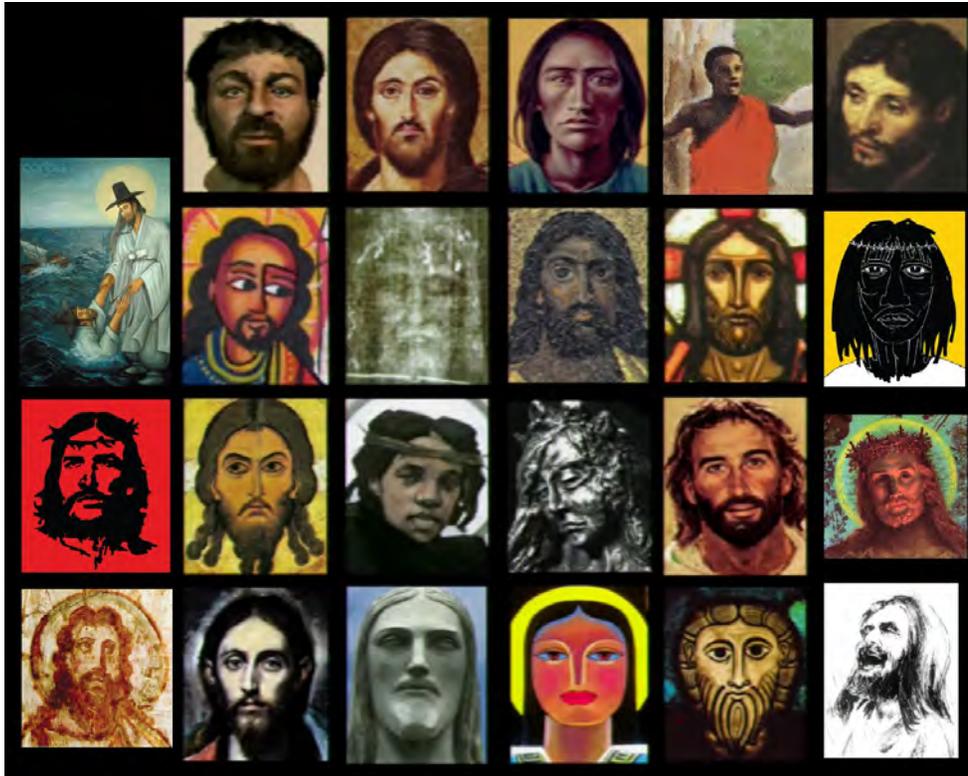
Sermon: What do you see?

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁴ Amen.

Our gospel passage starts with Jesus asking the disciples, “*Who do people say that I am? ...who do you say that I am?*”

This is an important question in Mark - and Peter answers with flying colours. “*You are the Christ.*” Now, you and I know that this should be the answer, but he is the first in the gospel to identify Jesus as the Messiah.⁵ But what does this mean? What does he see in Jesus?

What do you see in Jesus?



4 Psalm 19:14

5 Christ is in Greek, Messiah in Hebrew

Perhaps for you Jesus is...

- a leader to provide a set of rules
or to sort out when something unjust happens,
like a king;
- the ‘go to’ person when help is needed,
like a servant;
- to tell the word of God,
or provide a vision for how to live right with God,
like a prophet;
- somebody who loves you,
like a parent or a lover.

Are you not sure which to pick? That’s okay. A great thing about this passage is that all of those ideas are in it.

When God’s voice says, “*You are my son*” it might be referring to Psalm 2:7 where the Lord says, “*You are my son*” while talking about establishing a King. Of course, you don’t need to make connections like that. When God says “*You are my son*” that makes the person heir to the throne of the King of kings. Kings are the ultimate judge and preserver of justice.

The idea of the Law is even stronger in the passage. Moses received the 10 Commandments and taught the Israelites how to live in response to God’s love. Moses’ presence shows this side of Jesus.

Then there’s an idea from the other end of the palace hierarchy - that of the servant. While it’s not in the version in Mark, in the Gospel According to Matthew God also says, “*with him I am well pleased.*” This could be a reference to Isaiah 42:1 where God says, “*Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, with whom I am well pleased; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring*

forth justice to the nations.” Of course, there are stronger examples of Jesus being a servant in other passages, but this could be a reference to our King being a servant - somebody who humbly helps us with our needs... often without being asked, thanked, or even noticed.

Then there’s the presence of Elijah, probably the most legendary prophet of old. Elijah shows the prophet part of Jesus - the one who delivers the word of God so that we can have a vision of the Kingdom of God.

And then there’s those two words in the middle of God’s declaration, “*the Beloved.*” Because it comes right after “*my Son*” we tend to think loved like a parent loves a child. This certainly matches the many times Jesus calls God ‘*Abba*’ or Father; but after our time in *Song of Songs* last week where the two lovers are constantly talking about their ‘beloved’... well, it reminds me of who much God is passionate about us. This is, perhaps, an appropriate reminder at the beginning of Lent that we are journeying to Jesus’ crucifixion, also known as ‘The Passion’.

I also find that meeting Moses and Elijah on a mountain reminds me of when they previously met God on a mountain: Moses in earthquakes and Elijah in silence. This reminds us that you might meet Jesus in big powerful earthshaking moments, or in stillness.

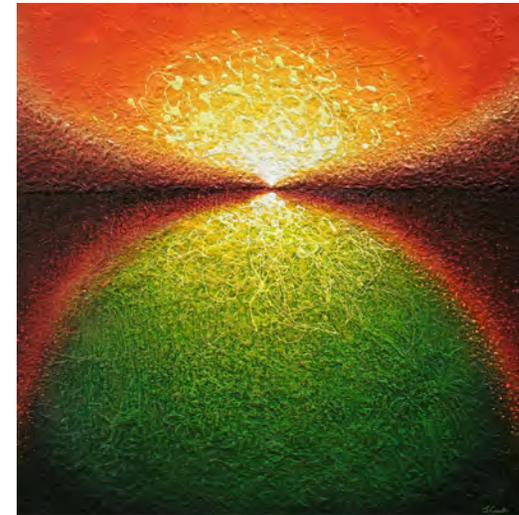
What do you see in Jesus?

I don’t know if you picked one of those, or something else, but they are there. It’s most likely that you see different parts of this Jesus picture depending on where you are in life at the time. When you are feeling vulnerable, Jesus loves you. When you notice something that isn’t fair, Jesus is King. When you are trying to figure out what to do, Jesus is the Prophet.

If this sounds like too much to hold in your head at once - it is. God is too vast for us to know all there is about God. Not only is this okay, but it means that God will be there no matter what. It also means that sometimes you may not have a clear vision of Jesus, or you might be disturbed by what God is asking.

You’re not alone.

This happened to Peter too... right after his realization that Jesus was the Messiah. Jesus starts to talk about how the leaders of the people are going to resent his vision so much that he will be killed. This is not Peter’s idea of the Messiah. Either he’s afraid, or he’s unclear of what the Messiah is. Either way, Jesus treats him like he’s possessed by a demon.



Transfiguration -Jaison Cianelli

Six days later, Peter has a mountaintop experience.

I’m sure you’ve had them. An occasion when something amazing happened. The rest of the world paused, and turned on that moment. How do you respond?

A small example might be after a series of gloomy days the sun breaks out from behind clouds. It is glorious. You want the



Responding to God

moment to last. If you imagine yourself walking down by the river then you might be tempted to buy a house there. Except life doesn't work that way. Even if you stayed there, the world keeps spinning and the sun would move and disappear. It'll be back, but things will have changed. This sounds a bit depressing, but only if you resist the journey.

Peter has a glimpse of the glory of God and he wants to stay in it... except life doesn't work that way. It is a mountain-top experience. The world both stood still and changed in the moment. The direction of Jesus' journey is now to Jerusalem, where he will experience great suffering and rejection. Again, not what Peter had in mind.

It's 'interesting' getting to know someone. Remember getting to know a new colleague or neighbour - although a better example is having a new love. It doesn't matter if this is one of those pre-teen loves with an actor or musician in a magazine, or one with a person later. You see beauty in them, and more. Perhaps they inspire you or make you feel special. As you spend more time together you see more about them: what makes them angry; what makes them laugh, or cry. Different skills and talents they have. Different ways they respond to you and you respond to them. You discover what a complex person they are.

Jesus is like that, and more. In today's passage we have references to Jesus as servant and King, judge and visionary, law giver and lover - and the last one is key. It's what links all the aspects of Jesus, of God, together.

Love.

and to God be all the glory.

Amen.

🎵 Anthem: Cast Your Burden on the Lord".....Sally DeFord
soundcloud.com/sally-deford-music/cast-your-burden-on-the-lord-2

🗨️ 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's the earliest impression/story you have of Jesus? (maybe from Sunday School, a bedtime prayer, a song, ...)

Wonder: What would it have been like to meet Jesus? What would you say to him?

Values: Which aspect of Jesus is most important to you at the moment? Explain why you are relating to that? Which aspect do you least relate to? What might you be missing out on?

Actions: Show/explain Jesus with just your body.

Actions: Draw/paint/dance/cook/play the transfiguration experience (Mark 9: 2-9).

✦ Spirit Sighting

Along with our call to worship and opening prayer, Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is providing us with stories of God's Spirit working through people. Please see more on page 9.

✦ 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.

Prayers of the people

Jesus,

We thank you that you are so much for us.

As our King,
we thank you for the justice that we experience.

The say we have in our lives;
that society recognizes we have rights
and helps to protect them.

and we pray for those who with various forms of injustice
whether as a society in Myanmar,
or racism here in Montréal.

We pray that your Kingdom will come.

As our servant,
we thank you for the way you are there for use
whether we ask you or not,
whether we thank you or not,
whether we see you or not.

We thank you for the ways that you help us
that we never notice.

Jesus, there are many people who need you.

We pray that they may experience your presence in their lives
as they try to put food on the table,
or pay the bills,
or get along with others,
or . . .

One of the ways you helped people in the Bible, and now, is
through healing.

We pray for those whose bodies, minds or souls
need healing and peace. . .

As our Prophet,

you give us a vision of what the world can be like.

We thank you for the relationships that are caring
and supportive;

for the ways that we can live our gifts
and use them to help others experience their gifts.

We pray for those who don't experience the joy
that can be found in you;

who are trapped by their desires of boxed in by another.

We pray that your vision will come.

Often those in power resist changes to the world.

Jesus, help us to take up our cross and risk society's attacks
as we help bring about your vision of a peaceable
kingdom for all.

Let us not confuse this with suffering because we are being
taken advantage of or due to abuse

As the Beloved,

we thank you that you are love.

That your justice, service & vision are all about your love for
all people... for all of creation.

May your love fill us up to overflowing,
so that everyone around us may feel it
and want to know you more.

We leave these prayers with you Jesus,
knowing that you are protecting us from the worst.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Lord, the light of your love is shining.....pg 11
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9nUOfxqPXQ

✦ Benediction

*May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
Shine in our hearts, transform our lives,
and brighten the world.
And the blessing of God almighty,
rest upon you always.*

Amen.



Sunday, February 21

MISSION MOMENT

(1st Sunday in Lent | Heritage Sunday)

We give thanks to God for our ancestors, and pray that we might remember and appreciate the gifts they have passed down to us.

Certainty in the Midst of Change

We live in a world that is constantly changing. The past year brought unprecedented change, and we had to learn to adapt in our lives, jobs and congregations. In the midst of so much change, Presbyterians Sharing has continued to support the mission and ministry we do together—often in new and adaptive ways. What hasn't changed is our commitment to one another, discerning together, moving forward together, being in community together, sharing God's message together, confronting injustice together and caring for vulnerable people together. That's what Presbyterians Sharing is all about. As we put our gifts into God's hands, God is doing remarkable things.



DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, February 22 We pray for new ministers who may feel overwhelmed and alone in their first pastoral charge.

Tuesday, February 23 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent in Ont.

Wednesday, February 24 (Black History Month) We celebrate and give thanks for the contributions and prophetic witness of Black people in Canada.

Thursday, February 25 We pray for the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca's Ministry Committee. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

Friday, February 26 Eternal God, in the worry and anxiety of life, we pray for assurance that comes by faith alone: "Return, O my soul, to your rest, for the Lord has dealt bountifully with you" (Psalm 116:7).

Saturday, February 27 We remember in prayer the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024) and give thanks for those working to promote and protect the rights of people of African descent.

Follow me, the Master said

FOLLOW ME 7676776

D G/D D A7/C# D D/A A

1. "Fol - low me," the Mas - ter said;
 2. Should the world and sin op - pose,
 3. Though the way may dark ap - pear,
 4. Ev - er keep that end in view;

we will fol - low Je - sus.

D G/D D A7/C# D /F# A7 D

By his word and Spir - it led,
 He is great - er than our foes;
 He will make our path - way clear;
 All his prom - is - es are true;

we will fol - low Je - sus.

D/F# A7/E D A D/F# Em7 A7 D /F# A

Still for us he lives to plead, at the throne will in - ter - cede,
 On his prom - ise we de - pend; he will hear us and de - fend,
 In our dai - ly round of care, as we plead with God in prayer,
 When this earth - ly course is run, and the Mas - ter says, "Well done!"

D G /B D A7/C# D /F# A7 D

of - fers help in time of need;
 help and keep us to the end;
 with the cross which we must bear,
 life e - ter - nal we have won;

we will fol - low Je - sus.

Words: anonymous, alt Music: anonymous

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Igniting the Power of Women and Girls to Decide Their Future

In the small village of Bihar in India,
13-year-old Poonam learned that her parents
had arranged for her to be married in a few months.

In many parts of India, early marriages are a common practice and a
significant issue—58 percent of girls are married before the age of 18.
Girls who are forced into early marriages are taken out of school and
made vulnerable to sexually transmitted infections and early pregnancy.

At a PWS&D-supported information session that addressed issues of
gender, sexual and reproductive rights in her village, Poonam shared her
worries about her marriage with the session leader, Meera.

The next day, Meera met with Poonam's family. The information shared
by Meera helped Poonam's parents understand how important it was for
Poonam to stay in school. As a result the wedding was postponed and a
jubilant Poonam will be able to complete her education.

This Lenten season faithfully respond to empower women and girls with
the tools they need to break down barriers of inequality.

356 You, Lord, are both lamb and shepherd

PARADOX 878787

Gm Dm Gm Eb Cm6 D Gm F Bb/D Eb6 F 7 Gm

1. You, Lord, are both lamb and shep-herd. You, Lord, are both
 2. Clothed in light up - on the moun-tain, stripped of might up -
 3. You, who walk each day be - side us, sit in pow - er
 4. Wor - thy is our earth - ly Je - sus! Wor - thy is our

Dm 7 Eb Gm Eb6 F Bb/D Eb Cm Dsus4-3

prince and slave, you, peace-mak - er and sword - bring - er
 on the cross, shin - ing in e - ter - nal glo - ry,
 at God's side. You, who preach a way that's nar - row,
 cos - mic Christ! Wor - thy your de - feat and vic - tory.

Gm Cm6 Dsus4-3 Gm Dm/F Eb

of the way you took and gave, you, the ev - er -
 beg-gared by a sol - dier's toss, you, the ev - er -
 have a love that reach - es wide, you, the ev - er -
 Wor - thy still your peace and strife. You, the ev - er -

F Cm6/Eb D Gm Cm/Eb Dsus4-3 Gm (G)

last - ing in - stant, you, whom we both scorn and crave.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are both gift and cost.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are our pil - grim guide.
 last - ing in - stant, you, who are our death and life.

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) Music: John Van Maanen (1958-)

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Lord, the light of your love is shining

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE 9 9 10 10 6 with refrain (13 9 13 10)

Intro

Unison

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing in the midst of the
 2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the sha - dows in -
 3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fa - ces dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the
 to your ra - diance; by your blood I may
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from

World, shine up - on us. Set us free by the
 en - ter your bright - ness. Search me, try me, con -
 glo - ry to glo - ry: mir - rored here may our

truth you now bring us.
 sume all my dark-ness. Shine on me; shine on me.
 lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus shine; fill this land with the
 Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with

Fa - ther's glo - ry; blaze Spir - it, blaze, set our
 grace and mer - cy; send forth your word, Lord, and

1. hearts on fire. let there be light!

2. let there be light!

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