



Kensington Presbyterian Church

God's family values

March 27, 2022

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)

Contacts

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Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

Re-opening: We are once again welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube and a printable PDF. If you have questions, please contact us.

Zoom sound quality: We understand the quality of sound can be frustrating. As we cannot hear the sound over zoom, we appreciate the feedback that we receive. Please know we are doing are best. If you can help by being a host on Zoom please let us

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

know. (This will give our tech person more attention for the sound.)

Prayer Group: Thursdays 9 am at Benny Farm
3500 Benny Ave. Common Room beside central courtyard)

Visits: If you need a visit or prayer, please contact your elder or Rev. Peter.

We thank everyone who helped with the **Annual General Meeting** last week. In the photo you can see people in person and on the TV at the far side.



The Choir: has started again. 🎵🎵 We practice Sunday morning. In preparation for Easter we will also be practising Fridays from 7:30 until 9 pm.

Easter Scavenger Hunt: April 17 after worship. Please invite people.

NDG community council survey: March 30th

The Community Council would like to hear what we identify as priorities. God calls us to be active in our neighbourhoods, and this is one opportunity.

docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSca5BN5UTlseW1k3y4IZy-E9faFYAqe0tsOXZajcpOouevV9w/viewform?usp=sf_link

Elder abuse workshop: Tuesday, March 29 from 10:30-12

Please contact Tonya or Sharon at 450-691-1444
or email at info@mwcnc.ca

Black Cloth: We would like to borrow some large black cloth to use Easter weekend - perhaps a table cloth. Can you help?



Approaching God



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



Call to worship²

During Lent, we remember that even when we disobey and turn away, we are still loved by God.

God does not give up on us.

God breaks our stubbornness and calls us back from our wandering, so we can experience the joy and peace that comes from following Christ.

May we have the courage to hear, to change and to align ourselves with Christ.

Let us pray.

**Persistent God,
help us to listen for your voice.**

Let us hear what you are saying to us and make us willing to change our ways.

**Break our resistance, forgive our sins
and call us back to you.**

**In the name of Jesus Christ, our prophet, priest and king,
we pray.**

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Spirit come, dispel our sadness.....pg 11 (380)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=X4anYtYkV7w (one verse at a time)



Prayer of confession

O Lord, we would come to you
with the penitence of the prodigal son,
confessing that we have sinned against heaven and in your sight.

Blessed be your name!

You give freely of the bread of life to all who seek your fullness,
and you bestow a father's blessing on every returning wanderer.

We have wandered from you.

**We have used the goods you have given us
as though they belonged to us,
forgetting that our life and breath
and all things are from you.**

Often we have lived as if we had no heavenly Father
to thank for his goodness.

**We joined ourselves to the alien of a far country,
but no one gave to us what would feed and nourish us.**

**We sought food for our wants in earthly pleasures,
but they were only as husks to our souls.**

And now we come back crying,

“Why should we perish with hunger,
when there is bread enough in our Father's house to spare?”

**Oh, we thank you that we feel our wanderings
and have been inclined to come back to you.**

O God, be merciful to all sinners.

Grant us forgiveness.

Amen.³



Assurance of Pardon⁴

Hear these words through Joel & Paul

² from the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

³ Worship Sourcebook 2.2.67

⁴ based on Joel 2:13; 2 Corinthians 9:15, NRSV (*Worship Sourcebook* J.2.4.4)

Return to the Lord your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.
In Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!



The Lord's Prayer

To help us repent together, let us join in *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

♪ Hymn: Breathe on me breath of God.....pg 12 (389)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9hn5pzPRKA (big church)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=1N_EXkWA-qM (smaller)



Prayer for Illumination

Send your Spirit among us, O God,
as we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.
Prepare our minds to hear your Word.
Move our hearts to accept what we hear.
Purify our will to obey in joy and faith.
This we pray through Christ, our Savior. Amen.⁵

5 Worship Sourcebook J.3.1.1



Intro to Text

- The gospel reading will be within the sermon.
- The psalm has some great descriptive language and it explores it's theme. The perspective shifts near the end from a person to God.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible,⁶ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Psalm 32](#)



Sermon: Is love fair?

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

Today you are going to hear a familiar story. If you've grown up coming to church, then it's a friend you've had your whole life. I expect it's spoken to you differently depending on what you're going through at the time - one of the miracles of the Bible.

This isn't the parable about the lost sheep, or the lost coin - although they are related. These two parables come just before the one we're going to hear in the Gospel According to Luke.



It's interesting to note how this section starts. Tax Collectors and sinners are coming to listen to Jesus, and the Pharisees and

6 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

scribes are grumbling about Jesus spending his time with ‘those people’. It’s important to remember that the Pharisees and scribes were recognized by the community as being the best and most Godly people. These were the good boys that everyone was honoured to know. The tax-collectors and sinners were not.

Hearing the grumbling, he turns to the good boys and tells them about the shepherd who leaves the flock alone to go looking for the one that was lost; and the woman who searches high and low for the lost coin. In both cases there are celebrations in Heaven about the lost being found... but not about those that weren’t lost.

How do you think they were feeling about that?

Then there’s the next parable.

We’re going to hear it in two sections. Each section features a different character. To try and interrupt the familiar thoughts you may have when hearing this story we’re going to hear from the two characters before the scripture. For those that don’t know the story, I don’t think you’ll have any trouble following along.

reading: [Luke 15:1-3](#)

Younger Son

What a ride!

It all started when I finally lost it on the old man. I was sick and tired of doing what he wanted. He was constantly on my case telling me that if I only lived his way I’d have the best life ever. Really!? I’d seen the ads. Being on the family farm wasn’t the height of excitement, or anything close.

So I told him, ‘I wish you were dead so I could get my part of

the inheritance.’

The words just burst out, forced up by the frustration of not being able to do things my way. There was a moment where I wondered if he’d hit me or just throw me out of the house. Instead, he slumped and turned away. I wanted to take back what I’d said so I wouldn’t lose what I have, but pride and fear froze me. I waited. When he turned back there were tears in his eyes... and he agreed.

I couldn’t believe my luck. The old man turned out to be a pushover. I knew the rest of the community wouldn’t accept the shameful act I’d done, but I didn’t care. I had money, freedom from responsibilities, and could live any way I wanted to.

So I took off. I’d heard from merchants about cities where you can buy anything you desire. I left my old ways in the dust and headed there.

and it was amazing. The city never stopped. You could buy anything there... things I’d never imagined. But there’s that small and important word. The one that shapes the world, or at least the world I’d chosen... “buy”. It was great as long as you could buy your way in. When you run out of money, that’s another story. I saw both sides. I suppose it’s the old man’s fault. He taught my brother about financial stuff so he could take over. It’s no wonder I couldn’t keep track of the money until I had none.

and now I’m at a loss - in every way.

I’ve lost my money, my independence, my family, my community (back home and the one here that liked my money), and my honour - several times over.

Now, I’ve got nothing.

I’m back to working on a farm, but now like a slave. I look after the pigs - an animal that back home nobody’s honour would let them be caught dead with. I collect the garbage from the

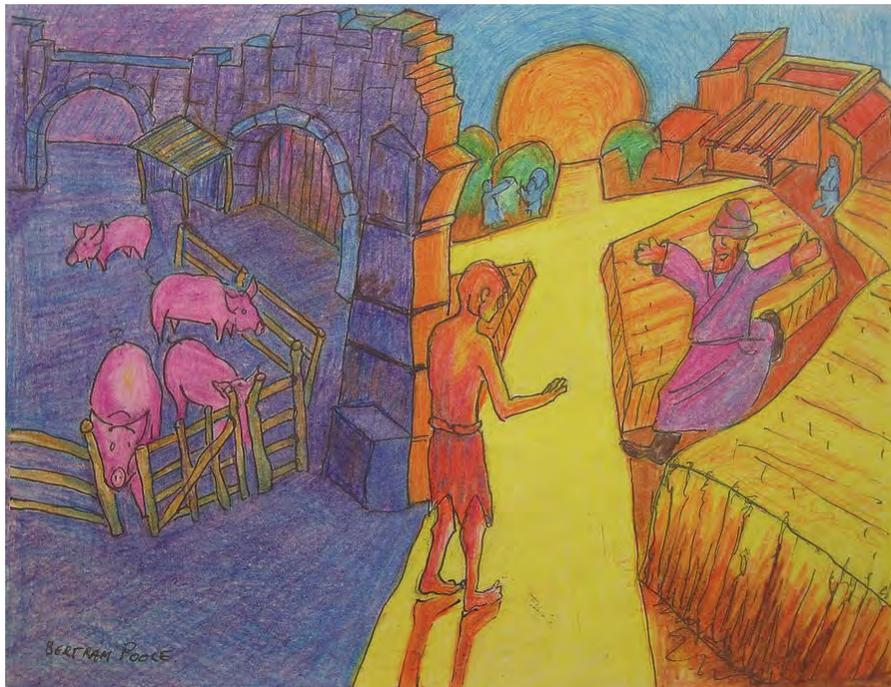
kitchen and feed it to them... and it's starting to look pretty good - the garbage. I'm actually envious of pigs, and when you want to be a pig - that's a sign.

I think everyone back home was better off than this. Actually, I know they were.

As I've lost everything else, I might as well lose my pride. Maybe dad would let me work with the slaves.

I'd better figure out what to say. . .

reading: [Luke 15: 11-23](#)



prodigal son - Bertram Poole

Elder Son

Can you believe it!?

I come in from making sure the Olive pruning is done right

and there's a fuss going on at the house. I'm wondering if my dad is having a merchant over for some a little relationship building. If so, I should wash and change. I call one of the slaves over and get a different story. He tells me it's a party alright, but for my brother.

I don't say anything.

I don't have a brother - not since he had brought shame on the family.

I don't move. I don't know which way to move. Inside, the feelings are erupting.

I can't believe what the foolish old man has done now. Hasn't he brought enough shame on us by going along with that no-good son of his.

And who am I? I slave away for him and he doesn't show me any special treatment - and that other one gets a party! I guess it shows where I stand.

Which is the one who should inherit it all... except now the old man is using up my share on the other son.

Doesn't he see he's being taken advantage of?

He's such a fool.

and everyone sees it.

It's so unfair!

I really don't get it. I've done everything he says. I've done more. I've been like a slave. I've always been good.

Why isn't he celebrating me?

Why is my life not perfect?

Why is this happening?

Speak of the devil, here he comes now. The Old man is heading right towards me. What can the fool possibly want of me now?

He's so lost.

reading: [Luke 15: 24-32](#)



Prodigal Son - Fr Sieger Koder

What attracted your attention?

Which character could you relate to?

Often we are encouraged to see ourselves as the younger son and are reminded to repent for our sins. In the two parables before this one Jesus talks about repentance afterwards, but this parable just ends. Perhaps it doesn't need repeating. The younger son has a speech, but does he practice it because he's repentant, or because he wants to manipulate his father.

... does it matter?

The father doesn't wait to hear why the lost son has returned before running out to greet and honour him - of which both actions would have seemed foolish. Running was undignified. Associating with such a dishonourable person would have brought the father dishonour. This would lead people not doing business with him, because then they would be contaminated with the dishonour virus.

Does this mean we don't need to repent?

That feels unfair to those of us who try to be good - like the elder son.

Are you more like this son who tries to do the right thing?

Who tries to be good?

Who is willing to sacrifice their desires for the benefit of others?

This sounds like most Christians. If so, what is the Bible saying about fairness, justice, ...and love? Here it is saying that God's love is so big that nobody is ever not welcome back. Like the sinners & Pharisees at the beginning of the chapter, they just need to be there. That's enough for Jesus to reach out to them.

Notice I said, "sinners and Pharisees." Jesus is getting a reputation for being with sinners. The parables in this chapter tell about this favouritism towards the lost... as Jesus is reaching

out to the Pharisees, the good sons ...just as the father comes out of the party to try and talk the older son into coming in and share the joy.

I wonder what he did?
What would you do?
What do you do?

Can you think of a relationship where you have been unfairly treated. Do you want justice or love extended? Which would bring healing to them? to you?

In a lent devotional I've been following from Biola University, a story was shared⁷ about the author meeting with a married couple in conflict. They were so obsessed with each other's faults it was consuming them... rather like today's psalm. "*While I kept silence [about my sins], my body wasted away through my groaning all day long*" (Psalm 32:3). The writer ends up saying to the couple that their relationship may not be saved, but they need to forgive. Their focus on the sins of the other, and denial of the sin in themselves, was poisoning their spirits (and probably their minds and body as well).

Love needs to be extended. This does not make everything back to the way it was. In the case of the parable the father tells the elder son, "*all that is mine is yours.*" The younger son doesn't get back what he squandered. In a case that involves abuse, the victim needs to not be placed in a situation where they may be hurt again. In that case the abuser is invited back into a different part of God's house to learn to be a part of this large family.

Repentance is important. So is justice and fairness. The Bible has many stories about them. They help protect victims and heal those doing the harm.

This story emphasizes the other part - the love for all. A love that reaches out no matter what. A love that celebrates anyone who turns towards God.

May we all chose to join the celebration of joy.

*In the name of God the loving parent,
Jesus the Son
and the Holy Spirit, working in all of us.
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Amazing Grace.....pg 12 (670)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n145-J8eig just voices
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tvt6E9N7AQw with guitar
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5p2CbHG9O0s with everything

🗨 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 are some previous experiences you've had with this parable?

Wonder: I read a hymn where the elder son joins the party, and a play where he kills the father (foreshadowing Good Friday). How would you continue the story?

Wonder: Is the Prodigal Son a good name for this parable? Perhaps it should be Prodigal Love? What would you call it?

Values: Today's parable speaks to our values. What would (do) you do when you
...what something?
...need something?

⁷ ccca.biola.edu/lent/#day-mar-11

...realize your situation could be better?
...you feel life is unfair?
...realize you made a mistake?
...realize you hurt someone?
...what if you're right and you still hurt them?
How do you consider that all creation is God's
(environment, other people, you, ...)
How do you balance fairness and love?

Actions: The Lent (and Advent in season) devotions from Biola University include a scripture passage, visual art, music, poetry, written reflection, and prayer. Check out the devotion for Psalm 32 here:

ccca.biola.edu/lent/#day-mar-11

Actions: Families always have struggles. Pray for families this week.

✦ Spirit Sighting

Last week Nora shared with me a recent experience she identified as a 'Spirit sighting'.

She arrived a week early for an appointment. While walking back to the car she passed by a cell phone store. She had been having issues with her phone and been unable to get help from where she bought it, so she popped in to this other company. Their tech spent over an hour helping her out at no charge (even breaking a tool).

You could say he was 'just a nice guy', but as Christians we recognize that all good things come from God - so there's nothing "just" about somebody being nice. This is God at work.

Where are you seeing signs of the Spirit?

✦ 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.



This year's flowers

🧎 Prayers of the people

Gracious Father,
We thank you for your love.
We thank you for your ideas of right and wrong,
for justice and fairness,
and for your foolish and overflowing love.
We thank you that we can always come to you.
It's not that you don't care why we come,
it's that you care about every reason we come.

Today we thank you for Spring.
While it comes in fits and starts,

like so much of life,
we thank you for the hope it brings,
for changes, even though they can be muddy,
and for the growth we will experience.

We thank you families...
when we are blessed with families we can trust like your love;
and we pray for those whose families are complicated,
or hurt-full, or just distant.
May your Spirit bring them all to you,
you that you can teach them how to love.

We bring to you all kinds of requests for healing,
because you can heal those who turn to you.
for relationships...
for souls...
for minds...
for bodies...

And Lord of lords, King of all kings,
we pray for peace.
We remember the peace that you have brought to places like
Belfast and Sarajevo,
and we pray for peace in places like Yemen, Etheopia and the
Ukraine.

We pray for refugees fleeing their homes
because of war,
and other reasons.
May those that have homes,
help them to find the security of a home
from which they can rebuild their families

and learn to love.

With our prayers,
we turn to you,
knowing that you love us and care for us
and are working to bring love, hope and healing
in us, around us, and through us to others.

In Jesus the Christ we pray
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Forgiveness is your gift.....pg 13
www.youtube.com/watch?v=97RSripZ3OI (piano only)

✦ Sending & Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)
As you go from this time,
be careful at being too much like the Elder Brother
when all of us have some aspects of the Younger Son
...and try to be like our Father.

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.*
Amen.



Halidu's Shop Equips Others in Ghana

Halidu Dayuma spends his days managing a prosperous and bustling training center in Ghana, where he teaches kente weaving and dressmaking.

When Halidu was just 13 years old, his right leg was amputated after a chronic sore he developed didn't heal. Halidu spent three months in the hospital, recovering and learning how to use his new artificial limb.

During this time, Halidu also enrolled in PWS&D-supported workshops where he learned weaving, tailoring and dressmaking. After graduating, Halidu started his own business teaching other students. So far, he has helped train 44 apprentices.

Halidu is grateful for the program, "I owe the community-based rehabilitation program and all their partners, especially PWS&D in Canada, a great deal of gratitude for contributing positively to my life. I am who I am today because of your generous work and love. God bless you."

This Lenten season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to care for the vulnerable. Through support for PWS&D, we are helping people overcome barriers that might prevent them from living their most abundant lives.

WeRespond.ca



Sunday, March 27 — MISSION MOMENT

In Nepal, Pallu Oli knew something wasn't right when he felt a burning sensation on his leg. After seeing the doctor, Pallu was prescribed medicine but did not feel better after taking it. As his health worsened, Pallu wondered why he hadn't healed yet. **His son suggested that he visit the Shining Hospital. At the hospital, Pallu was diagnosed with leprosy and entered a treatment program** (which he has since completed). Sharing his experience, Pallu expressed, "I am very happy that my disease is diagnosed and is treated accordingly." The Shining Hospital is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, March 27 (Fourth Sunday in Lent) God of Hope, renew us and energize us for service in your church and the world.

Monday, March 28 We pray for staff at the Shining Hospital in Nepal as they treat illnesses and provide vocational training with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Tuesday, March 29 We pray for the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families at home and abroad.

Wednesday, March 30 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Winnipeg Inner City Missions in Manitoba, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

Thursday, March 31 (Transgender Day of Visibility) We pray for transgender people, who often live with the fear of violence and intolerance. Help us to listen well so that we may work in solidarity for the dignity and well-being of all transgender people.

Friday, April 1 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Bob Faris, nominee for Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, as he prepares for the upcoming Assembly.

Saturday, April 2 (World Autism Awareness Day) We pray for children with autism and related conditions, and we thank God for church programming that supports them and their families.



The development and relief agency
of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

2103123309

Spirit, come, dispel our sadness

GENEVAN 42 87877788

G D G D/F# Em Bm Csus2-1 G Em D/F# G Am

1. Spir - it, come, dis - pel our sad - ness; pierce the clouds of
 2. From that height which knows no meas - ure, as a gra - cious
 3. Come, O best of all do - na - tions God can give, or

G/B /C D 7 G Em D/F# G D Em D/F# G6 A D

sin - ful night; come, thou source of sweet-est glad - ness,
 shower de - scend, bring - ing down the rich-est treas - ure
 we im - plore; hav - ing thy sweet con - so - la - tions

C D7/A G C Em /D C6 D G G Am G/B D G

breath thy life and spread thy light. Lov - ing Spir - it, God of peace,
 we can wish or God can send. O thou glo - ry, shin - ing down
 we need wish for noth - ing more. Come, a - noint us now with power;

Dm 6 C Bm/D C/E G Dsus4 - 3 G Bm C/E (D7) G

great dis - tri - bu - ter of grace, rest up - on this
 from the Fath - er and the Son, grant us thine il -
 on our souls thy grac - es shower; auth - or of the

Em C6 Bsus4-3 Em E Am G/B C6 Em D G

con - gre - ga - tion; hear, oh hear our sup - pli - ca - tion.
 lum - in - a - tion; rest up - on this con - gre - ga - tion.
 new cre - a - tion, make our hearts thy hab - i - ta - tion.

Words: German, Paul Gerhardt (1607-1676); translation, John Christian Jacobi (1670-1750), Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778), alt Music: Louis Bourgeois (c. 1510-1561)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Breathe on me, breath of God

TRENTHAM 6 6 8 6 SM

F Bb/F Bbm/F F /A C7/GF Bb6 Dm/BbC F Bb/FGm6

1. Breathe on me, breath of God; fill me with life a - new, that I may
 2. Breathe on me, breath of God, un-til my heart is pure, un-til with
 3. Breathe on me, breath of God, till I am whol - ly thine, un-til this
 4. Breathe on me, breath of God, so shall I nev - er die, but live with

F/A F Bbmaj7 Bb6 Gm /Bb F/C (C F/C) C7 F

love what thou dost love and do what thou wouldst do.
 thee I will one will to do and to en - dure.
 earth - ly part of me glows with thy fire di - vine.
 thee the per - fect life of thine e - ter - ni - ty.

Words: Edwin Hatch (1835–1889) Music: Robert Jackson (1840–1914)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Amazing Grace!

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1. A - maz - ing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
 and mortal life shall cease,
 I shall possess within the veil
 a life of joy and peace.

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've first begun.

St. 1–5, John Newton, 1779
 St. 6, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

AMAZING GRACE C.M.
 Traditional American melody
 Adapted and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900

Forgiveness is your gift

1. For - give - ness is your gift, both clean - sing and re - new - ing,
 2. Your grace goes out to meet the sin - ful and the doubt - ing,

to catch us when we drift, our base de - sires pur - su - ing;
 your arms and danc - ing feet speak loud - er than all shout - ing:

and hug us back to life and bring us to a feast
 O God, how great your love which takes us emp - ty in,

where all will cel - e - brate the life your love re - leased.
 and, with our worth un - proved, lets bet - ter life be - gin.

Ian Masson Fraser (b. 1917)
 Words 1994, Stamer & Bell Ltd
 CCLI #4440603

NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6.
 Johann Crüger, 1647

Rev. Peter Rombeek
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church



Prodigal Son - Kristi Valiant