



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Responding to the news

April 24, 2022

WELCOME, to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), 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 those who live with you to join you, or connect with others through the phone or 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)



Appearance to Thomas - Butler

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



Announcements

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

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

The Chosen: Join us for this Bible study to explore what Jesus was about, and what it's like to be a follower of Christ. We'll be basing this on Season 2 of *The Chosen*. While you can join anytime, the series is good and worthy of catching up on.

Thursdays April 21 - July 9

7 pm viewing of video over Zoom

8 pm discussion

Ask Rev Peter for the Zoom address.

Presbyterian College Convocation for Alex (and others):

May 5th, 7 p.m. at St Andrew & St Paul and live on YouTube

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Le3FanMfsv8

Drop Box: As The Depot has learned new ways of operating during COVID, we are now accepting food donations to help the St. Monica's Food Pantry. We are also accepting items to help the young parents program at Head & Hands (ex. clothing, diapers, toys).

CAB: Camp d'action biblique is welcoming campers this summer.

For more information visit their website cabqc.ca

43rd Christian Commemoration of the Shoah: Sunday May 1, 4 pm

The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul cordially invited you to attend the international holocaust remembrance day.

Communion next week: All who want to know our Lord better are invited to join us the Lord's Supper next. If you are celebrating from home you will have to provide your own elements. Those who come in person will be offered a pre-packaged package.



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 (based on 1 Peter 1:3-5)²

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

He has given us new life and hope.

He has raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

He has brought us out of darkness.

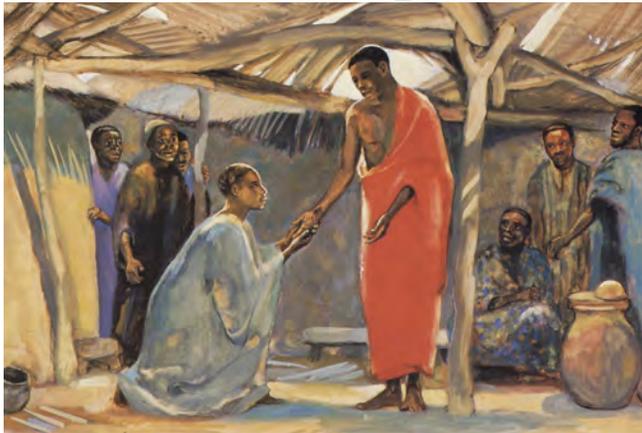
He has made us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

🎵 Hymn: Jesus Christ is Risen Today.....pg 10 (243)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_6sj9ljVsfk



Jesus appears to Thomas - Jesus MAFA



Prayer of approach

Dearest Lord Jesus,

We come to you because of your story, and our story.

We come because our story is a part of your story;

A story that is surprising - sometimes shocking;

a story that is amazing;

a story that offers life to everything it touches - to everything.

We have felt you in our lives,

inviting us to come accept life,

and we have come.

Though we have come now, we realize that there are times when we have turned away from you.

Like those first disciples, we have difficulty following you...

especially when it is demanding or threatens what we want.

Please forgive us for the ways that our actions, or inaction, has hurt others and ourselves. . .

With Earth Day last Friday, we remember even more how your creation has been hurt by us and our community. . .

May your Spirit help us to realize our part in these sins, and to not get into accusations and blame, but to help bring healing.

As we practice listening to your story,

we join together in praying the prayer you teach us...



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

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.

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news,
Christ died for us while we were yet sinners.
Christ's story is one of resurrection and life.
To all who turn from sin to life,
you are forgiven.

Amen.



Listening to God

✦ Children's story

Today we're going to be hearing about Thomas. He was one of Jesus' students (disciples). One of the things we know about him is that he had questions - and he asked them. He would interrupt Jesus to ask questions.³ After Jesus had come back from the dead and appeared to some people Thomas was confused. He wanted to see and ask questions.

When he finally meets Jesus do you think Jesus was annoyed with Thomas having questions? He wasn't. He helped Thomas.

God created us to learn by asking questions - this is a good thing... so ask questions. As Jesus isn't physically here with us, you can ask God in prayer, or ask people who know God - and you may find answers in the Bible, in your prayers, and from other people.

3 John 14: 5



The Incredulity of Saint Thomas - Caravaggio

Dear Jesus,
Thank you that we can ask questions,
and help us to hear the answers.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Come to us beloved stranger.....pg 11 (262)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=sjU9CkSEaEU

✦ Prayer for Illumination

God of life,
your Spirit raised Jesus from dead.
Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.
Your Spirit draws us to Christ
and drew us to this moment.

We ask that you will send your Spirit now
to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope
through the Easter gospel.

Amen.⁴

4 adapted from Worship Sourcebook N.3.1.1

✦ Sermon: Responding to the news

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

One of the ways that God made us is to make connections. Usually when I say something like that I'm referring to connections between people and building community. This time I'm referring to building something different: understanding & wisdom. As we take in the sounds we hear and we learn to understand them as words. We see how they connect with actions and objects. ...and so on.

This continues with everything you spend time with - your studies⁵, TV shows, ...and God. One place the connections happen for Christians is when we spend time with the Bible. The more time you spend with it, the more the stories will come to mind.

This week at the prayer group Peggy shared about an experience last Sunday - Easter Sunday. She and her daughter were having breakfast when there was a noise at the door. Somebody was trying to get in. They felt fear, but Peggy got up to see who it was. To her great surprise, it was her son from Washington State. He'd slipped into town the night before to surprise her for her birthday. Because it was Easter, Peggy couldn't help but feel the connections of her story with that story. The disciples feeling the fear in the upper room; the shock of Jesus' arrival - and the joy. There was even the wonder at what God might have been feeling when Jesus, the son, rose again and returned. There wasn't any confusion of who she and her son were, but there was that added presence of the story. There was seeing resurrection in the light of her own experiences.

⁵ One of my music history professors noted that the medieval and renaissance scholars were quite different, and a bit like the periods they studied. This week somebody whose carrier was in a lab noted their need for detail and accuracy. I suspect a matching of characteristics with opportunities.

This is wonderful, these connections, and made a curious connection with the theme for today. You're about to hear the lectionary passage. It's the same every year - Thomas' reaction to the shocking news of the resurrection. While planning for Easter I came across a script which imagined how some characters from the Gospels might have reacted to hearing news of Jesus' resurrection - and how they made the connection with their own stories... somewhat like Peggy did this week.

First, let's hear the lectionary passage from John. Mary Magdalene has told them of the resurrection and meeting Jesus. These are the closest students of Jesus. How do they respond?

Reading: John 20: 19-31⁶

They are afraid, and all of them doubted - though Thomas becomes famous for it. Can you relate to the 'I'll believe it when I see it' response?

I can. Sometimes when you struggle hard, or want something badly, ...especially when fear gets involved... it's hard to believe the news until there's solid proof in front of you. Can you remember what it felt like to truly know in your bones - in your soul - that the news was solid?

We're going to hear three more readings from the gospels, and then imagined responses from when those characters heard of the resurrection written by the Rev. Sally Foster-Fulton.⁷ They will proceed without interruption from me.

⁶ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963

⁷ or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV found in *Dirt, Mess and Danger*. compiled by Glendon Macaulay. Wild Goose Publications, © 2011



Become like little children - Bota

Reading: Luke 24:1-12

A young girl:

When folk first heard what he did for me, most thought it was an idle tale. The mourners at our gate even stopped their weeping to laugh and mock him when he said I was only sleeping. They thought I was dead, you know. I'd been so sick for so long that everyone said there was no hope for me. I lived from my bed and listened to whispers:

'What a shame.'
'Poor little lamb.'
'It's God's will.'

But it seems this Jesus had other plans for me: he was a man of life, not death. He took me by the hand and told me to get up, to eat, to live. And I did! And here I am to tell the tale. Who knows what my life will be?

It's a great adventure and it's a gift. I can tell you one thing though: I won't waste it or take it for granted. And I'll always thank God for it because life is God's will. Jesus gave me my life back, so when I heard the 'tale' about him, I wasn't so doubtful, because I guess I was kind of resurrected too.



Reading: John 8:1-11

A woman:

If I'd heard the story of what he did for me, I'd have thought it was an idle tale. Things like that just don't happen in the real world. I'd been caught red-handed, as it were, and the fact that it takes two to tango didn't seem to matter to the crowd at the temple - especially to the 'holy men'.

This Jesus was teaching a crowd. Everyone was listening to him, and I think that's what had put the scribes and Pharisees in

such a foul mood. They were out for blood, and if they couldn't have his, mine would do. I don't know who thought of it first, but I heard them whispering amongst themselves:

'Take her to him.'

'Let's see him get out of this one.'

'Let's see what his God's will would be.'

So they made me stand in front of all those people and they humiliated me. I was made to feel subhuman.

They asked him what should be done with me. Should I be stoned, as the Law of Moses calls for? There was silence: he said nothing. Then he just bent down and drew in the sand. You could have heard a pin drop.

Just as the silence was becoming unbearable, he stood up and said it. You know the words ... you've heard my story: 'Let anyone of you who is without sin be the very first to throw a stone at her.' And then it happened. They simply walked away: every single one of them, until I was the only one left.

I just stood there. I waited. I needed something more, and he gave it to me.

'Has no one condemned you?' he asked.

'No one, sir,' I replied.

'Well then, neither do I. Go and sin no more.'

He gave me my life back, so when I heard the 'tale' about him, I wasn't so doubtful, because, you know this? I was resurrected too.

Reading: Matthew 19:16-22

A young man:

When folk hear what he said to me, most of them think that I was one of his rare failures. They think he didn't convince me or

change me or save me. And I can understand that because, you see, I walked away. I couldn't handle what he had to say, what he asked me to do.



I'd been a good Jew all my life: I followed all the rules as best I could. And I studied, and I listened. That's why I went to him in the first place. I'd been

listening to him and I was intrigued by what I heard. I suppose I wanted to know what he thought of me. Maybe deep down I wanted him to tell me that I'd made it: that there wasn't anything else for me to do. But he saw straight through me. 'If you wish to be perfect, go and sell all your possessions. Give the money to the poor and then you will have treasure in heaven. And then after that come and follow me.'

Talk about taking the wind out of your sails! I'm a rich man. I have a lot of things. So I walked away. I couldn't handle what he had to say, what he asked me to do. So folk think I was one of his rare failures ... that he didn't convince me or change me or save me.

Now, I can understand that, but there's a little point everyone seems to miss in my story. I went away right enough, but I went away grieving. And the grieving was the beginning of a change. It has taken some time, but I'm becoming convinced. I'm changing, and he did save me. Jesus showed me what life is really about. So when I heard the 'tale' about him, I wasn't so doubtful because I

guess I'm kind of being resurrected too.

Six stories of responding to the news of the resurrection.

The hymn before the sermon refers to the two disciples who leave town after hearing the news - perhaps deciding that this was too strange, or was too demanding, to continue with. Perhaps they felt it was time to return to something safe and familiar. Something they knew was solid. Have you ever felt that?

The disciples who need to 'see it to believe it.' Have you ever felt that?

The young girl who knows that she had been considered as good as dead, and was given life. Why not Jesus?

The woman, who had basically been killed by society - and was about to have that become literal. Except she was given life... why not Jesus? Perhaps you've experienced something that dramatic. Or perhaps on a smaller scale: have you ever felt the bridges in a relationship burnt - the relationship to be dead, only to have it come alive again?

Then there's the rich young man, who sees how his life has changed after connecting with Jesus. Have you found your life challenged by Jesus? Have you felt the need to change, and found it for the better? perhaps in an unexpected/surprising way? a resurrection way?

and there's Peggy, feeling a glimpse of the resurrection in the shocking arrival of her son - and feeling the joy.

How about you? It takes time, but can you make connections between life and the Bible? to the resurrection story? to God?

Because they are there, in all parts of the story. And eventually they lead to something like the conclusion of the psalms, number

150, a fitting response to the story of God - the story of us.



reading: Psalm 150

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpets.....pg 12 (466)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9YtySTvzn4

💬 FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).Today they are provide by Alex.
Etching: What is the first Bible story you remember learning?
What is your favourite Bible story?
Wonder: What is a Bible story you have questions about?

Memories: Share a time in your life when you can see/feel a parallel with a story in the Bible.

Values: How do/can you live out the importance of learning the stories of God with people (in the Bible and at other times)?

Prayer: ...that we see connections between our story and God.

Spirit Sightings

The way people treat creation is a resurrection muddle. There is still lots of damage being done - including the death of whole species. There is also life in both the greater awareness of the problems, and ways to live more responsibly. Last Friday's Earth Day helps remind us of that.

If you're curious, you can check out a group that the Presbyterian Church in Canada is a part of, and statements the church has made, at these web-sites.

www.kairoscanada.org/what-we-do/ecological-justice

presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/ecological-justice

...and do you have any ideas of what we could do better?

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

Dear Lord,

we come to you with our stories,
because you care about each little part of your creation.
We thank you for the natural world.

for the gifts and wonders that it gives us
for the way it helps us to live
and we thank you that through listening and questioning
we can learn about it, and about you.

We thank you that you that we can also be creators
of buildings, and arts, and farms, and so much more.
discovering and shaping the wonders of creations.

We thank you that your story didn't stop with creation.
That you didn't stop when people turned away from you.
That you didn't stop when people killed Jesus.
Thank you for going to the dead, and coming back;
for your resurrection.

This whole story shows how you stick with us, no matter what.

Jesus, we pray for those who are suffering
who are living through conflict:
whether open war like in the Ukraine,
or like the conflict between Israel and Palestine,
or less visible conflicts between friends, neighbours
and in homes.

Lord we pray for the new interim police chief, Sophie Roy,
and the challenges she has bringing peace and healing.
Jesus, we also pray for those who don't feel your presence in their
lives - in their story. We pray for those who feel alone or
abandoned. May companion find them.

Jesus, we heard stories today of healing and revelation.

We pray for people who need healing
in their bodies, minds or souls. . .

With your resurrection, the world changed.
 Help us follow you, even when it means change
 or stepping outside our comfort zone.
 With you life you show us there is always hope.
 May we see that in our stories as well as yours;
 feel it in our souls;
 and share it with everyone we meet.

*In the name of Jesus, the Christ.
 Amen.*

♪ Hymn: Thine be the glory.....pg 13 (258)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GaoV5w2Qfag

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



When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we are expressing our faith. Through the words that we use, the decisions we make and the actions we take, we proclaim God's love, hope and grace in the world God loves.



Together, as The Presbyterian Church in Canada, we are participating in Christ's mission in Canada and around the world. We share the good news of the gospel, strengthen congregations and equip leaders. We journey toward healing and reconciliation, collaborate with ecumenical and interfaith partners, advocate for human rights, and work to restore hope. When we put our gifts into God's hands, God does remarkable things!

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 24 (Mission Awareness Sunday) We give thanks for the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean (Taiwan), the Rev. Dr. Blair Bertrand and the Rev. Joel Sherbino (Malawi), who are the "living links" that connect the church to our international partners.

Monday, April 25 (World Malaria Day) We pray for the elimination of malaria, and we give thanks for the global efforts to reduce the number of lives taken by this deadly disease each day.

Tuesday, April 26 We pray for stewardship and mission committees as they work to inspire vision and enthusiasm in congregations.

Wednesday, April 27 We give thanks to God for the support of church administrators.

Thursday, April 28 We pray for the members of the Committee on Education and Reception as they meet this week with candidates and ministers who have applied to be received into The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Friday, April 29 We give thanks for volunteers who are the heart and hands of their church communities.

Saturday, April 30 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Edmonton Urban Native Ministry in Alberta, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

Alleluia, alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord / Alleluia No. 1

ALLELUIA NO. 1 8 8 with refrain

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, thanks to the ris - en Lord;

Refrain F /E Dm Bb6 Gm Bb C 7/E

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give thanks to the ris - en Lord; al - le -

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia praise to his name.

F Dm Bb6 Gm C7 F Fine

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, give praise to his name.

Verses F Dm Gm Bb C

1. Je - sus is Lord of all the earth;
2. Spread the good news o'er all the earth;
3. We have been cru - ci - fied with Christ;
4. Come, let us praise the liv - ing God,

F Dm 7 Gm Bb C

he is the King of cre - a - tion:
 Je - sus has died and has ris - en:
 now we shall live for - ev - er:
 joy - ful - ly sing to our Sav - iour:

Words: Donald Fishel (1950-); Music: Donald Fishel; arrangement, Norman Warren (1952-);
 descant, Angela Reith (1952-) CCLI #4440603

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Come to us, beloved Stranger

BEACH SPRING 8787D

Unison

F Gm/F F Gm/F F/E Bb/D Bbmaj7 C

1. Come to us, be - lov - ed Stran - ger, as you came that
 2. Stay with us and give us bless - ing, that our hopes a -
 3. We would nev - er fail to see you as you walk with

Bb Gm7 F C7/E F /A Bb6 Dmsus4-3

East - er day. Walk with us to our Em - ma - us,
 gain may rise. Of - fer us your bro - ken bo - dy;
 us each day. As a friend and not a stran - ger

Gm7 Am7 Bb6 F (Dm) C7 F/C Bb C

for we need you still to - day. Come to us when we are
 o - pen our un - see - ing eyes. Come to us, God's love em -
 you would join us on our way. Help us trust that through your

F /E Dm Am 7 Dm Gm7 Bb/C Gm6

bro - ken, when our dear - est hopes are lost, speak to
 bod - ied; touch our hearts with burn - ing flame. Ris - en
 mer - cy we can doubt and fear tran - scend, and to

F /E Dm 7 Gm Dm/F Gm7 Am Bb Gm7 F

us the pro - phets' mes - sage you ful - filled up - on the cross.
 Christ, once dead, now liv - ing, come to us through joy, through pain.
 oth - ers be a bless - ing. Keep us faith - ful till life's end!

Words: Edith Sinclair Downing (1922-) Music: attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879) from Sacred Harp 1844; harmony, James H. Wood CCLI #4440603

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Praise the Lord with the sound of trumpet

① F Dm /C Gm/Bb C ② F Dm

1. Praise the Lord with the sound of trum - pet, praise the Lord with the
2. Praise the Lord with the crash - ing cym - bal, praise the Lord with the

Gm /Bb C Am Dm7 Gm F/A Bb C F Am

harp and lute, praise the Lord with the gen - tle - sound - ing flute.
pipe and string, praise the Lord with the joy - ful songs you sing.

Bb C F Dm Gm/Bb C F /E Dm /C

Praise the Lord in the field and for - est, praise the Lord in the
Praise the Lord on a week - day morn - ing, praise the Lord on a

Gm C /Bb Am Dm7 Gm F/A Bb C F C6/E

cit - y square, praise the Lord an - y - time and an - y - where.
Sun - day noon, praise the Lord by the light of sun or moon.

Note: May be sung as a round

Words: Natalie Sleeth (1930–1992) Music: Natalie Sleeth (1930–1992) CCLI #4440603

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F/Eb Bb Gm (C) Am Dm Gm C7

Praise the Lord in the wind and sun - shine, praise the Lord in the
Praise the Lord in the time of sor - row, praise the Lord in the

F F7 Bb Gm Am Dm Gm C

dark of night, praise the Lord in the rain or snow or in the morn - ing light.
time of joy, praise the Lord eve - ry mo - ment; noth - ing let your praise de - stroy.

F Dm /C Gm/Bb C F Dm Gm /Bb C

Praise the Lord in the deep - est val - ley, praise the Lord on the high - est hill,
Praise the Lord in the peace and qui - et, praise the Lord in your work or play,

Am Dm Gm F/A Bb C F Am Bb C F

1. praise the Lord; nev - er let your voice be still.
2. praise the Lord eve - ry - where in eve - ry way!

Thine be the glory

MACCABAEUS 10 11 11 11 with Refrain

D /F# (A7/E) D /F# A7/E A7/C# D A

1. Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering son,
 2. Lo! Je - sus meets us, ris - en from the tomb;
 1. À toi la gloi - re, O Res - sus - ci - té!
 2. Vois - le pa - raî - tre: c'est lui, c'est Jé - sus,

D /F# D Em6 D/F# G6 A7 D

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won;
 lov - ing - ly he greets us, scat - ters fear and gloom;
 À toi la vic - toi - re pour l'é - ter - ni - té!
 ton Sau - veur, ton maî - tre! Oh! ne dou - te plus!

D A7 Bm C#dim7 Bm/D Em6 Bm F#

an - gels in bright rai - ment rolled the stone a - way,
 let the church with glad - ness hymns of tri - umph sing,
 Bril - lant de lu - miè - re, l'ange est des - cen - du,
 Sois dans l'al - lé - gres - se, peu - ple du Sei - gneur,

Bm /A E7/G# E7 F#m D6 E7 A

kept the fold - ed grave clothes, where thy bo - dy lay.
 for her Lord now liv - eth; death hath lost its sting.
 il rou - le la pier - re du tom - beau vain - cu.
 et re - dis sans ces - se que Christ est vain - queur.

D /F# (A7/E) D /F# A7/E A7/C# D A

Thine be the glo - ry, ris - en, con - quering son;
 À toi la gloi - re, O Res - sus - ci - té!

D /F# D Em6 D/F# A7sus4-3 D

end - less is the vic - tory thou o'er death hast won.
 À toi la vic - toi - re pour l'é - ter - ni - té!

3. No more we doubt thee,
 glorious prince of life;
 life is nought without thee:
 aid us in our strife;
 make us more than conquerors,
 through thy deathless love:
 bring us safe through Jordan
 to thy home above.

3. Craindrais-je encore?
 Il vit à jamais,
 celui que j'adore,
 le Prince de paix;
 il est ma victoire,
 mon puissant soutien,
 ma vie et ma gloire:
 non, je ne crains rien.

Words: French, Edmond L. Budry (1854–1932); translation, R. Birch Hoyle (1875–1939)
 Music: George Frideric Handel (1685–1759)

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