



# Kensington Presbyterian Church

## Growing in hope

July 31, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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)



### Announcements

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

**Kensington Companions:** is the name for our team joining the New Hope Seniors' Centre fundraising walk. New Hope is based in our basement. You can find out more here: [newhopendg.com](http://newhopendg.com). You can be a sponsor or join the team here: [secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=984501&langPref=en-CA](http://secure.e2rm.com/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=984501&langPref=en-CA) or just talk to Rev. Peter.

The walk is September 17 at 11 a.m.

**Jesus & Java:** Thursday, 7 pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup on Monkland

Please join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Response to God - Phil Irish

### Contacts

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## 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 Psalm 145)

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;  
**there is no end to his greatness.**

One generation shall praise your works to another  
**and shall declare your power.**

All your works praise you, Lord,  
**and your faithful servants bless you.**

They make known the glory of your kingdom  
**and speak of your power.**

My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord:

**Let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever.**

♪ Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing.....pg 10 (374)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbiQ17uulKU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbiQ17uulKU)



Miriam's Song - Laura James



### Prayer of Approach

Mighty God,

we do not yet know the glory you plan for all humankind,  
but in faith we do know Jesus.

We thank you for the humility and holiness  
in which he lived and died.

For his voice that calls everyone one home.

Though we have heard him,  
we don't always listen.

Sometimes we think we know best  
when really we are tied to our fears

Afraid for what may come,  
and trying to make it our vision  
instead of yours.

Please forgive us for the way we wound our lives,  
the lives of others, and the life of the world.

...

We praise you, Lord, that Jesus freed us from our sin,  
that he comforts and strengthens us through our struggles,  
and that he gives us courage to follow him.<sup>2</sup>

As we turn to you,  
we remember the prayer he gave us to make our own.  
Let us come together and sing the Lord's Prayer. . .



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.**

<sup>2</sup> adapted from Worship Sourcebook I.4.15

**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 story

What's it mean to be a friend?

To listen. To help. To share. To ask for help.

Alfonso is going to read us a story about Jesus in a moment. Jesus has been showing his disciples how to share God's love, hope and healing. Now he's going to let them try.

It's something we can do too.

Some of the things Jesus reminds his disciples to do is:

- Make friends with everyone you meet. God loves everyone, and you might be surprised who becomes your friend.
- Don't worry about what to say or do. God is with you.
- Some things you try or say won't work. That's okay.

The important thing is to try and be friends with people. Like Jesus did. He listened to people, helped them, shared God's love with them, and asked for help.

He also does all that with us: listening, helping, and asking you for help.

*Dear Jesus,*

*Thank you for sharing God's love with us.*

*Help us to share your love with everyone we meet.*

*Amen.*

♪ Hymn: Saviour, like a shepherd lead us.....pg 10 (485)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrxxmObv2-s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DrxxmObv2-s)



### Prayer for Illumination

Blessed are you, Lord God,

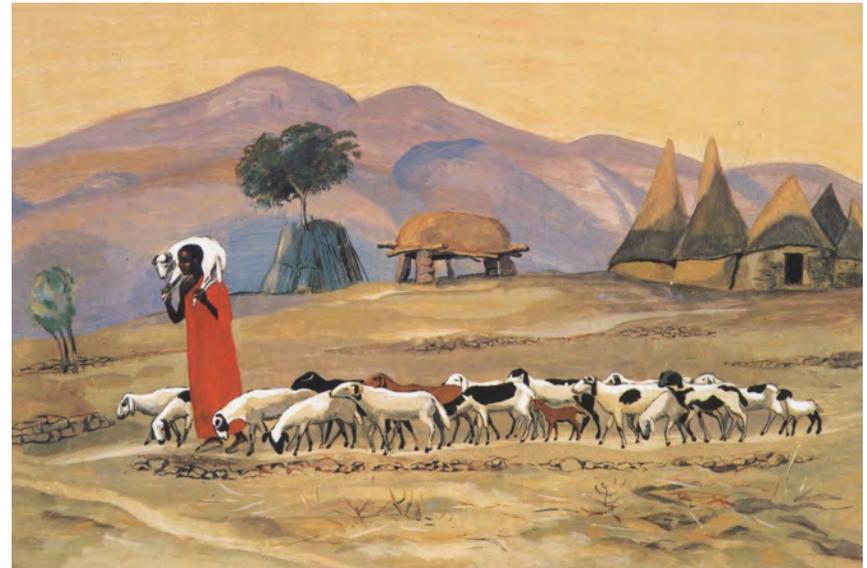
King of all creation:

As you teach us by your Word.

Open our hearts to your Spirit,

that we are filled with your faith and hope.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>



Good Shepherd - Mafa 19



### Intro to the readings

- Our Luke passage jumps back a little. Jesus has been showing the disciples what he's doing. Now they're ready to try. Why, because the Mission will need to go on.
  - an interesting though I hadn't had before my reading for this - Luke has already identified Judas as the traitor, yet he's included.

- Acts 5 isn't the first time Peter has been dragged in to be talked to by the Jewish authorities.
- The Psalm is quite up-beat, but refers to a number of down times. Is this a helpful Psalm?

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>4</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Luke 9: 1-6](#)

[Acts 5: 27-40](#)

[Psalm 30](#)

 Sermon: Growing in hope

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

When sitting and praying about this morning's worship service I was drawn back to some recent conversations. People shared thoughts about the future. Joseph shared excitement, tinged with some healthy concern about the several big life changes he's going through this month. Others have shared more concern about the future - and wondered about the hope. Recently it's been less about the environment or politics (which will likely pick up in the Fall), and about the future of the church - Kensington and in general.

This isn't new.

I remember going for a Thanksgiving hike with some Presbyterian College students twenty years ago and asking about their desire to become a minister in a congregation that had a good chance of not being around when they retire. Several years later, when I was studying to be a minister, the statistics people

were saying that, if nothing changed, mainline denominations (including Presbyterians) would collapse by 2050 - with evangelicals about a decade later. The suspicion is that COVID has moved that up.

People are looking for hope in the future,  
and one place to find it is in the past.

Let's think back...

The first version of the church was a collection of Jews who followed Jesus around to learn more of what he was doing. They saw Jesus go out to people, listen to them, tell them about 'the good life' with God, and do miracles. Jesus also included them in this, as we heard this morning.

This was all good, until there was a big change that happened. Jesus was killed - which decimated their hope... until he returned from the dead. Jesus encouraged them before ascending to Heaven. Then the Holy Spirit came down and they were so energized they didn't care what anyone thought. They just had to tell people how amazing Jesus was. (We heard part of that as well.) They shared the Good News, and the church grew. There were challenges, but also hope.

The early Christians knew what church was. You went to Synagogue on the Sabbath like the good Jew that you were. On the first day of the week you'd gather with your fellow Jesus followers at somebody's house to pray and study, before going to work. You'd get together and share a meal - and the Eucharist. You'd help anyone you could, and tell people about Jesus.

and the church grew.

which led to struggles. They struggled with authorities. Sometimes from their fellow Jews, and sometimes from the Romans. They struggled with growth. There was the wonderful

<sup>4</sup> 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

revelation that the Good News was for everybody, not just the Jews. However when the group became more diverse, so did the ideas and patterns. I'm sure that there were days when people wondered what on Earth was happening to their church. Still, they focused on what Jesus had taught them to do - go to people, bring healing and teaching about God's love and hope.



A few hundred years after Jesus, Christianity was made the official religion of the Roman Empire. This was a big change. I suspect that everyone, except the Jews, became a Christian. Some probably worried about what compromises might have to be made in joining the establishment. That said, the Good News could now be spread without fear - and the church grew.

It became more organized, and bureaucratic. They didn't have to be in homes. They could now build church buildings appropriate for an Empire. It must have been glorious ...at least until the Empire collapsed and the Dark Ages started. Everybody was wondering what hope there was for the future. Was this the end of it all?

But it wasn't. Europe rebuilt. So did the power of the church. Magnificent Cathedrals were built that helped draw people's attention from the darkness here on Earth to the brightness above - literally. The churches are packed. Everyone is a Christian (except the Jews and Muslim invaders in Spain). People may not have much hope for their time on Earth, but they do for their life in Heaven above.

The next big change is with the Reformation. There had been disagreements within the church before, but they had never had enough State support to last. Two of the big changes were:

- that everyone should be able to read the Bible. With the new technology of the printing press the Bible is printed in people's native language, with study guides.
- that the power of the priest is a lot less. Anyone could talk directly to God and Jesus, and God would talk back.

This changed how you felt at church. You could have an opinion. You could disagree with the minister. What was the world coming too? (Especially in areas where Catholics and Protestants were torturing and killing each other.) Was this a new beginning or the end?

Really, it was many new beginnings. There were many versions of the Reformed church formed to help bring the Good News to people. The Roman Catholics had a new beginning with their own reformation to focus on the Good News. Later there were other more evangelical denominations formed - with the distinction of not being a State church and focusing on spreading the Good News.

What church looked like changed. In some places it became less and less bureaucratic. Not only was there no Pope, but the elected their leaders. In others the denomination was only a loose collection. Some had very formal liturgies for worship with fancy buildings, while others had plain buildings and only sang the psalms. Some Christians even felt there shouldn't be any sacraments - although they might have an altar call for people to come up and rededicate their lives to God. Which was church?

Something that would have caused settlers to Canada to question the future was that the State didn't support the church. How was it going to grow? How would it pay for buildings?

Well, they didn't go back to the early church practice of meeting in homes. Each group built their own buildings - usually lots of small ones so that people didn't have to travel far. Many of

them would fit in this room (not all at once).

That said, there were other patterns. A hundred years ago in the U.S. there were lots of Big Tent Revival Meetings. These were lively worship times with a combination of hellfire sermons, speaking in tongues, and healings. We might look at them and wonder if they were crazy. They'd look at us and wonder if the Spirit had left. What's going on?

In Canada Presbyterians were wondering about the future of the church as congregations were split over the formation of the United Church. Would the church survive?

That wasn't the only controversy. Some other events that caused people to wonder if the church was dying or compromising too much include:

- the introduction of singing something other than psalms
- singing with an instrument - especially the pandering to youth with an organ
- going to only one worship service on a Sunday
- the State taking over education and hospital care
- the ordination of women
- and the decline in church attendance (which has been going on since World War One)

After each of these people were looking forward to what the change would bring, and others worried about the future. Would people leave? What would it be like? If there's change like this now, what will change later?

Well, the answer as to whether the church will survive is given in our Acts passage and by history. One of the Council leaders points out that if Jesus' followers are wrong, it'll die out. If this movement is from God - nothing can stop it. Despite numerous

troubles from outside and inside, the church continues.

Lots of things have changed. Some even stopped. Just as the world as we know it is changing. Many of you can remember 50 years ago. Some almost 100 years ago. The world has changed a lot in just that time. It'll also be different in 50 years, and so will the church.

But what Jesus started will still be going on.

What is that?



Church - Emily Carr

This is the Good News, and sharing it is what the church is about.

Well, not an institution. Jesus did not set up a bureaucracy or government, or even much of a structure.

In the future, church buildings may not be what they are now. Jesus didn't "build it" and hope people would come. Instead, he went out to the people. Buildings can serve, but that's what they are for - serving the goal.

and what's the goal? To share the Good News. Something the early Christians were known for was helping people with no expectations, sharing God's love, and having an unrealistic hope that Jesus will make things better.

I've seen and heard about all sorts of ways this is happening,

some of which are quite different from what we're used to. I've been to churches with rock bands, and other ones with 15 minutes of silence. I know that some of you have worshipped where jazz was used to create space for prayer. In Ottawa I've been to a church where people are drawing and painting through the service. I've been to churches where the children stay in, with activity centres at the side - and everyone goes to Sunday School before worship. In Winnipeg, I heard of a Presbyterian church that meets in a shopping mall food court before it opens. I've heard of churches that can seat thousands, or have people watching a live-stream in a movie theatre - and in central BC the Presbyterian church meets in peoples houses with the minister joining them once a month. We have a group that meets in a coffee shop - and is growing as people invite friends. I've even heard of churches that don't have a Sunday worship in a building, but meet as a running group, or yoga, or around meals. They are looking at what people are doing in the community and coming alongside them.

Building on that, there are churches getting back into sharing God's love outside of worship. In Orillia the Presbyterian church started an after school program for children whose parents worked. In Toronto I read about a church that started a children's music program. Others have started food banks, or places for the homeless to sleep. The United Church in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver took this to an extreme when they removed their pews and brought in bunk beds.

That's a radical change. I suspect the future won't look like that for most churches, but there are three things I do think. That the statistics people are right; if nothing changes the church as we know it will fade away. That no matter what, the church will continue in some form. And that if we focus on "*growing in faith and sharing God's gifts of love, hope, and healing.*" (to quote our

Mission Statement), we will be a part of the future.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*



## *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: God bless your church with strength.....pg 11 (491)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV0gwCVSHV4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GV0gwCVSHV4)

🗨️ 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: Think back to some changes that you have noticed in the world over your life-time. How about in the church? In yourself?

Values: What is it about church that helps you know God's love, hope, or healing?

Wonder: What could it be like in 50 years? (assume that the Good News will always find a way to be shared). or maybe only 25 years.

Etching: What is a way that you have experienced God's love, hope or healing?

Actions: Who can you become more friendly with? perhaps one of your neighbours?

Actions: Who do you know that needs to experience some of God's good news?

Prayer: ...thank God that the Good News always finds a way to continue spreading. The work of the church will always continue.

## ✦ Spirit Sightings

This week I'd like to share about two people.

Howie heard that we were looking for ways to make people feel more welcome when coming into the building. He realized he could do something about that. He's been coming in and touching up the scratches in the furniture and polishing them so that our lobby looks better. (He's also arranging to have the mission cushion replaced so that people can sit in comfort while they look over our bulletin board.)



Brandon Dawson-Jarvis<sup>5</sup> isn't a part of our church community, but he is a part of the NDG community. He grew up in a family that struggled to pay for things, such as back to school supplies. This has led him to organizing a local program to provide school supplies to children in need - in a way that preserves their self-respect. I know a number of you believe that helping children is important. I talked with Brandon this week and he would appreciate volunteers to back the backpacks and be around on the activity day of Aug 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1-4 in Loyola Park (rain date Sunday). I'll try and confirm a packing backpacks date.

[grovecampus.com/blogs/impact](https://grovecampus.com/blogs/impact)

<sup>5</sup> He was also recognized by the CBC as an important 'Black Change Maker'.  
[www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/black-changemakers-brandon-dawson-jarvis-1.6320491?vfz=medium%3Dsharebar&fbclid=IwAR0cd6hPgqt0IQlkti\\_RdSM6IHPOsSqkCi-4NKYpkl-fRDnLqQC67462iEY](https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/black-changemakers-brandon-dawson-jarvis-1.6320491?vfz=medium%3Dsharebar&fbclid=IwAR0cd6hPgqt0IQlkti_RdSM6IHPOsSqkCi-4NKYpkl-fRDnLqQC67462iEY)

## ✦ 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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.



## Prayers of the people

Faithful God,  
you are present with us in this time,  
and beyond it as well.  
you not only know what is to come,  
but have created the most beautiful ending  
one that is beyond our power to imagine.

As we look at the world, we sometimes have difficulty imagining a good ending. Jesus, there are things that desperately need your love, hope and healing.

We pray for the impact of the heat waves in Europe. The fires, drought, and health issues they are causing.

We pray for your help  
in helping us to change the way we live  
so that future generations may live better with nature.

Lord, we also pray for those who are suffering from other issues as well:

- Physical health...
- and the "isms" (racism, ageism, sexism, classism, ...)

We also pray for the violence that is more directly connected to people. We pray for healing to happen so that nobody gets bombed, shot, or attacked in any way. So that people will be safe on their streets and in their homes. We pray that children may be able to dream of a better future.

Jesus, help us to dream of a better future as well. We know that you defeated sin, but help us to follow you into this reality. into your Kingdom.

Help us to have faith that the future is in you, and then to focus on sharing your message here and now. To shine with your pure clear light.

And Jesus, please continue to build up Kensington can give us the courage to dream your future in this community.

In Jesus name. Amen.

♪ Hymn: Jesus bids us shine.....pg 12 (773) [www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJwsRCBTd0g](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJwsRCBTd0g)

✦ 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.



The Raw Carrot Soup Enterprise is a growing social enterprise that is doing so much more than making soup—it is changing lives by employing individuals living with disabilities and mental illness. Meagan is one of the many people who have found meaningful employment at the Raw Carrot. Her work has helped her to gain confidence and skills and to feel proud of who she is and what she can contribute. Meagan is a huge Raw Carrot fan, as she put it, “The world should have more Raw Carrots, not just because they have good soup, but because it’s a good place to work.” With support from Presbyterians Sharing, the Raw Carrot is transforming lives.



DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, August 14** We pray for the staff at the Raw Carrot and give thanks for the meaningful employment and support that this social enterprise provides to people living with disabilities and mental illness.

**Monday, August 15** We give thanks for LGBTQI2+ community organizations that provide support, social connection and advocacy for queer and trans people.

**Tuesday, August 16** We pray for the staff and volunteers at food banks as they endeavour to serve people in need.

**Wednesday, August 17** We pray for congregations that may be experiencing conflict and give thanks for the presbyteries assisting and guiding them.

**Thursday, August 18** We pray for the members and work of the Women’s Missionary Society.

**Friday, August 19** We pray that decision makers take steps to protect biodiversity in the earth’s ecosystems.

**Saturday, August 20** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Niagara in Ontario.

## Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

RICHMOND 8686CM

G D/F# D C/E G C D7 G Em6 D/F# G6 D/A A7 D /C

1. Oh for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the  
 2. Je - sus, the name that charms our fears, and bids our sor - rows cease-'tis  
 3. He speaks, and lis - tening to his voice new life the dead re - ceive; the  
 4. Hear him, you deaf; you voice - less ones, your tongues a - gain em-ploy; you  
 5. My gra - cious Mas - ter and my God, as - sist me to pro-claim, and

G/B Em Am D/C G7/B G7 C G/B C/B D7/A G C G/DD G

glo - ries of my God and King, the tri - umphs of God's grace.  
 mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.  
 mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re-joyce; the hum - ble poor be-lieve.  
 blind, be - hold your Sav - iour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy.  
 spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ours of thy name.

## Instrumental Descant

Words: Charles Wesley (1707–1788), alt Music: Thomas Haweis (1734–1820);  
 arrangement, Samuel Webbe, the younger (1770–1843); descant, C.S. Lang (1891–1971)

Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Novello & Co. Ltd. CCLI #4440603

## Saviour, like a shepherd lead us

BRADBURY 878787

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

1. Sav-iour, like a shep-herd lead us: much we need your ten-der care;  
 2. We are yours; in love be-friend us; be the guard-ian of our way;  
 3. Let us al-ways seek your fa - vour; let us al-ways do your will,

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

in your pleas - ant pas-tures feed us; for our use your folds pre-pare;  
 keep your flock from sin, de - fend us; seek us when we go a - stray;  
 Je - sus Christ our on - ly Sav - iour, with your - self our spir - its fill:

G D A7 D

bles - sed Je - sus, bles - sed Je - sus! you have bought us; yours we are.  
 bles - sed Je - sus, bles - sed Je - sus! hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 bles - sed Je - sus, bles - sed Je - sus! you have loved us; love us still.

G! D D A7 D

Bles - sed Je - sus, bles - sed Je - sus! you have bought us, yours we are.  
 Bles - sed Je - sus, bles - sed Je - sus! hear your chil - dren when we pray.  
 Bles - sed Je - sus, bles - sed Je - sus! you have loved us; love us still.

Words: Dorothy A. Thrupp (1779–1847), alt Music: William Batchelder Bradbury (1816–1868);  
 harmony, V. Earle Copes (1921–)

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © Abingdon Press, 1964

# 491 God bless your church with strength

ICH HALTE TREULICH STILL. 6 6 8 6 D SMD

D Bm F#m G D (Em7/D/F#) A D G A7 D

1. God bless your church with strength! Wher - ev - er we may be,  
 2. God bless your church with life! May all our branch-es thrive,  
 3. God bless your church with hope! De - spite cha - ot - ic days,

A D A/C# D Bm E A E/G# E A /C# D6 E A

up - build your serv - ants as we work in com - mon min - is - try.  
 un - blem - ished, whole - some, bear - ing fruit, a - bun - dant - ly a - live.  
 may we in dark - ness shine to light a path - way through life's maze.

G/B A6 G/B A/C# D F#7/C# Bm Em6 Bm/F# F#7 Bm /D Bm

Urge us from fledg - ling faith to ven - ture and to soar through  
 from you, one ho - ly vine, in free - dom may we grow; sus -  
 May jus - tice be our aim, and kind - ness ours to share; in

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

o - pen skies to sing the praise of Christ whom we a - dore.  
 tain us in our mis - sion, Lord, your love and peace to show.  
 hum - ble - ness oh may we walk, as - sured our God is there!

Words: John A. Dalles (1954-) Music: J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

Words: copyright © John A. Dalles, 1990 Music: public domain CCLI #4440603

## Jesus bids us shine

G (D7/A G/B) /D D

1. Je - sus bids us shine with a pure, clear light,  
 2. Je - sus bids us shine, first of all for him;  
 3. Je - sus bids us shine, then, for all a - round;

D7 (/E /F#) G C/G G

like a lit - tle can - dle burn - ing in the night.  
 well he sees and knows it if our light grows dim.  
 man - y kinds of dark - ness in this world a - bound;

D 7 Em G/B C G

In the world is dark - ness, so we must shine,  
 He looks down from heav - en to see us shine,  
 sin and want and sor - row; so we must shine,

Em G/D G7/B C G/D D7 G

you in your small cor - ner, and I in mine.

Words: Susan Warner (1819-1855), alt Music: Edwin O. Excell (1850-1921), alt

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Rev. Peter Winkler  
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church



places of light 3 - Sanderson