



Kensington Presbyterian Church

For all

September 18, 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)



Contacts

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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

New Hope's Grande Parade: Thank you for your help. Please turn to the Spirit Sightings for more.

Pizza Party: Sept 24 @ 6 For more details, please contact Antoinette
Sunday School Teachers: are needed to help our children know and celebrate God better. If you may be able to help crafts, storytelling, singing or caring, please contact Antoinette.

Jesus & Java:Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.
 Thursday, 3:30 pm at Maté Latte, 5837 Sherbrooke @ Regent
 Thursday, 7 pm at 2nd Cup on Monkland

Workshop: Conflict, Climate Crisis and Global Food Insecurity
 Oct 13th, 1-3 pm over a computer/tablet/phone
 A workshop through the national church with experts from the UN and Canada Foodgrains Bank. Register here:
presbyterian.ca/justice/food-security-webinar-oct-13

Pakistan Floods: Donations made to the PSW&D before Sept 28th will be matched (up to \$2.5 million). You can support this life-saving assistance by donating to PWS&D through your church, mailing a cheque to the office, [donating online](#) or calling 1-800-619-7301 x291. Please mark donations as "Pakistan Relief."
presbyterian.ca/donate/donate-to-pwsd
 We will also be collecting for PWS&D with our Thanksgiving offering

Social Action Hub: The Presbyterian Church in Canada has a Social Action Hub (and handbook) sharing the discussions and actions that have been had within the denomination.
presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action

Drop Box: We are now accepting food donations to help the St. Monica's Food Pantry, AND items to help the young parents program at Head & Hands (ex. clothing, diapers, toys).



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 (Psalm 113: 1-2)

Hallelujah!

Hallelujah!

Servants of God, praise,
praise the name of the LORD.

Bless the Lord's name now and always.

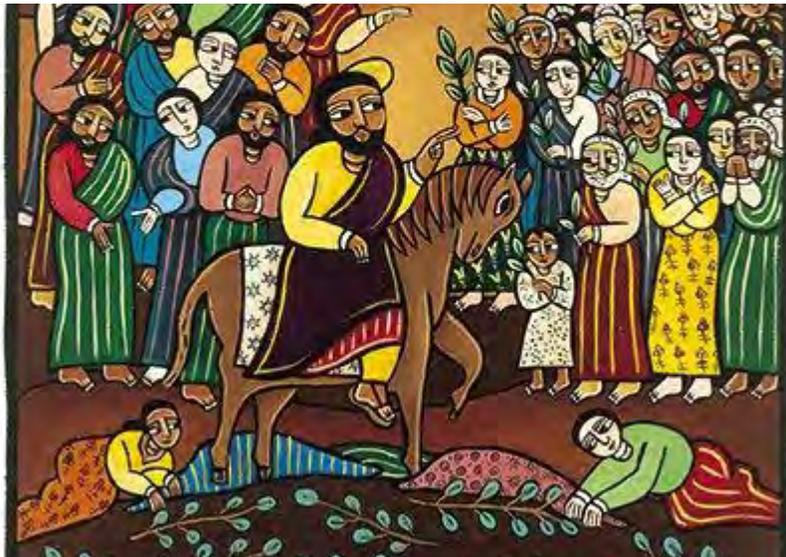
Praise the LORD's name

here and in every place from east to west.

♪ Hymn: Come Thou Almighty King.....pg 10 (293)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-zD3mRziWo

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pkubvtpBflc



Prayer of Approach

God, our source and life,
we praise you from the rising of the sun to its setting;
we praise you for the diversity of creation:
in seasons, and in people.

We praise you that we are like children and able to learn
and grow in your ways that bless us, others, and all creation.

Jesus, you came and showed us
that it is in your nature to be generous.

We confess to you our share of the guilt
for a world of hungry families and homeless peoples.

Forgive us for our self-centred living and spending;
forgive those who blame you for their failures.

Forgive the church and nation for not making your priority of
poverty our priority.

Please send your Holy Spirit to help us change our ways
and change the world
so that everyone may experience your freedom.

Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news from the prophet Isaiah.²

*“Come now, let us argue it out,
says the LORD:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow;
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.”*

² Isaiah 1:18

 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.**



Listening to God

 Children's story

I want you to pretend I've got some candy that I'm willing to sell you. Now I'm going to sell two packages to ____ for a dollar. Now I'm going to see you one package for a dollar.

How do you feel about that?

We're going to have a passage from the Bible where people have been doing that sort of thing. Do you think God is going to mind?

Of course, because God wants people to be treated well - even more than being treated fair. If somebody's having a hard time, then God wants us to help them. Candy isn't good for you, but perhaps somebody can't afford to buy fruit. God would want us to share with them.

Dear Jesus,

*Help us not to want more than we need
and to share what we have with others who need help. Amen.*

 Hymn: Christ is King.....pg 11(272)

 Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,
you have declared that your kingdom is among us.

Open our eyes to see it,
our ears to hear it,
our hearts to hold it,
our hands to serve it.

This we pray in Jesus' name.

Amen.³

 Intro to the readings

- letters to Timothy are likely not from Paul, but written as how Paul would respond to the current situation. This was common at the time and wouldn't have been seen as trying to mislead anyone. The two big issues at the time were the idea that people could decide individually what it meant to follow God (Gnosticism). The other was that Jesus hadn't come back yet, so how to be a Christian and get along with your neighbours.
- Amos is prophet. Most of the book is from before the Babylonians came and took out Jerusalem.
 - In it he refers to the ephah and the shekel. The ephah was standard to measure volume, and the shekel was a standard weight - though Amos has something to say about the standards that were kept.
- The psalm resonates with melodies from the other two readings...

³ Worship Sourcebook 3.1.24

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

[1 Timothy 2: 1-7](#)

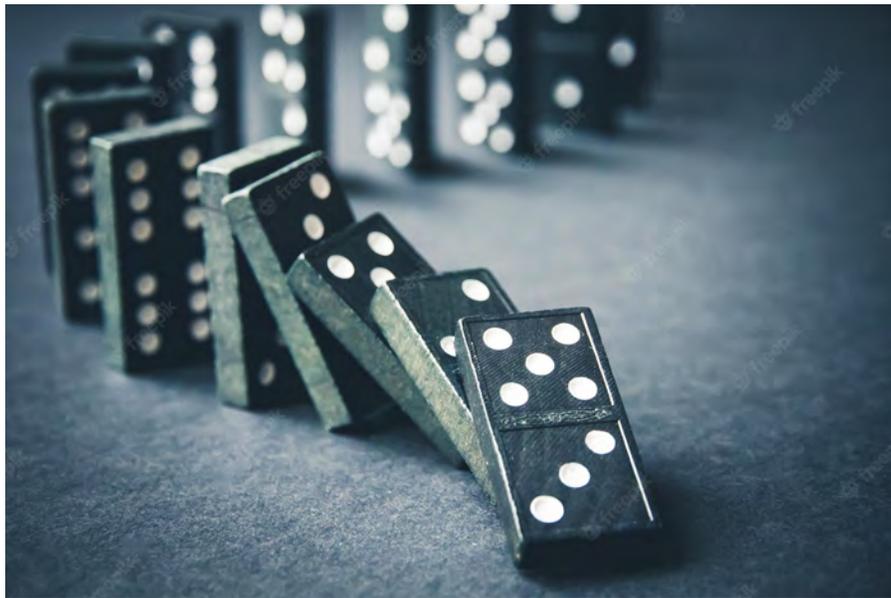
[Amos 8: 4-7](#)

[Psalm 113](#)

 Sermon: For all

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

Issues. You can't get away from them. It's a word we use for those problems that may go away... but don't stay gone. They stick around. It could be an issue with your knee, or the roads, or affordable housing. How we deal with them becomes, well, an issue. They're something that get debated, argued over, and often ignored in the hopes they'll go away... and they don't;



⁴ 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

which is an issue.

There are many issues that come up in the Bible. The biggest one is the way people trust God, and then go their own way: Adam & Eve, Abraham, Moses, King David (and the other kings), everyone the prophets are talking to, Peter the disciples, Paul the apostle - and the people he writes to. They all have times of following - and not following. Then God helps them see the light and they return... for a while.

There's all sorts of problems that happen because of this problem with not living with God. It's a bit like standing dominoes up in a row, and then one tips and knocks the next, and the next, and the next...

One of these issues that gets a lot of attention in the Bible is the poor and needy. You heard it this morning. It seems that God is a king who notices those who are suffering.

Amos is a prophet that earned a lot of respect. He told it like it was, and what the consequences would be. The people didn't stop the dominoes from tipping and he was proved right.

To shift this passage to today I want you to imagine you're at the grocery store. You go to pay and it's a lot more than you expect - but it's not due to inflation. It's because you're being ripped off. The scales they're using to measure your lovely fresh produce aren't zeroed, or perhaps the owner is leaning on it a bit. And then they're doing things like selling you the same container of cream cheese, but whipping it so that it's easier to spread... and has less in it.

Back in Biblical times (Amos and Jesus) it wasn't unusual for merchants to cheat their clients. They'd use weights that were heavier than what they said - so the farmer would have to put

more grain on the scale to make up the pound (or shekel). The merchant also didn't fill up the full volume (ephah) for the client. We know this from written complaints, such as Amos, and from archaeologists finding rigged weights.

In this passage Amos doesn't just complain about cheating on the scales, but also taking advantage of people trying to meet their basic needs. Giving them a bit of money to pay off their taxes and become trapped in debt to a new person. Or buying them in exchange for a pair of sandals. What should someone be required to do in order to have adequate clothing?

A book I tend to reach for in this sort of season is *Public Faith in Action* by Miroslav Volf. In it he starts by looking at Jesus, and then how we should respond to issues and in our personal qualities. His chapter on poverty includes today's passage from Amos. He then quotes Isaiah where the people complain that the Lord isn't noticing when they fast and humble themselves - and God responds by saying, "Look, you serve your own interest on your fast days, and oppress all your workers" ([Isaiah 58:3](#)). He points out other examples through the Bible to [Luke 4](#) where Jesus announces to his home congregation that he has come to bring good news to the poor.

All these references are a good indication that God thinks helping the poor and needy is important. Is it still? Have we solved it?

No. We all know that, but I'd like to share a few statistics just to bring it home. According to the World Bank it's getting better. Around 648 million people were living below the poverty line of \$2.15 a day in 2019.⁵ That's about half of what it was in 2009. This is an exciting improvement - though it's and still about the

same number of people as everyone in the United States - twice.⁶ The World Bank notes that poverty increased with COVID, it recently started to reduce again... but now we have rising inflation. In Québec there are 1.2 million people living in poverty, with half of them in the Montréal area.⁷

While statistics can offer some comfort that the problem is not as bad as it was, it is still a big problem. Jesus tells us that God knows how many hairs are on our head. The psalms tell us that God knows what's in our hearts. I think God wants the statistics down to zero.

I suspect one of the reasons is all those dominoes that can fall over from poverty. The first assumption is that poverty is about how much money a person has. This is just a part of the issue. As it says on the Centraide website, "*Poverty has a significant impact on several aspects of life, including academic success, housing conditions, food security, physical and mental health, and life expectancy.*"⁷ It's all rather precarious. Any of these can someone's fall into poverty - and poverty can lead to these issues as well. Statistics show that a child living in poverty will do less well at school - and a child who does less well at school is more likely to live in poverty. The same with health (physical, mental and spiritual), housing, and (as Amos put it) having a pair of sandals.

I'm pleased to say that the church isn't ignorant of the issues. Part of our denomination's website gives some highlights of what congregational representatives have said and done at our annual national meeting (General Assembly). It also has a link to a book that gives all the details. You can find it here: presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action. Some of the problems that

5 <https://pip.worldbank.org/home>

6 <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.POPTOTL?end=2021&locations=XU&start=2021&view=bar>
7 <https://www.centraide-mtl.org/en/mission-and-areas-of-action/>
For some Canadian statistics, visit Statistics Canada
<https://www.statcan.gc.ca/en/topics-start/poverty>
<https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/11-627-m/11-627-m2022011-eng.htm>

have been highlighted include:

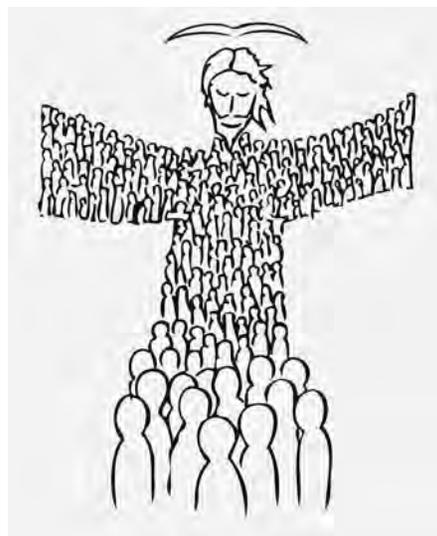
- that poverty (and other issues) make communities less safe and less healthy
- that all loans need to be fair and clear, including pay-day loans “are inordinately expensive and seem to unfairly penalize people experiencing financial distress.” I’m sure Amos would have something to say about that.
- that “Poverty is more than material deprivation. A measure of one’s well-being must include the realization of self-worth, dignity and social inclusion.”
- and that we must both help individuals, and try to change the system.

A podcast I listened to this week suggested there were three things we needed to do in response to the words from Amos.

We need to acknowledge the situation. This sermon is a start. Acknowledging it also recognizes that there are people living below the poverty line in your community - even near the church. Recognizing that this is a complicated issue with local and global connections. For example, somebody living in poverty here will need to shop at stores that sell cheap products (in Montreal that’s more likely to be boots than sandals). In order to keep the price down, the people who make it are not paid well and are most likely among the working poor. On the other side, I wonder how competitive it was for the merchants Amos is speaking about. Did they feel the need to cheat because the other merchants were and they’d go out of business if they didn’t? That’s similar to why so many stores try to find the cheapest way to sell us something - because they worry they will lose our business if they don’t. Learning the details of how the system is broken, such as the details that Amos spoke to them and us, can be used to help

individuals and to change the system.

The second thing to do is to confess. We all have a part in poverty. Perhaps you are living in poverty, need to recognize the other problems that come with it, and ask for help. Hopefully you are not living below the poverty line. We can confess to how we support global & systemic poverty. It could be with what we chose to pay for things. It could be through how we forget about this issue, or prioritize it.



The third thing is to resist or repent - to try and change the issue. Now, it’s an issue and not simply a problem. It’s huge. Still, we can make a difference. This is what God is calling for us to do.

There’s ways you can help individuals. You could financially support companies and agencies that work to reduce poverty. Finding a website such as

www.ethicalconsumer.org is a way to decrease your research time. You could support with time or money groups that help people wrestling with poverty issues. One global agency is our own Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D), or locally, such as The Depot in NDG.⁸ And you can advocate for a change in the system.

Earlier when I said that this is the season when I crack open *Public Faith in Action* by Miroslav Volf I didn’t mean Autumn, or

⁸ presbyterian.ca/pwsd/
depotmtl.org/en/

back to school. I meant election season. The subtitle for the book is 'How to think carefully, engage wisely, and vote with integrity'. We are blessed to live in a democratic nation. This means we can engage with our leaders - and election time is when they are most actively listening. Find out what they plan to do about poverty and its related issues - such as the stigma of being poor, need for decent affordable housing, food security, access to education, school resources, access to healthcare (physical and mental), and transportation. How will they improve the system? Listen to their answers. Chances are the answers will fall into two categories: the government trying to help, or getting out of the way to let people and groups help. Both have advantages. Which do you think will be most likely to work? You may find it interesting to look through what the denomination has said and done. Tell the candidates what you think, vote, and keep whoever wins accountable. Generally speaking, people suffering from poverty are two busy trying to survive the economic, mental and physical stress to hold politicians accountable. We all need help.

Just to tie in the other passages. The psalm reminds us that God is above all nations - no matter how big the politician's ego. Poverty is an issue that needs to be addressed. The psalm says that God will lift up the poor from the dust. This is true, as is that God works through us. The letter to Timothy points out that God is interested in all people - everyone is to receive justice and freedom from oppression.

This is possible.

To quote the letter to the Ephesians, "Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever."

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Inspired by love and anger.....pg 12

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CuApTydEi_o

🗨️ FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Etching: Do you own much, or are you minimalist? Do you spend money easily? What shaped you in your attitude to money and possessions.

Memories: Share about a time when money was tight. What did that do to your relationships? health? ...

Wonder: What would the world be like without poverty? How would it need to change to get there?

Actions: talk or email your candidates with questions (You can brainstorm questions together, then hold each other accountable and compare notes later.)

Prayer: ...that God will use us to free everyone from poverty.

✦ Spirit Sightings

It was wonderful to see the community spirit out yesterday for the New Hope walk. We had 7 walkers from Kensington, and some more join us for the lunch. We also had a chance to connect with neighbours as they were attracted by what was

going. While not a comprehensive study, it sounds like they appreciate our friendliness, connection to the community, and that we're not trying to force them into anything.

Our team raised about \$350, and the grand total (so far - they still need to count Saturday's donations) is about \$11 400. Thank you for your support in this, and enabling them to use our building.

✦ 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

Our Father,

We thank you for our daily bread,
and our cloths, and homes,
that keep us nourished, warm and safe.

We pray for those who are living without
enough food,
appropriate clothes,
or home that is secure.

We pray for those who are stressed about how to meet their needs

...

May they know they are precious and important
that their needs be met,
and that we can help.

May your will be done here on Earth
as it is in Heaven.

So that everyone may know what it's like
to be free to live full of your love and hope...

Jesus, please lead us away from times of trial,
and give us the faith to know that you are with us
in all times.

Times of richness, and times of poverty...
times of health, and times of sickness...
times of new birth, and times of death....

Jesus, you know what it's like to grieve.

We pray for those who are grieving
for Irene and the death of her sister
and for the Queen's family,

We pray for all those who are impacted by death...
May the know that this is not the end in you.

Help us to live into your kingdom,
for the power and the glory are yours
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Christ you call us all to service.....pg 11 (585)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=i94YAWcTVRo

✦ Benediction

*Now to him who by the power at work within us
is able to accomplish abundantly far more
than all we can ask or imagine,
to him be glory in the church
and in Christ Jesus to all generations,
forever and ever.*
Amen



Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) works to improve the quality of life for people living with disabilities.

John, who had a limb amputated when he was younger, is a participant in a livelihoods program at the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation Centre. As a participant, John was able to attend a workshop on vegetable production.



"I can't thank the program and their partners, like PWS&D, enough. I can produce enough food now to feed myself and my family because of the training and the seed that I received from the program. Thankfully, the training and the seed I received came at the right time and has proven to be the game-changer. Thank you so much for the timely intervention," shared John. This livelihoods program with the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation Centre is supported by PWS&D through the Presbyterian Church of Ghana.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 18 We pray for people living with disabilities in Ghana and give thanks for the education that they receive through the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation Program to improve their quality of life.

Monday, September 19 We pray for Sylvia Haddad, Director of the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service (JCC) in Beirut, Lebanon. May God grant her strength and wisdom as she and the JCC share God's love and hope with Palestinian and Syrian refugees.

Tuesday, September 20 We pray for the members and work of the International Affairs Committee.

Wednesday, September 21 (International Day of Prayer for Peace) We pray for the power to devote our thought and energy to the task of making peace in the world, in our communities, in our churches and in our homes.

Thursday, September 22 We pray for clerks of Session as they work with ministers and elders to provide leadership and pastoral care to congregations across Canada.

Friday, September 23 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Pictou in Nova Scotia.

Saturday, September 24 We pray for the members and work of the Assembly Council.

Come, thou almighty King

MUSIC BY FELICE DE GIARDINI

G Dm Em AmC D G Em D G

1. Come, thou al - might - y King; help us thy
 2. Come, thou in - car - nate Word; gird on thy
 3. Come, ho - ly Com - fort - er; thy sa - cred
 4. To the great One - in - Three e - ter - nal

Em /D C C/B Am6 G Am/C C/D D G

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days.
 Spir - it of hol - li - ness, on us de - scend.
 and ne'er from us de - part, Spir - it of power.
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

Words: anonymous Music: Felice de Giardini (1716-1796)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

C/E G D D G B Dsus4-3 D G D7/F#

name to sing; help us to praise. Fath - er, all
 might - y sword; our prayer at - tend; come, and thy
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour! Thou who al -
 prais - es be hence ev - er - more! His sov - reign

G D7 G Am/C E/B Am B B7/D# Em

glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 peo - ple bless, and give thy word suc - cess;
 might - y art, now rule in eve - ry heart,
 maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

Christ is King!

ST. LEONARD 878787

F C/E C F/A Gm/Bb C Bb Gm6 Dm /C

1. Christ is King! Let earth-ly pow-ers, wealth, do-min-ion,
 2. Christ is King! O saints be joy-ful; grace and jus-tice
 3. Christ is King! Death's power is end-ed; now there is no

Gm/Bb C7/G F C/E C F/A Gm/Bb C

state and crown, here be-fore the Ser-vant Sav-iour
 will be shown, weak-ness lift-ed in-to glo-ry,
 need for fear. Love and love a-lone re-deems us,

Bb Gm6 Dm /C Gm/Bb C7/G F C/E Am

praise and wor-ship and kneel down. Je-sus reigns: a
 pride and greed cast from their throne. Je-sus reigns: the
 wipes a-way our guilt and tears. Je-sus reigns: the

Dm7/F G 7 C Bb C 7 Dm F/A Bb6 C F

cross ex-alt him; suf-fering is the roy-al gown.
 once-re-jec-ted has be-come the Cor-ner-stone.
 Lamb once-slaugh-tered in a-bun-dant life ap-pears.

Alternate tune: Regent Square

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) Music: J.C. Bach (1642-1703)

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Christ, you call us all to service

IN BABILONE 8787D

G Am6 G/B Em A/C Dsus2-3 G /B Am7 Dsus6-5 G/B Emsus4-3 Am /C D7 G

1. Christ, you call us all to ser-vice, call us all who fol-low you;
 2. Teach us how to work to-geth-er, bro-ther, sis-ter, side by side,
 3. Let us be a serv-ant peo-ple, re-con-cil-ing, end-ing strife,

G Am6 G/B Em A/C Dsus2-3 G /B Am7 Dsus6-5 G/B Emsus4-3 Am /C D7 G

plant in us a deep com-mit-ment all your work and will to do.
 e-equal part-ners in the strug-gle, in the cause of truth al-lied.
 seek-ing ways more just of shar-ing and of or-ordering hu-man life.

Em Dm6 C Bm/D Am/E E Am D /C G/B Em D/F# G A7 D

Fire a pas-sion for your jus-tice; in us kin-dle love of peace;
 To each one some gift is giv-en—man or wo-man, young or old;
 Fill us with a glow-ing vi-sion of this world as it should be;

G Am6 G/B Em A/C Dsus2-3 G /B Am7 Dsus6-5 G/B Emsus4-3 Am /C D7 G

help us heal the bro-ken-heart-ed; to the cap-tive bring re-lease.
 help us use each skill and tal-ent, your great pur-pose to un-fold.
 send us forth to change that vi-sion in-to blest re-a-li-ty.

Words: Joy F. Patterson (1931-) Music: Dutch melody; arrangement, Julius Röntgen (1855-1933)

Words: copyright © 1994 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: arrangement, copyright © F. E. Röntgen, 1979

Inspired by love and anger

1. In - spired by love and an - ger, dis -
 2. From those for - ev - er vic - tims of
 3. From those for - ev - er shack - led to
 5. God asks, 'Who will go for me? Who
 6. A - mused in some - one's kit - chen, a -

turbed by need and pain, in - formed of God's own
 heart - less hu - man greed, their cru - el plight com -
 what their wealth can buy, the fear of lost ad -
 will ex - tend my reach? And who, when few will
 sleep in some - one's boat, at - tuned to what the

bi - as, we ask him once a - gain: 'How
 pos - es a li - ta - ny of need: 'Where
 van - tage pro - vokes the bit - ter cry, 'Don't
 lis - ten, will pro - phe - sy and preach? And
 an - cients ex - posed, pro - claimed and wrote, a

long must some folk suf - fer? How long can few folk
 are the fruits of jus - tice? Where are the signs of
 que - ry our po - si - tion! Don't cri - ti - cize our
 who, when few bid wel - come, will of - fer all they
 sav - iour with - out safe - ty, a trades - man with - out

mind? How long dare vain self
 peace? When is the day when
 wealth! Don't men - tion those ex -
 know? And who, when few dare
 tools has come to tip the

in - terest turn prayer and pi - ty blind?
 pris - oners and dreams find their re - lease?
 ploi - ted by po - li - tics and stealth!
 fol - low, will walk the road I show?
 bal - ance with fish - er - men and fools.

Words and Arrangement © 1987, 1997 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Pearce Institute, 840 Govan Road, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland



Begging Jesus - T Schmalz