



# Kensington Presbyterian Church

## Seeking

September 11, 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)



Sherpherd - A Vollandton

### Contacts

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<sup>1</sup> 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:** September 17 at 11 a.m.

This is a fundraiser for the New Hope Seniors' Centre, who meet in our basement. You can find out more here: [newhopedg.com](http://newhopedg.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.

**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 ... (ask Rev. Peter)  
Thursday, 7 pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup on Monkland

**Donation of securities:** without a commission  
You can always donate securities (ex. stocks) to ministries, missions and congregations, but if you do so before Sept 15<sup>th</sup> the bank (Scotia-MacLeod) won't take a commission on donations below \$10 000. If this feels rushed, it seems there will be other opportunities for commission-free donations in December.

For more information, please contact Maggie Leung at the national office. 1-800-619-7301 ext. 239 [mleung@presbyterian.ca](mailto:mleung@presbyterian.ca)

**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 (Matthew 11:28-29)

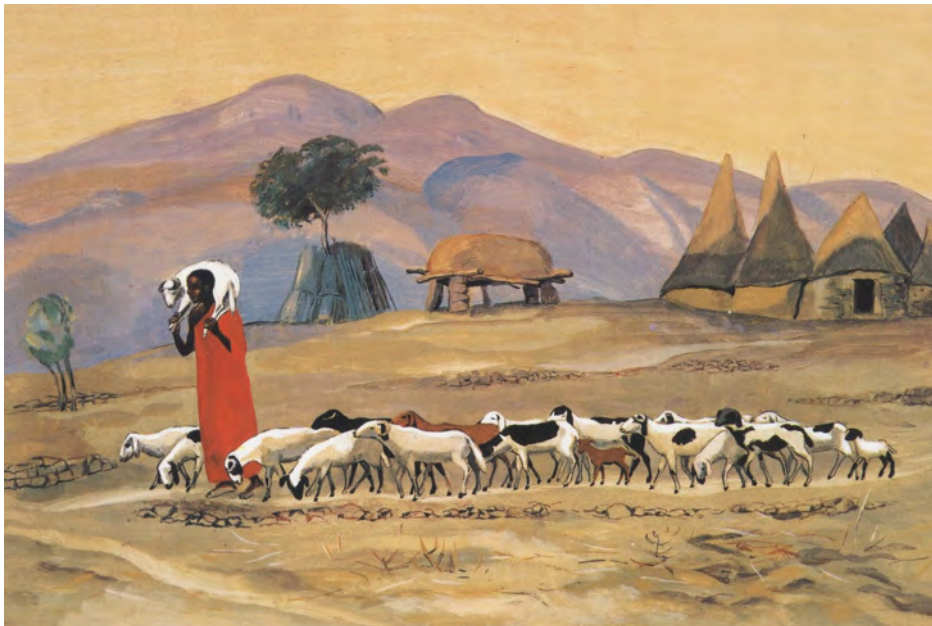
Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.

🎵 Hymn: Softly and tenderly.....pg 10 (640)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUgEOKEfYng](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUgEOKEfYng)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf\\_glkmbNbQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf_glkmbNbQ) (choir)



Good Shepherd - Mafa 19



### Prayer of Approach

Loving God,

We celebrate that your Spirit is always looking to bring us into  
your family - to bring everyone into your family.

We are amazed at what you will do to reach out to people.

Most we don't see, but we do know that you were willing to  
come and live with us in Jesus - even though we killed you.

That despite everything we do wrong,  
you steadfast love stays with us.

We thank you for the wise people you have inspired before us,  
who leave us words like Psalm 51 that we can make our own.

<sup>1</sup>Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
**according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.**

<sup>2</sup>Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
**and cleanse me from my sin.**

<sup>3</sup>For I know my transgressions,  
**and my sin is ever before me.**

<sup>4</sup>Against you, you alone, have I sinned,  
and done what is evil in your sight,  
**so that you are justified in your sentence  
and blameless when you pass judgment.**

<sup>5</sup>Indeed, I was born guilty,  
a sinner when my mother conceived me.

<sup>6</sup>**You desire truth in the inward being;  
therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.**

<sup>7</sup>Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;  
**wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.**

<sup>8</sup>Let me hear joy and gladness;

let the bones that you have crushed rejoice.

**<sup>9</sup>Hide your face from my sins,  
and blot out all my iniquities.**

**<sup>10</sup>Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.**

Amen.

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news from the Gospel According to John.<sup>2</sup>

“God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world  
to condemn the world,  
but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

✦ 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.**

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<sup>2</sup> John 3:L 16-17



## *Listening to God*

✦ Children's story

Are any of you perfect? (If you think so, you can work on humility.) All of us do things at times that hurt others, or the environment, or even ourselves. Sometimes it's just us doing it, and sometimes it's with others. So examples could be

- fighting would be bad, but it could be as simple as being grumpy because you slept bad and not greeting your friend on the bus. They might be hurt that you ignore them.
- We used to just throw everything out, but we've learned now that it's bad for the environment.

The church has some special words for these things.

- **Sin** is all the bad stuff we do.
- **Repentance** is deciding to stop doing that stuff.
- **Forgiveness** is saying, “I'm glad you can see what you did wrong and are going try to be different. I'll help you on that.”

With our examples. Sin is how you've hurt your friend. Repentance is telling them you're sorry your grumpiness hurt their feelings. Forgiveness might be them trying to cheer you up - or perhaps giving you space if that's what you need.

With the environment sin is our pollution, repentance is us realizing it's hurting the environment and trying to Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. Forgiveness is that God is glad we realize our mistakes and tries to help us.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to realize when we hurt others, to admit it and try to change.

Help us also to forgive others and look for ways to help.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Herald! Sound the note of judgment .....pg 11(117)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQTfNTXk9HI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQTfNTXk9HI)



Jonah and the cave of the earth - Baumgartner



### 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.<sup>3</sup>

3 Worship Sourcebook 3.1.24



### Intro to the readings

- In exodus Moses has been meeting with God and receiving the 10 Commandments. The people have been waiting in the wilderness for 40 days!
- In Luke Jesus tells a set of three parables about finding the lost sheep, coin & son. We'll hear the first two today.
- The psalm we've already read as our prayer of confession. You may want to check out the rest of it as it's also good.



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.

[Exodus 32](#): 1-15a, 19-22

[Luke 15](#): 1-10

[Psalm 51](#): 1-10



### Sermon: Seeking

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

Today we are offered great passages to reflect on. I'm sure there is something in them that you can relate to.

Perhaps it's being lost?

Perhaps you were one of the good ones that never got lost?

Perhaps you relate more to the one doing the searching?

Perhaps it's when God & Moses were frustrated with those who got 'lost'... again.

Perhaps it's hearing about the joy in finding that brings back memories?

There are lots of places these stories can touch you.

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

The titles of today's stories suggest what they are about. The lost sheep; the lost coin; the golden calf. Curiously, none of them do much in the stories. The sheep and the coin just sit there lost until found; the golden calf just sits there. Which isn't to say they aren't important. They show what is going on around them.

In the case of the sheep and the coin we are told they are missed, even if they are just a small percentage. The one that lost them drops everything and goes looking. They look hard. No expense is spared (the woman light a lamp). They take risks (with the shepherd leaving the rest of the flock). They don't stop until the lost has been brought back into the community.

If the sheep or coin were to know this would happen it would reduce their fear and give them hope. It might even do that for the rest of the sheep and coins; to know that they would also be looked for should they become lost.

Normally we assign the role of the shepherd and the woman to God. There's good reason for this. God is compared to a shepherd in both the older and newer testaments. We are the lost

sheep or coin. I suspect we can also all relate to times when we haven't lived our best; when our heart or actions has not been clean. While this may be us turning away from God, it is not God turning away from us. Each person matters, and God will turn everything upside-down trying bring them back. As the psalmist sings, *"Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions."* This is who God is. You can put your faith in this. God will save us when we are lost.

Wait a second, you might be thinking. What about repentance? Don't people have to change their ways to be saved?

This is a good question. I had somebody drop by my office this week and ask it in a different way. He was wondering what will happen to people like Hitler and Putin. If God loves them, are they saved? These parables tell of joy and celebrations at the lost being found - with no indication of the lost changing. I think this is true, but also not the full story. In the previous chapter of Luke Jesus told about a great dinner - and that those who put their



Two sons - James Janknegt

own lives first and didn't come would be locked out in the cold. Earlier Jesus tells of the farmer who scatters seed and only a quarter of it survives. God will do everything to find those that are lost, and celebrate their return. That said, they lost may turn away. As the psalmist admits, all of us do this at times. Thankfully God keeps looking.

What if you're one of the good sheep? What if you've stuck by the shepherd and now the shepherd has disappeared? leaving you in the wilderness! You can have the faith that everything will turn out alright. But what if it continues? What if something threatens you?

Take the passage from Exodus. God, through Moses, saved the people and led them into the wilderness. Moses went up the mountain to meet with God, and has been gone for over a month.<sup>5</sup> They had a hard life back in Egypt, but they knew how it worked. Out here in the wild they don't know where they are going. They don't even know how to survive. They probably felt abandoned and afraid. How would you feel if your world had changed, become uncertain and harder with no obvious way forward?

With no sign of their saviour, Moses, the people look for direction. They ask Aaron to make them something to look to. There are two problems with this. One is that an object can't represent God, as Aaron tries to do. It shows that Aaron doesn't really understand God.

The other is that people are looking in the wrong place. They want to try other gods as a way to be saved. How could they think that? Possibly because they didn't understand what had happened to them. Despite Moses telling them (repeatedly) that the God of

their ancestors Abraham, Isaac & Jacob had saved them and brought them out of Egypt - they thought it was Moses. They failed to grasp the One that was behind it all - the One they couldn't see.<sup>6</sup> They became lost.

Now if God is the shepherd and woman who goes seeking the lost, then this will be okay for the lost partying with the golden calf. In the parables the sheep and the coin don't have to prove they've changed their ways to be found. However, we have an odd moment. God seems to be distancing himself from the trouble makers. They are now Moses' kids. The Lord of lords talks of destroying them and starting again based on Moses. Has God lost it? What happened to steadfast love?

Moses resists the temptation to become the new founder of the chosen people and helps God see how the press would cover the story. He then reminds God of his promise to Abraham, Issac, and Jacob. It seems to work.

Does this mean God changed God's mind?

I think that happens. I believe our prayers do have an impact. I can't explain how. Does the act of praying change God or us? Does it change how we see the world? or help us to see God in it? I don't know, but I know it does.

In this case, did Moses change God's mind? Maybe, but I came across Jewish and Christian thinkers who wonder if God didn't. They suggest that this was a test, like the one to see if Abraham would sacrifice Isaac. In both cases it's about what/who you put first. For Moses, is the story about him and how great he can be, or is it about God and how God is able to lead people to freedom? Moses resists greater glory and keeps God the focus.

The temptation of the Israelites when they are afraid and lost is a temptation we face too. Where do we turn to in times of

---

5 40 days

6 They also failed to grasp what they were saved from. While they were led out of Egypt, they were saved from slavery and given freedom.

trouble? Do you see medicine or other sciences as the salvation for our troubles? They can do amazing things (so could Moses), but remember that the God of the universe is hidden behind them. Doctors admit that prayer helps (even if they don't understand how).

Does this make us the seeker and God the one that is lost? That's an interpretation I didn't find in any commentary, but it's interesting. Perhaps it's why the sheep and coin did nothing to be lost. Are we to put all our effort into looking for God, and then experience great joy in the finding? I think there's nothing wrong with this. In fact, just before today's passage Jesus tells the disciples that they have to be prepared to sacrifice everything to follow him. We just need to remember that God doesn't hide, we are the ones who lose sight.

There's another interpretation, which is part of the beauty of parables. There are many valid ways of learning from them. Amy-Jill Levine, a Jewish Jesus scholar, argues that Jews at the time would never believe that God could lose something. Therefore God couldn't be the shepherd or the woman. She suggests that role is intended for the people Jesus is speaking to: the Pharisees and the scribes. They are the leaders who are grumbling because Jesus is partying with those who have damaged society (tax collectors, etc). Jesus is reminding them of the joy that is found in doing everything you can to find the lost and bring them back into the community - rather than grumbling about them. I'm not convinced by her reason, but I think her point is good. We are also called to be like the shepherd and the woman - looking for people who have lost their connection with the community of God, helping them back in - and celebrating.

We can plug ourselves into many places in today's passages. You might be feeling lost, or unworthy, or abandoned, or grumpy. If so, know that God will do anything to help you be reconnected with the God of hope. Know that there is hope, and that this leads to joy.

and if you're catching a glimpse of the joyful party in Heaven, then help those who are lost to see it too.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*



Good Shepherd - J Dupre



## Responding to God

♪ Hymn: God forgave my sins.....pg 12 (774)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGKhZ1\\_C41s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CGKhZ1_C41s)

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

Values: When does joy bubble up inside you?

Wonder: Describe which do you feel more like at the moment? lost? not-lost? left behind? the seeker? celebrator?

Actions: How do you share your joy?

Values: How could Kensington reach out to those who are disconnected from community? from God?

Prayer: ...that we all may know and share the love, hope and healing of God

### ✦ Spirit Sightings

Back in August I told you about Brandon Dawson-Jarvis and how he was organizing the gift of school supplies for those who are economically disadvantaged here in NDG. I'm pleased to share that they were able to help 250 children.

I also want to tell you about an article I read the other day.<sup>7</sup> It challenges the way society views things with a way that is more Godly. It starts with the quote "*Death and dying, and even bereavement, do not have to be that scary.*" As Christians, we believe that death is not the end and, thanks to Jesus, we can look forward to being with God afterwards. I also appreciated that it talks about the need for support for the whole family before and

7 [qe2foundation.ca/our-impact/news/dr-mary-ellen-macdonald-appointed-j-w-murphy-foundation-endowed-chair-palliative](http://qe2foundation.ca/our-impact/news/dr-mary-ellen-macdonald-appointed-j-w-murphy-foundation-endowed-chair-palliative)

after - by professionals and the community. To help this a family that had been blessed financially set up a research position for palliative care. The goal is to listen and improve the care of people who are dying, and their communities. This is a way the Holy Spirit is working in our midst - even if it is in Nova Scotia.

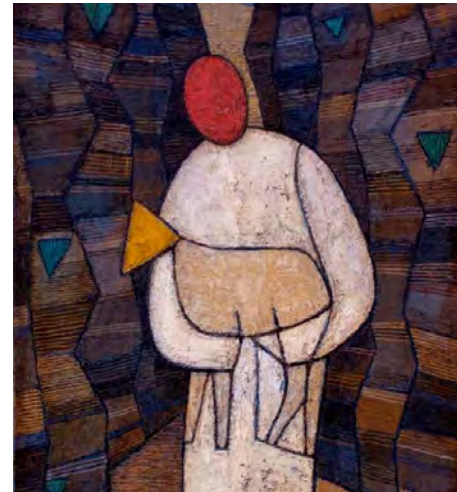
The article was celebrating the start of the first person in this position: Dr. Mary Ellen Macdonald. This means Mary Ellen will be trying to live in both Halifax and Montreal - please pray for her as she starts this exciting part of her journey.

### ✦ 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.



Even though I Walk through a Valley Dark of Death - Soichi Watanabe



## Prayers of the people

Today we are going to use the following hymn as our prayer. I invite you to pause between the verses and allow topics to pull on your attention - and to pray for them.

Some of the topics I'll be praying for include

- the war in Ukraine, Etheopia, Yemen & Afghanistan
- inflation & those struggling to pay for the basics of food, shelter, healthcare and education.
- places where minorities struggle - including the racism here in Montréal
- that truth may be spoken and the needs of people remembered in the election
- for healing for our bodies, minds and souls
- for the return of the choir and the joy that will bring
- that share and celebrate the good news of God's love as we know it through Jesus Christ

♪ We lay our broken world.....pg 11 (202)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvmXNG6VXJU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvmXNG6VXJU)

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Come let us sing.....pg 13 (tune 706)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_hyicnAV1Ow](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hyicnAV1Ow)

✦ **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.



Inspired by the early apostles, the Rev. Mike Veenema launched REACH, a ministry that takes place in the streets, screens, homes and public institutions of Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. REACH focuses on gathering people to worship and become disciples of Jesus Christ. Central to this ministry is Mike's willingness to go out and draw people together in worship where they are. As the Rev. Mike himself described, "Whether they are in custody, in long-term care, struggling on the streets, or in their homes, I go to where they are." Mike receives coaching and training support through Cyclical PCC, a church-planting initiative that is supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing.



## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, September 11** We pray for the Rev. Michael Veenema and the REACH ministry in Nova Scotia.

**Monday, September 12** We give thanks and pray for teachers and all those who support education in schools.

**Tuesday, September 13** We pray for the members and work of the Committee on Church Doctrine.

**Wednesday, September 14** We pray for clergy who are beginning their service in active ministry in their first pastoral charges, as well as for clergy who are entering retirement.

**Thursday, September 15** We pray for the members and work of the National Indigenous Ministry Council.

**Friday, September 16** We pray for LGBTQI2+ refugees seeking sanctuary. We pray for their safety and give thanks for their sponsors.

**Saturday, September 17** We pray for members of the Atlantic Mission Society as they meet online for their Annual Meeting today.

Softly and tenderly

THOMPSON 11 7 11 7 with refrain

Ab /C Eb/Bb Ab Db /Ab Ab Fm6 Bb7/I

1. Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for you and for  
 2. Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for you and for  
 3. Oh for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for you and for

Eb Ab (/C Eb7/Bb Ab) Db /Ab Ab

me: pa - tient - ly Je - sus is wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 me; though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

/C Db Ab/Eb Eb7 Ab Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come  
 par - don for you and for me.

Eb7 Ab Eb Ab Eb/Bb /G F7 Bb7 Eb (Bb7/F Eb7)

home, come home, ye who are wea - ry, come home";  
 (come home,) (come home)

Ab (/C Eb/Bb Ab) Db Ab /C Db Ab/Eb Eb7 Ab

ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly, Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, "Come home!"

Words: William J. Thompson (1847-1909) Music: William J. Thompson (1847-1909)  
 Words: public domain Music: public domain

# 117 Herald! Sound the note of judgement

1. Her-ald! Sound the note of judge-ment, warn-ing souls of right and wrong,  
 2. Her-ald! Sound the note of glad-ness! Tell the news that Christ is here;  
 3. Her-ald! Sound the note of par-don! Those re-pent-ing are for-given;  
 4. Her-ald! Sound the note of tri-umph! Christ has come to share our life,

turn-ing them from sin and sad-ness, till once more they sing the song.  
 make a path-way through the des-ert for the one who brings God near.  
 God re-ceives us way-ward child-ren, and to all new life is given.  
 bring-ing God's own love and pow-er, grant-ing vic-tory in our strife.

Sound the trum-pet! Tell the mess-age! Christ the Sav-iour King has come!

Words: Moir A.J. Waters (1906–1980), alt Music: Joachim Neander (1650–1680);  
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# 202 We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet

GARELOCHSIDE 6 6 8 6 SM

G/B C G 7 Am G/B C G/D C/E Cmaj7 F

1. We lay our bro-ken world in sor-row at your feet, haunt-  
 2. Here hu-man life seems less than pro-fit, might and pride, though  
 3. We bring our bro-ken towns, our neigh-bours hurt and bruised; you  
 4. We bring our bro-ken loves, friends part-ed, fam-ilies torn; then

Dm /F G C/E C6 G/B G7 Am C/E Gsus4-3 C

ed by hun-ger, war and fear, op-pressed by power and hate.  
 to u-nite us all in you, you lived and loved and died.  
 show us how old pain and wounds for new life can be used.  
 in your life and death we see that love must be re-born.

- 5. We bring our broken selves, confused and closed and tired; then through your gift of healing grace new purpose is inspired.
- 6. O Spirit, on us breathe with life and strength anew; find in us love, and hope, and trust, and lift us up to you.

Words: Anna Briggs (1947–) Music: Kenneth G. Finlay (1882–1974)  
 Words: copyright © Iona Community (Scotland). Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications Inc. Music: copyright © Broomhill Church of Scotland, Glasgow

# 774 God forgave my sin / Freely, freely

E B/D# C#m 7 F#m7 E/G# /A B

1. God for - gave my sin in Je - sus' name, I've been  
 2. All power is given in Je - sus' name, in

F#m7 /A B B/A E/G# B7sus/F# E E7 A E/G#

born a - gain in Je - sus' name, and in Je - sus' name I  
 earth and heaven in Je - sus' name, and in Je - sus' name I

A/C# B/D# E G#m F#m7/A B E

come to you to share his love as he told me to.  
 come to you to share his power as he told me to.

(Org. Ped.)

Refrain (Unison or improvised harmony)

B7 E F#m7 B

He said: "Free - ly, free - ly you have re - ceived;

B7 E sus4 A/E A6 E

free - ly, free - ly give. Go in my name and be -

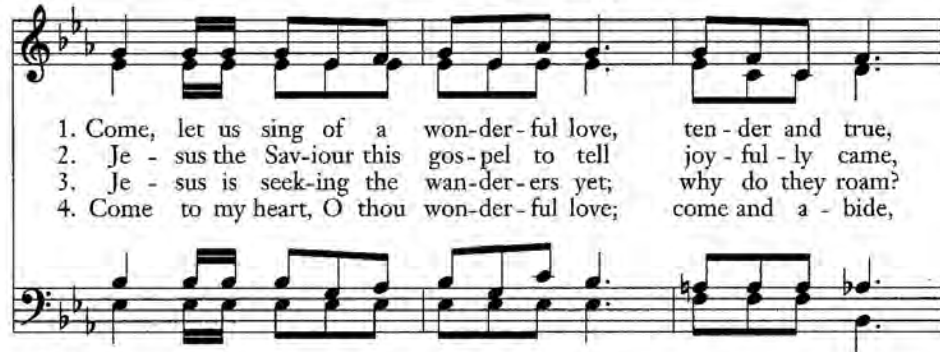
F#m7 B B7 B7 E A/E E

cause you be - lieve, o - thers will know that I live."

Words: Carol Owens Music: Carol Owens

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## Come, let us sing



1. Come, let us sing of a won-der-ful love, ten-der and true,  
 2. Je - sus the Sav-iour this gos-pel to tell joy - ful - ly came,  
 3. Je - sus is seek-ing the wan-der-ers yet; why do they roam?  
 4. Come to my heart, O thou won-der-ful love; come and a - bide,



ten - der and true; out of the heart of the  
 joy - ful - ly came, came with the help - less and  
 why do they roam? Love on - ly waits to for -  
 come and a - bide, lift - ing my life till it



Fath - er a - bove, stream - ing to me and to  
 hope - less to dwell, shar - ing their sor - row and  
 give and for - get; home, wea - ry wan - der - ers,  
 ris - es a - bove en - vy and false - hood and



you: won - der - ful love, won - der - ful love  
 shame: seek - ing the lost, seek - ing the lost,  
 home: won - der - ful love, won - der - ful love  
 pride: seek - ing to be, seek - ing to be



dwells in the heart of the Fath - er a - bove.  
 sav - ing, re - deem - ing at meas - ure - less cost.  
 dwells in the heart of the Fath - er a - bove.  
 low - ly and hum - ble, a learn - er of thee.

Words: Robert Walmsley (1831–1905) Music: Adam Watson (1845–1912)

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