



Kensington Presbyterian Church

The Potter's Wheel

Sept 4, 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)



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

Communion this 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.

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.

You can be a sponsor or join the team here:

secure.e2rm.com/registrator/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?teamID=984501&langPref=en-CA

or just talk to Rev. Peter.

Jesus & Java: Thursday, 7 pm at 2nd Cup on Monkland

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

We are also considering starting an afternoon edition. If this interests you, please contact Rev. Peter.

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).

Photos: Do you have any summer photos you would like to share? Please send them to Rev. Peter.

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 (Psalm 9:1-2,)

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.
We will be glad and exult in you;
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.

♪ Hymn: The Clay Stained Hands of Love.....pg 10 (296)
youtu.be/w36w2keM2iY?t=2611



Prayer of Approach

Almighty God,
it is possible to tell much from a person's hands,
from what they do.
It is amazing the things that your hands tell us.
It is amazing that you do these things:
getting dirty,
healing and loving
getting so close that we trespass over you.

We are sorry...

May your Spirit help us to be more focused on you,
so that we may be moulded into better vessels for your love.

In Jesus name
Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news.
God pours the Spirit upon us, even when we sin.
The Spirit which helps us recognize our sin,
and encourages us to be re-formed through God's grace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.



Listening to God

♪ Hymn: What Does the Lord Require.....pg 11 (710)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wV5TPulkHS0



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is explored,
the seeds you have planted in us will grow
to feed our love for you and the world. Amen.



Intro to the readings

- **Jeremiah**
 - a Prophet delivering messages from God. At this stage they are warnings.
 - There are four 'characters' involved:
 - Babylon: the powerful Empire overshadowing Judah
 - Judah: insecure and fearful. trying to control their own future
 - ordinary citizen: unaware of what's going on
 - Jeremiah: activist - fighting/complaining, trying to get people to change their ways.
 - Which are you?

- **Philemon:** is an interesting letter - probably the shortest book in the Bible.
 - has been used to both support and dismantle slavery
 - includes a woman in the greetings - which would have been big at the time
- **Psalm 139:** is one of my favourites, though it's here this week because it's chosen the lectionary. Why do you think they chose it for this week?



 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,² or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Jeremiah 18:](#) 1-11

[Philemon:](#) 1-7

[Psalm 139:](#) 1-6, 13-18



Sermon: The Potter's Wheel

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.³ Amen.

Are you familiar with 'The Magic School Bus'? It's a series of books, and two TV shows, about an elementary school class that go on crazy field trips where they become frogs, or shrink to see how food is digested, or fly off to see what comets are made of. In every story students are excited, worried, wish they'd stayed at home, and glad they went.

In today's passage from Jeremiah, God tells him to go on a field trip. I wonder how Jeremiah felt?

While there are times when it's difficult to find the motivation to go out, I usually find a change of scenery nice - even inspiring. Perhaps that's why God told Jeremiah to go.

I like the image of God that Jeremiah is offered in the potter. God as an artist. God with clay stained hands. God with his hands around us, moulding us into something better.

Have you tried working with clay?

I'm reminded of the motto of the Magic School Bus, "Take chances, make mistakes, get messy!" In high school, and more

² 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

³ Psalm 19:14

recently in my cousin's studio, I've had opportunities to work with clay. It's not as easy as Play-Doh. I made a nice baby dragon, but the egg was a flop. I took chances, made mistakes, and some of it worked. I didn't understand how clay changes through the process. Thankfully God knows us better than we know ourselves. I also don't believe that God makes mistakes.

Thinking of clay and Play-Doh - clay is also messier. The area you are working in, and your hands, will become muddy. This should be expected. Creation is messy, whether it's pottery, baking, writing, ...or life. We all have stories about how life can be messy.



What Jeremiah is shown teaches us about God, life, and ourselves. We're involved in two ways.

We are the clay being worked on, both individually and collectively. This gives me hope. God is working to make me better, ...Kensington better, ...the world better. I also appreciate that it's not an instant process. Clay needs to be softened up before you can work with it. It's like kneading dough. It's folded in on itself. It's stretched. It's lifted up and thrown against the table. More material may be worked in... or removed. While we can't ask the clay how it feels about this, we can imagine. We've lived through these experiences - times when we've been stretched, or pushed against something hard, or torn apart. Times when we've folded in on ourselves. Sometimes we resist and put up a shell to protect what we were. Sometimes we are softened and moulded into something new.

The other way that we are involved is in the creation.

It doesn't matter what you are working with: clay, flour, words, They all have ways that work well, and ways that don't. (Despite the health benefits, don't make crepes with whole-wheat flour.) God recognizes these unique and shifting characteristics. It's worth repeating that God knows us better than we know ourselves. Our God respects us. Our Potter doesn't just force us into a shape, but responds to us. That isn't to say that the clay dictates what is being made, but it is a part of what becomes. As God is moulding each of us, God also knows the big picture. God may know that we could be a beautiful bowl for the feast, but we may not be ready - and so we are formed into a plate for now - both are needed and help the celebration.

The clay brings what it is to the wheel. Jeremiah assures us that God wants to create what is good, but clay isn't as clean as Play-Doh. When you are working with clay you may find other things

in it. I remember finding a moth that needed to be carved out. There can also be bits that have dried out too much to use. These are elements that prevent the clay from becoming what the potter wants to make. This isn't good.

What's the opposite of good? ...evil.

You might feel that evil is a rather strong word for this. The clay didn't have anything to do with the moth landing in it. It wasn't *all* dried out - and even so, being dry doesn't hurt anyone else. Is this evil?

Evil doesn't need to be as big as Hitler's actions. Here Jeremiah talks about evil as not listening to God. In the previous chapter Jeremiah reminds them not to oppress others. The hymn we sung before the readings is taken from another prophet: Micah 6:8,

*"He has told you, O mortal, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?"*

If you would like a version from the Newer Testament, there's the Great Commandment, *'to love God with all your heart, soul, mind & strength - and to love others as yourself.'*⁴

The Christian term for doing this is righteousness. Not doing it is sin - which is evil. Often we think of this as an individual thing - because it is. That said, Liberation Theology (out of South America) reminds us that it is also collective. I sin. You sin. We all sin together as a society/community. If you want to push the pottery image onto it: each plate is an individual, but together they are part of serving the meal.



The pottery image can continue to help us. When trying my cousin's pottery wheel I learned that the clay needs to be stuck on - or it will go flying. As you can imagine, that's not helpful to the clay or the Potter. Are you stuck on God? Do you cling to God? Do we?

The clay also needs to be centred on the wheel. When it's not centred the clay wobbles all over and nothing can be made. What are you centred on? An interesting exercise is to check how you spend your time and money; it's a good indication of how you are centred.

In pottery, sticking the clay down and centring it is the job of the potter. In life we have to accept God's invitations. We are not asked to be passive. The key word in the Great Commandment is love. Can you imagine a passive love?

How do you cling to God?

How do you centre yourself on God?

Jeremiah, like most of the prophets, focuses on the negative ways that people are living. Paul brings out a positive in his letter to Philemon. He shares his appreciation for all the love that is being shared. This is an actively living into the relationships made possible through the love of Christ. Paul feels strengthened by the love of Philemon, Apphia, and the others - even when he's away. Later in the letter he also relates it to an issue of justice and grace. This is something to try and bring into our lives and society - but it all starts with loving. His prayer in verse 6 is part of loving God and our neighbour. *"I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective"*. I'm excited to see it happening in Kensington. One example is through *Jesus & Java*. We gather on a field trip - out in the world. We share our faith with each other... and people have been sharing this with others so that we are now looking at starting a second group.

4 Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:27a

I like today's passages and the images they give us of God, ourselves, and life.

Sometimes the evil that is still in me and the world make life hard - and sometimes it is God reshaping me into something better. This may not be more glorious, but better to my current capabilities to help share God love, hope, and healing.

It's reassuring to know that Jeremiah wasn't just speaking to individuals, but to society as well.

It's reassuring, though challenging, to know that this is an ongoing process. We are continuing to be spun and shaped. As somebody said to me this week, "It's not like it used to be; what can I expect? Everything has changed." It can be dizzying, but I'm reassured that the good work continues. It's especially reassuring to remember that God is working to create something beautiful. Good has won.

To God be all the glory
Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: There is a Balm in Gilead.....pg 11 (747)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fcMxl_6xsk

💬 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: When have you visited somewhere you don't normally go and been inspired? How so?

Values: In his letter to Philemon, Paul talks about feeling supported and encouraged by love. What specific

words, actions or qualities made you feel welcome and valued in Kensington?

Wonder: Is there a time God changed plans to accommodate your willingness/desires/fears?

Wonder: How do you see God moulding your conversation partner?

What shape is God trying to mould you into now?

Actions: Make something that expresses love or your faith in God. It could be out of play-doh, or flour, or flowers, or words, or ... Share this with your conversation partner.

Prayer: ...for God to shape you, and us, to better share God's love, hope and healing.

✦ 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.



Communion

Communion Hymn: You Satisfy the Hungry Heart.....pg 12 (538)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=wr7bApTNtFw

Invitation to the table

While we are not gathered at one table, or even at one time,
we have all been gathered by one Lord, the creator of Heaven and
Earth.

C'est la volonté de Dieu
que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus
devraient partager ce repas.

So, come,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have come often
and you who have not joined for a while,
you who have tried to follow
and you how struggle.⁵

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper,
we also come together with a statement of faith that we share
with Christians of many types,
around the world and through the centuries.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

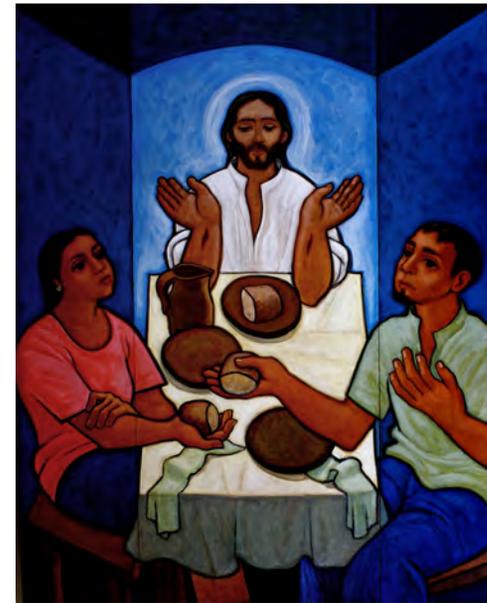
The third day he rose again from the dead.

⁵ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.

Amen.



Carvalhos Triptych - Barredo Maximino Cerezo

Great prayer of thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Creator of all:
of spinning galaxies and atoms,
of apples and of bacteria
or puppies and people.
All of which are continually changing,
sometimes by evil,
but more so by your love
which is reshaping all of creation
into a place where everything will share love.

Therefore, we join with the whole creation
to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

The reason we can have hope that good is stronger than evil
is The One who comes in the name of the Lord
is Jesus.

That while living as one of us,
Jesus was able to live as you are trying to mould us to.
That despite our failures that leading to Jesus being killed,
You were not shaped by our sin
and could not be stopped by death
because you are life.

And though it seems unreasonable,
your love continues.

...Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

As we wait for your to come again,
may your Spirit continue to mould us
into the beautiful creations you know we can be.
Re-forming each of us, and all of us,
to best share your love as the world changes.
and as we change.

Some of the changes we celebrate,
and some we are concerned about.
We pray for your help
in the Ukraine, Ethiopia, and other places of violence,
even in our neighbourhoods.
We pray for your wisdom to be with our leaders
here at Kensington,
and outside in the provincial election.
This weekend we pray for
those who work, and need a rest from their labours;
for students who have started school
and for all the staff that help them to learn.
We also pray for your healing,
for those awaking tests,
those who have had and are having surgery,
and those who need care. . .

We thank you for your continued presence,
in special times, hard times, and ordinary times.

As we share your bread and your cup,
we pray that your Spirit will make them alive
so that we may be closer to you
and be strengthened by you until you come again.

As we approach this table, let us come together and pray the
prayer that you taught us.

 Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

**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
now and forever.
Amen.**



Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread,
and after giving thanks to God
he broke the bread and shared it, saying
“This is my body; it is broken for you.”
“Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous”

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said,
“This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood
Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me.”
“Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon saunt; faites ceci
en mémoire de moi”
These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

[take and drink]

Prayer after Communion

Amazing God, you come alongside our ordinary lives
and set a holy table among us.
Jésus, tu nous invites toujours à te rejoindre.
We thank you for bring us together with you,
and each other, through your echo of the feast to come.
Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.
Help us to feel your love, hope and healing,
and to share it for all the world.

**In Jesus name
Amen.**

♪ Hymn: With the Lord as my (our) Guide.....pg 13 (574)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=adpi8rpMiYQ



Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all. ⁶

Amen.



God the Holy Trinity

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The clay-stained hands of love

LITTLE MARLBOROUGH 6 6 8 6 SM

Unison

Chords: Gm Cm6/G Gm7 Cm/G 6 Gm Cm 9 F7 Bbmaj9

1. The clay-stained hands of love cre - a - ted hu - man form.
 2. The heal - ing hands of love gave speech and sight and strength.
 3. The wound - ed hands of love showed life had con - quered death.
 4. The hid - den hands of love are build - ing up the church.
 5. We sing our praise, O Love, for your life - giv - ing hands.

Chords: Bb Ebmaj7 Cm7 Dm7 Ebmaj7 Cm9 Dm7 Gmsus4-3

Praise love that made us from the earth, the love with clay-stained hands.
 Praise love that came to touch and heal, the love with heal - ing hands.
 Praise love that came in ser - vant form, the love with wound - ed hands.
 Praise love that works with liv - ing stone, the love with hid - den hands.
 O Mak - er, Sav - iour, Spir - it, God, we sing our praise to you.

Words: Richard D. Leach from Songs for the People of God 1980 Music: Jack Noble White from Songs of the People of God 1980

Words: copyright © Selah Publishing Co. Inc. 1994 Music: copyright © Selah Publishing Co., 1994

6 2 Corinthians 13:13

Rev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

10/13

Vanea is 15 years old and lives in Malawi with her parents and four siblings. When Vanea finished primary school, she wrote an entrance exam for secondary school and was selected to attend the Neno Girls School, supported by the



- PCC through Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D). Sadly, Vanea's parents couldn't afford the school fees and she was forced to withdraw. PWS&D recognizes the importance of education for young girls to achieve their dreams and gain self-confidence. **PWS&D provides scholarships for orphans and vulnerable girls in Malawi to attend the Neno Girls School, who otherwise could not afford to due to financial constraints.** Vanea was one of the students selected for this scholarship and is now completing her high school education.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 4 We give thanks for programs the church supports through Presbyterian World Service & Development that empower girls to rise above disadvantage and pursue their goals.

Monday, September 5 (Labour Day) We give thanks to God for tasks completed with pride, for work to do, and for the strength and ability to do it; and we pray for those who do not have enough work and for those who have too much.

Tuesday, September 6 We pray for the Rev. Victor Kim as he commences his ministry as Principal Clerk of the General Assembly.

Wednesday, September 7 We pray for the members and work of the Committee on History.

Thursday, September 8 (World Literacy Day) We pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners in Afghanistan, Guatemala and Malawi as they teach children and youth to read and write.

Friday, September 9 We pray for the Protestant Theological Seminary in Matanzas, equipping pastors and being a prophetic voice in Cuban society for over 76 years.

Saturday, September 10 We pray that new students at our theological colleges, particularly international students, find strength and friendship in this community of learning.

What does the Lord require

SHARPTHORNE 666666

Unison Dm /C Gm/Bb C Fmaj7-6 Gm /Bb Amsus4-3 Dm /C

1. What does the Lord re - quire for praise and of - fer - ing?
 2. Rul - ers of earth, give ear! Should you not jus - tice show?
 3. Still down the a - ges ring the pro-phet's stern com-mands.
 4. How shall my soul ful - fil God's law so hard and high?

Bb F/A Gm C Am7 F/A Bbmaj7 C F6 Dm6

What sac - ri - fice de - sire, or trib - ute bid you
 Will God your plead - ing hear, while crime and cruel - ty
 To mer-chant, work - er, king he brings God's high de -
 Let Christ en - due our will with grace to for - ti -

Am Dm Cm (6/Eb) Bbmaj7-6 Gmsus Gm6

bring?
 grow?
 mands.
 fy.

Do just - ly; love mer - cy; walk
 Then just - ly, in mer - cy we'll

1. -3. Dm /F G/B A || 4. Dm Bb Gm6 D

hum - bly with your God. hum - bly walk with God.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984) Music: Erik Routley (1917-1982)

Words: paraphrase, copyright © Oxford University Press Music: copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Co. CCLI #4440603

There is a balm in Gilead

Retrain F (Bb/F) C 9

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad to make the wound - ed whole.

C 7 F F/C C 7 F Fine

There is a balm in Gil - e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

F Bb6/F F Bb6/F F (/A) C9

1. Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged, and think my work's in vain,
 2. Don't ev - er feel dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend,
 3. If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,

F Bb6/F F7 Bb6 F/C C 7 F C7/E D.C.

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.
 who, if you ask for knowl - edge, will nev - er fail to lend.
 you can tell the love of Je - sus, who died to save us all.

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual Words: public domain Music: public domain

You satisfy the hungry heart

FINEST WHEAT 8 6 8 6 CM with Refrain (8 6 8 6)

Unison
Refrain

D /C# Bm D/A G6 F#m/A Bm G6 F#m/E Gsus2/D D

You sat-is-fy the hun-gry heart with gift of fin-est wheat;

A/C# Bm G6 F#m /A Bm7 Em7 A Dsus2-1 Fine

come give to us, O sav-ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.

F#m Bm /A G6 Dsus2-1/F# A6

1. As when the shep - herd calls the sheep, they
 2. With joy - ful lips we sing to you our
 3. Is not the cup we bless and share the
 4. The mys - tery of your pres-ence here, no
 5. In gra - cious love you give your - self; then

*May be played in D major**Verses may be sung by soloist or choir*

Gsus2-1 A Bm F#m/B G6/D G/B

know and heed that voice, so when you call your
 praise and grat - i - tude, that you should count us
 blood of Christ out - poured? Do not one cup, one
 mor - tal tongue can tell; whom all the world can -
 self - less let us be, to serve each oth - er

A/C# Asus4-3 Em7 G6 Asus4 - 3

fam - i - ly, we fol - low and re - joice.
 wor - thy friends, to share this heaven-ly food.
 loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?
 not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.
 in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

Words: Omer Westendorf (1916-) Music: Robert E. Kreutz (1922-)

Words: copyright © Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 1976 Music: copyright © Archdiocese of Philadelphia, 1976 CCLI #4440603

With the Lord as my guide

RIDGECREST Irregular

Em D Bm C Am G /B D G /F# Em

1. I will walk through the des - ert,
 2. I will see all the tal - ents,
 3. I will work with my sis - ter,
 4. I will rise in the morn - ing,

With the Lord as my guide

Am /C Bm Em /D C Am/C Am7 D/F# D C

rest by the wa - ter, run in the wind.
 ac - cept the bal - ance of who I am. With the
 care for my bro - ther, bend with their pain.
 praise for the dawn - ing beau - ty of day.

G Bm Am7 /B C G Bm Am7 /B /C

I will stand on the moun - tain,
 say yes to the call - ing,
 we will rise up to - geth - er,
 I will sing, sing for - ev - er,

Lord by my side

Bm /A Em/G /F# Em Am/C Am7 Bm7 Em D Em

drink from the foun - tain of love deep with - in.
 fear not the fall - ing, trust in God's plan.
 strength-en each oth - er, cour - age re - gain.
 al - ways a lov - er, seek - ing God's way.

Words: Jim Strathdee (1941-) Music: Jim Strathdee (1941-) CCLI #4440603

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