



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Room for every story

November 27, 2022

WELCOME, to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship n 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

Advent Devotions: This year we have a lovely Advent devotional from Sanctified Arts. While it is daily, it also contains a variety of activities to invite you closer to God. Rev. Peter can print you a copy, or give you access to an online version.

Family explorations of Christmas around the world and Advent Calendars are also available.

Maisonneuve Presbyterian Church Celebration: Nov 27, 2:30
Join the Presbytery for a joyous celebration of this ministry - including multiple choirs from around the world.

1606 Av. Letourneux (a bit below the Big O)

[us02web.zoom.us/j/82374204933?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82374204933?pwd=cmtVQXQwcXVCRDZkOFYvK2xhNHJQQT09)

[pwd=cmtVQXQwcXVCRDZkOFYvK2xhNHJQQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82374204933?pwd=cmtVQXQwcXVCRDZkOFYvK2xhNHJQQT09)

Meeting ID: 823 7420 4933

Passcode: 124266

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.
Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton
Thursday, 7 pm at 2nd Cup on Monkland @ Old Orchard

Movie Night: Friday December 3rd at 6 p.m.

Join us for *Ice Age*. Please let Antoinette know if you're coming.

Iona new Advent book readings: Sat Dec 3 at 2:30

[us02web.zoom.us/j/85199627909?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85199627909?pwd=VUE5Y1RsM2NUYis1ckI1b2JEUHBSZz09)

[pwd=VUE5Y1RsM2NUYis1ckI1b2JEUHBSZz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85199627909?pwd=VUE5Y1RsM2NUYis1ckI1b2JEUHBSZz09)

Meeting ID: 851 9962 7909

Passcode: 663496

Choir: would like you to join them. We practice Sunday at 9:15.

Communion next week: all who want to know God better are invited

Advent Discussions: The Rev. Bob Faris, moderator of the General Assembly, will be hosting discussions with church leaders of other denominations through advent. For more information visit: presbyterian.ca/2022/11/01/ecumenical-advent

Hats, scarves, mitts, socks: We are accepting donations for people in the community.

Drop Box: We are 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).

Vaccinations: Flu & Bivalent COVID Dec 6th
Here in our building. No registration required.

Montreal Children's Theatre Community Dinner: Dec 17th at 6:30
Priority will be given for those who would benefit from community support at this time of year. Our dinner is looking to offer lightness, community connection and celebration to those who need it. www.eventbrite.ca/e/community-holiday-dinner-diner-de-fete-communautaire-tickets-444038911337

Christmas Presents: Are you wondering what to get friends and loved ones who don't really need something more? We're setting up a Giving Tree that will allow you to donate to a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (including PWS&D and Canada Ministries projects) to a project that you think would be most appreciated by the person you are giving the gift for/to. presbyterian.ca/donate/giving-tree-kensington-presbyterian-church-montreal



Approaching God



Call to worship & candle lighting

We are people of hope.

God longs for a day

when weapons will be replaced with tools for rebuilding.

We see your goodness and signs of new life all around us.

The first candle of Advent reminds us

that we are called to live as people of hope.

We light this candle to remind us to see God's hope shining in our world.

(Light the candle of hope)

Let us pray:

Holy One, help us to walk in the light of God. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of hope in our community.

Amen.²

♪ Hymn: Come thou long expected Jesus.....pg 10 (111)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dAoIkjPVh64 (organ + choir)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=vRAFQCOkigE (band)



Prayer of Confession

In God's house, everyone is welcome—

those who seem like they have it all together,

and those who feel like their world is falling apart.

No matter who we are, there's room for us here.

With that confidence, we turn to God in prayer,

speaking the truth of our lives.

Let us pray:

² from the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

God of today and God of tomorrow,
you say, "Bring your full self. There's room for you here."

But we say, "Our lives are too messy."

You say, "Bring your hopes and your dreams.

There's room for you here."

But we say, "It's too risky to hope."

You say, "Bring your grief and your prayers.

There's room for you here."

But we say, "Some things are easier to forget."

God of today and God of tomorrow,

we know in our hearts that there's room for us here.

Forgive us for withholding our full selves from you.

Forgive us for giving only our Sunday best.

Help us remember, today and tomorrow,

There's room for every story.

Amen.³

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Family of faith,

We who feel scattered are held together.

We who have lost our way are forgiven and found.

And we who are lonely are brought into the fold and are told,
"There's room for you here."

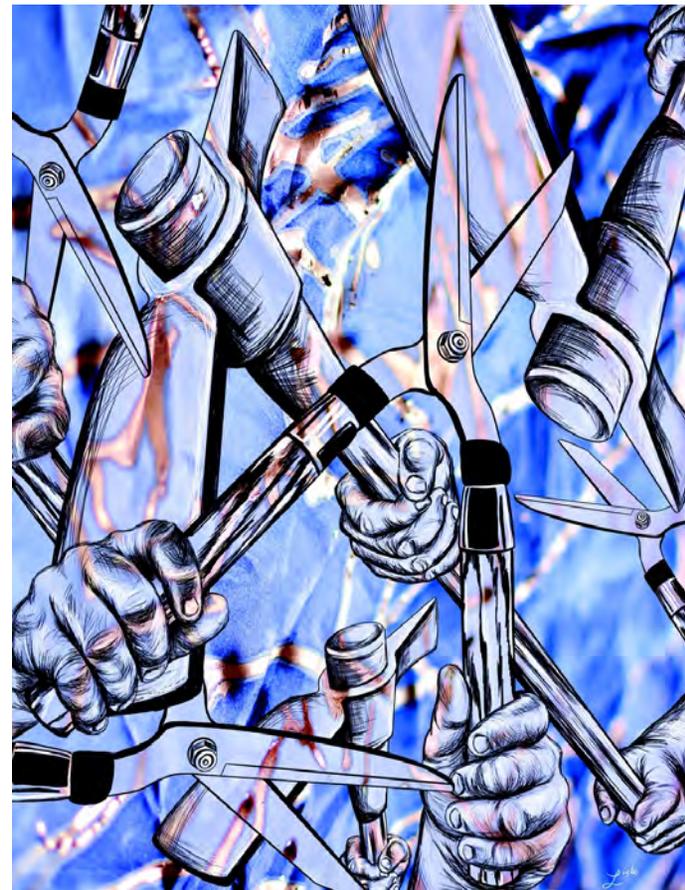
From generation to generation,

this is the good news of the gospel.

In Jesus Christ we are held, forgiven, found, and welcomed.

Thanks be to God!

Amen.⁴



War no More - Lisle Gwynn Garrity

🧎 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.

³ by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

⁴ by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
Amen.



Listening to God

✦ Children's story

Who has eyes like their mother? father?
Who has hair like their mother? father?
How about food likes?
or voting values?
...maybe opposites?

Let's go back a bit more.

I want you to think of one of your grandparents. Think about where they came from: in the world, but also in experience. Remember something you liked about them? Perhaps something they did, or said, or how they treated others.

This is all important. Even if you don't think about it, or don't even know it, it shapes who you are.

...and you can keep going back.

Today we're going to hear about the ancestors of Jesus.

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for our family.

Amen.

Georgie Laughing
Sharron Helleman



♪ Hymn: People in Darkness are Looking for Light.....pg 11 (624)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5im4x-VHtE



Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,
as we listen to your word,
May your Spirit help us to see where you've been,
and where you are going.
so that we may appreciate more
what it is to be your children.

Amen.



Intro to the readings

- In our first reading, God gives Isaiah a vision of a world that is very different from the one he lives in - from the one we live in. Let us listen and walk into its light.
- Lynda is going to read a passage that is very rarely read on Sunday morning. While it tells a big story, we're just get a brief summary through the names.
 - You'll notice a pattern. Try to notice any break in the pattern.
- Our psalm calls us together,
and tells us where to find peace.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Isaiah 2: 1-5](#)

[Matthew 1: 1-17](#)

[Psalm 122: 1-9](#)

⁵ 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

✦ Sermon: Room for every story

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

Okay. You've met someone who is so amazing you've got to tell people about them. How would you do it?

- post a photo on facebook?
- call a friend?

What would you say? Do you start by describing what they looked like? They're so much more than that - and it might distract from what's important. Perhaps their likes and dislikes? If you're blindly in love then you'll do that... but through this person you're seeing the world in a new way. Would identifying them by their job? or where their family is from?

What about their genealogy?

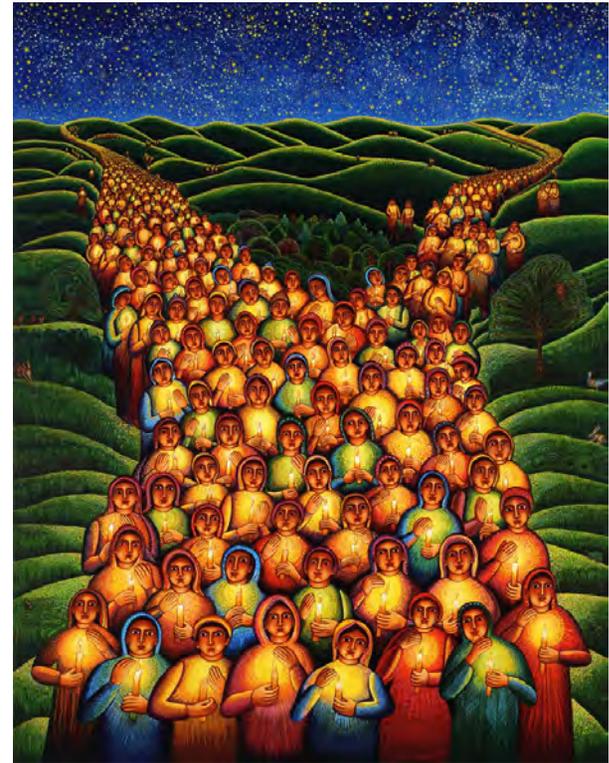
It's not often done now. I can't think of a story that has introduced someone that way - at least not a recent story. Sometimes I do get people introducing themselves as so-and-so's daughter or son. They do it to help provide context; to explain why they are entering my story.

That is helpful, but how far would you go back? How far could you go back? 42 generations?

When Martin Luther started a preaching series on Matthew he started at the beginning with this comment, *"It looks like a useless unnecessary writing in which he has reviewed the names of the dear fathers, since we know absolutely nothing about them, and it is of no help to us at all."*⁶ Luther makes a good point - so why is it in the Bible? or more specifically, why is it in Matthew? - because there's also one in Luke.

⁶ Found in Ulrich Luz's commentary on Matthew

The list in Luke goes back even farther than 'Father Abraham'. There it goes back to Adam and God, The Father. It includes many, many names of people that are never mentioned elsewhere - emphasizing the importance of people unnoticed by history (perhaps like you and me). In Matthew, there are different focuses.



Festival of Lights - J Swanson

One of the traditional reasons for creating a genealogy is to legitimize somebody's claim to something. Throughout much of the ancient world things were passed along through family: possessions, property, role in society, rank/authority, religious practices, etc. Who you were was dependant on who your family was... going back. For example, if you wanted to be king you had to show that you came from kings. Personally, I'm glad that most

of society has shifted away from that, because I would not have been good at my father's or grandfather's jobs.

This could also work in reverse. If you could connect yourself to good ancestors, then you also had a chance to inherit their social 'goods'.

The Gospel According to Matthew seems to be written for a Jewish audience. There's a concern throughout to connect Jesus with Jewish traditions and prophecies. In the case of the genealogy, going back to the one with whom God made the original covenant - with whom God created the chosen people to showcase God's relationships - Abraham. There's also a concern that Jesus has the authority of the King, and so is a descendant of King David - the greatest king the Jews have ever had⁷... until Jesus.

This is one traditional reason for creating and including a genealogy - showing someone is the legitimate inheritor and leader.

Genealogies are also reminders of our story. Matthew includes a lot of famous names, especially to those original Jewish listeners who knew their Bible (which they would have). We are reminded of the greats, like Abraham and David, and embarrassing times like the exile. Adding details isn't unusual, but normally it's something positive. Needing to be sent into a 'time-out' for a generation is a sign that these ancestors weren't all right(eous) before God.

and there are other details. Some brothers are referred to. Judah and the rest that start the 12 tribes of Israel. Zerah, the twin brother of Perez.⁸ The other brothers we don't know about. And some mothers are included.

⁷ It's interesting to note that while other kings are names, they aren't identified as kings in the list.
⁸ Genesis 35: 27+



Mary visits Elizabeth - Barbara Februar

Why include the mothers, or rather, **these** mothers? They're not the most famous. That would likely be Sarah, Rebekah & Rachel (and Ruth). It's not an attempt to clarify things because their husbands had multiple wives, because many in the list did. Some people suggest it's to show God's grace, after all Uriah's wife was an adulterer and Tamar ran a brothel... except they were redeemed, and Ruth & Rehab were considered great examples.

Perhaps it's the surprise. God including them in the story of the Chosen People is surprising. This hints at how God worked, and will work in Jesus, in unexpected ways. That feels like a good reason.

Another reason, other than gender, is that they are all gentiles, or outsiders. Tamar was from Jericho before the invasion, Rehab

was from Canaan, Ruth was from Moab, and Uriah was a Hittite - so his wife, Bathsheba, probably was too.



Genealogy of Christ - Laruen Wright Pittman

As is pointed out a couple of times, Jesus is the Son of Abraham... and also these gentile women. Jesus is the son of King David, and those who led the people to the exile. Jesus is the son of people history has forgotten, except for this list.

and Jesus isn't the son of any of them.
directly at least. The pattern is ____ begat ____, or in today's translation, ____ was the father of _____. When we get to verse 16,

“and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, who bore Jesus, who is called the Messiah.” Joseph is listed as Mary's husband, not Jesus' father. It's a distinction that is made in the text, and that it doesn't matter to the connections. It seems that Jesus is adopted with all the rights and privileges of being a son.

Why is this genealogy in the Bible?

Every doctor (physical and mental) will tell you that your family history matters. That it tells about who you are. It can tell the colour of your eyes, your chances of heart disease, your self-confidence, what you find stressful, what you value - what you believe. You're not a copy of your family, but are strongly influenced to be like, or against, them.

Including this genealogy emphasizes that Jesus is human. Including Abraham shows that Jesus is part of the covenant with God. Including King David shows that Jesus has the power of the King. All the other people show the diversity that God includes - including the unexpected.

And it says something about you as well - not just you. If God is willing to include the exile and return, then God will not turn away from disrespectful behaviour, or abandon you... or anyone. If God is willing to include the great and the humble, the sinful and the righteous, the insiders and the outsiders... then God is inviting you, and everyone else, into the family. While most of us can trace our biological father, we are all invited to be adopted children of God - with love, hope & healing beyond our imagining.

*In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
Holy and One. Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: O God of love.....pg 11 (733)

💬 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: What do you remember of the oldest members of your family you ever met?

Etching: How far back can you go in your family tree? What has carried down to you from the older generations (maybe not 42 generations ago)?

Etching: This is a longer question. How are you like, or unlike, your family (parents, grandparents, siblings, ...)

Values: Family is usually genetic, but can be used to describe close friends, colleagues, communities, How does this affect your thoughts?

Wonder: What would you like to future generations to inherit from you? This can include physical, mental or spiritual.

Prayer: ...thank God for your family, and pray for them.

✦ Spirit Sightings

There are many tragic situations in our city. One way I see hope and healing is through places where those who are suffering can receive care, such as: the St. Andrew's Home, at Father Dowd, and (in a different way) at women's shelters.

I also feel hope in hearing about people doing what they can to help others, such as supporting these organizations. Barbie has been making Christmas cards for months to support the local

IODE fundraiser for those three groups I mentioned. Thank you Barbie, and to all who are working in ways we don't know about.



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

God of Abraham and Isaac,
God of Tamar and Ruth,
God of Mary and Joseph,

We bow our heads today
hoping to catch a glimpse or a shimmer of you.
We know that you are here with us,
just as you walked with every generation before,
so we bring you our prayers.

Thank you for creating space for us.
Thank you for seeing our scattered thoughts,
our imposter syndrome,
our fragments of doubt, and still saying,
“Come on in.”

Thank you for seeing our ordinary selves
with anxious concerns
and unflattering habits and saying,
“I have bigger plans for you.”

Thank you for seeing
our fragile egos,
and our uncertain relationships, and saying,
“You still belong here.”

Your expansive love makes room for us to breathe,
and we want to love with our lungs and hearts full.
So today we pray -
teach us how to make that same room for others.

When we come face to face with stories that are different from
ours, show us how to add chairs to the table.
When we find ourselves face to face with stories that frustrate
and test our patience, show us how to build bridges instead of
walls.
When we find ourselves face to face with stories that feel foreign
or unrelatable, remind us to open the door and to listen fully.

From Abraham to Mary, you made room for every story—and that
love continues to make room for us. Teach us to do the same
for our neighbour so this world will know love.

In Jesus name
Amen.⁹

♪ Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing.....pg 12 (374)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jbiQ17uulKU

✦ Sending & Benediction

*As you leave this place, may you go knowing that
from generation to generation,
we have been claimed and loved.
From generation to generation,
God has been by our side.
From generation to generation,
we are not alone.*

*The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow
knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth,
saying, “Go be the person you are called to be,
love wildly, do justice, and come back soon.”
May it be so.
Amen.*¹⁰



⁹ by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.
¹⁰ by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Raamia fled to Pakistan with her daughter after divorcing her abusive husband in Afghanistan. As a single mother, Raamia made and sold handicrafts to support herself and her daughter, Zainab. On their way to the city of Lahore, she and her daughter got into an accident. Her daughter was unharmed, but Raamia was severely injured, resulting in her arm having to be amputated. After the accident, she could not continue working on her handicrafts. Raamia and her daughter were selected to receive cash support from a project by Community World Service Asia, a Presbyterian World Service & Development partner. "I was able to buy some food supplies with the money I received," she said. **This project is helping refugee families who have fled Afghanistan since the Taliban takeover.**



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 27 (First Sunday of Advent) Nourish our hope during this season of waiting, O God, as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.

Monday, November 28 We pray for the safety of all those whose lives have been uprooted by the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, and we give thanks for the emergency support that Presbyterians in Canada are helping to provide through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Tuesday, November 29 We pray for congregations participating in the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program as they work to discern God's call for their future and plan a way forward.

Wednesday, November 30 We pray for theological students who are graduating this winter and beginning to seek a call to a congregation.

Thursday, December 1 (World AIDS Day) We pray for the millions of people affected by HIV and AIDS. We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners who provide vital support to those living with HIV/AIDS and also pray for improved access to health care and life-saving treatments.

Friday, December 2 We pray for the people who gather and serve at the Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Saturday, December 3 On the **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**, we pray for the empowerment of differences in gifts and abilities, along with the removal of barriers that keep people from participating fully in community and church life.

People in darkness

PEOPLE IN DARKNESS 10 6 10 5 11 8

1. Peo-ple in dark-ness are look-ing for light.
 2. Peo-ple with sick-ness are pray-ing for health.
 3. Peo-ple in trou-ble would like to be free.
 4. Peo-ple in sad-ness are try-ing to sing.

Come, come,

come, Je-sus Christ. Peo-ple with blind-ness are long-ing for sight.
 Peo-ple in pov-er-ty want to have wealth.
 Peo-ple with ar-gu-ments want to a-gree.
 Bells in the stee-ple are wait-ing to ring.

Come, Lord Je-sus Christ. These days of ad-ven-ture when

all peo-ple wait are days for the ad-vent of

(1) love.
 (2) hope.
 (3) peace.
 (4) joy.

Words: Dosia Carlson (20th cent.); v.4 Ken Stright (1952-), Jeanne Stright (1953-) Music: Dosia Carlson (20th cent.)

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 Music: copyright © Dosia Carlson, 1983

O God of love, true source of peace

EALING 8 8 8 8 LM

1. O God of love, true source of peace, make wars through-out the
 2. Re-mem-ber, Lord, your works of old, the won-ders that our
 3. Whom shall we trust but you, O God? Where rest but on your
 4. Where saints and an-gels dwell a-bove, all hearts are knit in

world to cease; the wrath of sin-ful
 fore-bears told; re-mem-ber not our
 faith-ful word? None ev-er called on
 ho-ly love; oh bind us in that

hearts re-strain:
 sin's deep stain: give peace, O God, give peace a-gain.
 you in vain: heaven-ly chain:

Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821-1877), alt Music: Herbert S. Oakeley (1830-1903)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

RICHMOND 8 6 8 6 CM

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

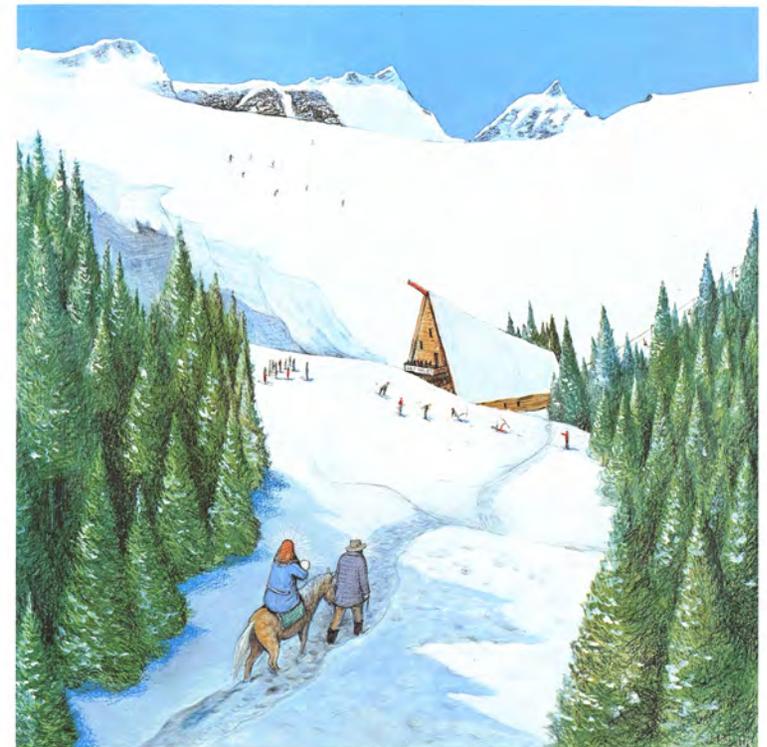
G/B Em Am D/C G7/B G7 C G/B C/B D7/A G C G/DD G

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 - joice; 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)

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Northern Nativity: Rockies - W Kurelek