



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in faith and sharing God's love
 since 1786

Loving the world... MWS

April 23, 2023

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)



Grenfell Silk-Stocking Mat

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 Zoom Prayer Group: Thursday at 6:30 a.m.

You may use the worship login details

[us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

[pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 773 730 107

Password: 7864826

Communion: Next week you are invited to join us in celebrating Communion. All who want to know our Lord better are invited to the table.

Choir: would like you to join them. We practice Sunday at 9:30.

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

Pizza & Movie Nights: Fridays at 6:30

May 5: Babe

May 12: Finding Nemo

Please let Rev. Peter know if you want to come.

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry.

Contacts

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Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com



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

O come, let us sing to the Lord and shout with joy to the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into God's presence with thanksgiving, singing joyful songs of praise.

What does the Holy One require of us,
but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with our God.

Let us worship God.

🎵 Hymn: Come sing, O Church, in joy.....pg 12 (757)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cevFGtOGnkg>



Prayer of Approach²

You call us God.
You call us to walk in your way.
You show us in Jesus how we should live.
You give us your Holy Spirit to keep us right.
And we are grateful.

Love and justice are what you require of us, God -
love for you,
and love and justice for ourselves,
and for our neighbours.

And we try.
and sometimes we get it right
and sometimes we fail

...

Please forgive us.

We thank for these words of Jesus
Don't be afraid.
You are forgiven.
I call you friends.
Come and follow me.

and for the prayer that you left us.
Let us sing together the LORD's prayer.



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.**

² adapted from the iona abbey worship book

**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.**

✦ Assurance of Pardon
Hear these comforting words:
If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy,
your sins are forgiven.
Trust in God's promises
and follow the Holy Spirit into a new life
with God and all people
in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen.³



Listening to God

✦ Children's story
Today's story was shared by the Rev. Joe Reed. If you weren't able to watch it live, you should find it on YouTube by Sunday night. www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoen7j1iGcz_w



3 adapted from Worship Sourcebook 2.4.33

♪ Hymn: When the poor ones.....pg 12 (762)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSF8M2TvSA

🧘 Prayer for Illumination
Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may hear what you are saying to us today.
Amen.⁴

✦ Intro to the readings

- Today's psalm reminds me of the WMS. They gathered to praise God. They recognized and celebrated the great works of the LORD. They supported them and made them known. And, based on those I've met, this nurtured wisdom.
- From the book of Acts we hear about Peter the common fisherman. Can you imagine doing what he did?
- Our gospel passage is from John, and in John the sections are long. This one started with a man being given sight, and gradually seeing that Jesus must be the Messiah. Jesus then returns to the story and starts teaching using the image of the shepherd. This is part way through that section.

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

[Psalm 111](#)

[Acts 4: 5-12](#)

[John 10: 11-18](#)

4 adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10 & 23

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: Parque Simon Bolivar.....Rev. Joe Reed
*Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts. Amen.*

I don't know what Estrella's real name was. And I doubt that Luci did either, at least at the beginning.

A story which I am pretty sure I have already told you, but even if I have, I think that it is one that bears repeating.

In downtown San Salvador – as in most Latin American capitals – there is a Simon Bolivar Park. Named, of course, for the great Venezuelan general who later served as President of both Colombia and Peru. It's a long and somewhat complicated story.

Anyway, the park is in a somewhat seedy part of town. Or at least it was. The new president has made a big deal out of fixing up the downtown so I can't really say what it looks like these days.

Luci, who is a deacon at a little Baptist church in a neighbouring slum, sells fruit drinks in plastic bags in the park during the day. Whips them up to order, since she has two or three kinds of fruit on hand, according to what is in season. Like lots of Salvadoran woman who work in this trade, she wears a frilly white apron with deep pockets from which she pulls change for the customers.

Anyway – and I struggle to find a way to talk about this with some discretion – others work the park as well, especially after the sun goes down. And especially along one of the side streets, 15th Av. South. A few of those workers are, guys, like Estrella. Not many in a macho society like that of San Salvador, but a few, sought out by their own clients.

Of course, everybody in the park knew everybody's story. It's a

small place, and in that sense, not so unlike the Presbyterian Church in Canada. No secrets for long.

Anyway, everybody knew that Estrella's family had long ago sort of broken off contact with him – and he with them. So that he was pretty much alone.

So when his AIDS infection got pretty advanced and nobody would look at him or touch him, well Luci took him home. This was the late 1980's and the war still raged.

Her home wasn't much. But it was safe and she performed tasked with him, and then for him, and finally on him that many of us would find distasteful and even a bit disgusting. And she held him when he died.

Now, as I say, I think I've told the story before. And my point is that it was probably a good thing that Estrella found Luci. And not a Presbyterian. Because it seems to me that we are so quick to judge, and so slow to love.



Of course, I am being unfair to the Presbyterians. Mostly to get your attention. Because the truth is that there are as many sensitive, deeply loving Presbyterians as there are Baptists. And there are as many hard nosed, judgmental Salvadorans as there are Canadians. It's not a thing about denominations or nationalities, its a thing about how you and I choose to face life, and, for that matter, religion.

And, to be honest, maybe I'm talking about my own failings. Just because I wouldn't, or maybe couldn't, do what Luci did, just means I'm too weak. Or not committed enough. Maybe it is just about me and not about Canadian Presbyterians at all. Maybe it's something about which I need to pray rather than to preach.

Michael Renninger, a priest in Virginia, tells the same story: he just has different characters. And it's a story I'd heard before. It just didn't stick with me until he told it:

He said that it happened in April, 5 years ago. About this time of year, right after Easter Sunday but still during the season of Easter.

It seems that Pope Francis went to visit a small church in Rome, right next to one of the largest public housing projects in Italy. As part of his visit to this church, five children were selected to ask him a question. The first little boy was named Emanuele. He was about five years old. The pope was sitting on a little platform. Emanuele approached the microphone near the steps. That's where he would ask his question. When he got to the microphone, he froze. He just kept looking at the pope. You could hear the other little children encouraging him. And then, Emanuele started to cry. An adult in the crowd tried to assure him, but he just stood there and cried.

Then, Pope Francis said, "Emanuele, come and whisper your

question in my ear." So the little boy went up the steps. Pope Francis opened his arms and embraced the boy. Emanuele put his face right against the Pope's face. For a while, Emanuele just cried, and the pope just kept embracing him. Then, the little boy started to whisper in the Pope's ear. And the pope whispered into the boy's ear. This went on for about 2 minutes.



Finally, Emanuele smiled, and said goodbye to the pope. He returned to his little seat. Then, Pope Francis said that he had asked Emanuele if he could tell everyone what the boy's question was. Emanuele had given the pope permission. Emanuele had told the pope that, very recently, his father had died. He said that his dad was a good man. Emanuele's dad was not a believer, but he had brought all four of his children to be baptized in the church.

I guess I don't have to say that these people are not Calvinists. You have to take on the Catholic understanding of baptism for just a moment. Or if you find that too difficult, you could walk out. Or just tune out.

Now, his dad was dead. That's part of the reason why he was crying. But he was also crying because he had a hard question.

The question was this: “Could his dad, a non-believer, go to heaven?” Pope Francis answered by saying that it was wonderful to hear a son say that his dad was a ‘good man.’ And the pope agreed that Emanuele’s dad had done a very good thing by having all four of his children baptized, even though dad himself did not believe.

Then the pope looked at all of the children and adults who were sitting in front of him, and he said, “We have to remember that only God decides who goes to heaven. And we have to remember that God has the heart of a daddy, a papa.” Then the pope asked all of the children, “Do you think that God was happy when Emanuele’s dad had his children baptized? Wasn’t that a good thing?” All the children shouted ‘yes!’ And the pope asked, “Do you think that God is pleased with us when we do good things?” They all shouted “yes.”

Then the Pope said, “Do you think that God, who has a papa’s heart, would be able to leave Emanuele’s dad far from himself?” A few children shouted, “No!” The pope asked, “Say it louder, with conviction. Would God be able to leave Emanuele’s dad far away from himself?” The children shouted, “No!” The pope smiled at Emanuele and said, “You see! There is your answer.” God who loves us with a papa’s heart, a daddy’s heart could not leave your dad far away from himself.

Emanuele smiled.

Now that is a great story. It certainly underlines the present Pope’s great humanity. And the way in which little kids can ask really difficult questions. But when I read the story again I also had a sad thought. I said to myself, “Some web-page, which calls itself an “Orthodox Catholic” or something, some web-page, must have denounced the pope for this, and they will say that he is a heretic.” And sure enough, it wasn’t hard, to find the

headlines on the internet: “Pope faces backlash for telling child that atheists go to heaven.” And this happened five years ago. Nothing new under the sun.

Human beings are so good at setting limits around God’s love. We tell ourselves that we are qualified to determine who’s in, and who’s out; who’s included, who’s excluded; who is holy, who is going to hell.

We are so arrogant sometimes. We think that we get to set the rules. And when we do that, we usually set the rules in such a way that suggests that we get to enjoy God’s love, but we somehow sets limits on how much or whom God is allowed to love.

So quick to judge; so slow to love.

And we sometimes approach the scriptures, not expecting to be surprised by God, but hoping to find a line or two which will bolster convictions we’ve already created in our minds, convictions based, less on the Gospel, more on our political, cultural or fear-based assumptions.

All too often, we read the Bible in order to get our own point of view re-inforced, and even, sometimes, to have our hearts hardened. Often against peoples whose shortcoming, whose sins, are no greater or less than our own. Just different. When the whole point of reading it is one of two things: 1) to be challenged, encouraged, enabled – use whatever you want – to do better, to live a better life, to help to build the Kingdom or 2) to be surprised. To be surprised by the enormous, limitless love of God.

Today in the Acts of the Apostles, we hear a familiar line. A line which was used by the Pope’s critics. And, I am sure, against

Luci by some back at the Cordero de Dios Baptist Church in San Salvador. And will continue to be used against us all when we stumble upon the immensity, the limitless way in which God loves God's children.

Peter says, "There is salvation in no one else (that is, no one other than Jesus), for there is no other name under heaven given among mortals by which we must be saved."

And many Christians take heart in that line. "See! Unless you confess that Jesus is Lord and believe the Christian faith you can't be saved! Peter said so!"

Now, Peter was indeed preaching the truth. We believe that the salvation of the human race happens one way - it happens because Jesus is the son of God, and Jesus became one of us, and Jesus died and rose and sent us his Spirit. The life, death and resurrection of Jesus is the source of salvation for the whole world. Jesus is the perfect revelation of who God is, and how God saves.

Peter preaches, in chapter 4, what we expect. But if you stop reading there, well, I feel sorry. Because you miss the surprise. And it is a good surprise. Remember, if you read the Bible and don't feel challenged, or if you read the Bible and don't feel surprised, well, you are misreading the Bible. And missing the point of it all!

I think I want to say that again because it's important!

Remember, if you read the Bible and don't feel either challenged or surprised you are misreading the Bible. And missing the point!

Now, you also have to understand the context. That's why people go to seminary. That's why we study the Bible. To ask questions. Because Jesus never came to NDG. The people he

spoke to - at least in life. I mean he still speaks powerfully today, but when he lived among us as a living, breathing, joking and suffering human being - he spoke in a place a long way away to people who might seem quite different from us. So, it's important to understand a little bit about that world. Because if you do not, well you miss the surprise.



Prodigal Son - Fr Sieger Koder

And boy, did God surprise those early Christians! In the rest of the Acts of the Apostles, more and more people start to experience God's love through Jesus. Men, women, boys, girls, slaves, servants, rich, poor. People who were Jewish. And, much

more important, people who were not. It seems that once God unleashes his saving love in the world, it starts to spread in ways we can't control, despite our best efforts. And Jewish Christians struggled. Understandably perhaps, they wanted to hold on to Jesus as their promised Saviour. He completed their scriptures. He answered God's promise to them.

So they did not particularly like the surprise. And most of the time, we're not so keen on it either.

Maybe that is part of what Jesus means as he speaks to his people in John's Gospel today. Jesus begins with a beautiful images: "*I am the good shepherd. I love my flock. I give everything for my sheep. I lay down my life for them. I know mine and they know me.*" We city folks may have a little bit of a problem with the shepherd talk. I mean, most of us are pretty ignorant. The closest many of us – myself included – have gotten to a live sheep was probably when we were 10 years old and went to the petting zoo at the African Safari down in Hemmingford.

But we do get the point. Although some of us may be a bit offended by being compared with a somewhat stupid farm animal. I mean sheep aren't necessarily the brightest.

And then Jesus says, "*I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.*"

Hmmm. There's Jesus, talking to his earliest followers, telling them, "*I have other sheep too...*" Maybe they didn't know who those 'other sheep' were. Maybe we don't know who they are! But Jesus loves them just the same, and will find a way to shepherd them, and include them, in his heart.

In the first letter of John, "*God is greater than our hearts...*"

John reminds us that we are God's children, right now. Today. John insists as well that God calls us to love, not just in word or speech, but in truth and action. "*We are God's children.*"

That's amazing!

That is the surprise
and that's the challenge.

In his visit to that little church in Rome, Pope Francis said that everyone who has ever been born is created in God's image, and is loved by God. Sister Luci, through her loving, compassionate actions, taught the same truth. She didn't use words but then, she didn't need them. Words are not what Estrella needed.

Luckily we do not have to explain all this: how all people can experience Christ's saving gift. Even people who have never heard the Gospel effectively preached, or people whose life circumstances have made it impossible for them to fully come to know Christ. And who hang around public parks – well, for many reasons some of which are not so socially acceptable but among which is that they are waiting for God's people to assure them that they are loved.

I do know this – "God is greater than our hearts." Which means that God's love is bigger than my limitations.

And if I ever find myself wanting to concoct new barriers, or judge someone as 'beyond God's ability to love them,' I need to remember what Jesus says in today's Gospel: I have other sheep, not in the fold that you happen to know, and I will shepherd them.

If I find myself thinking that some part of me is beyond redemption, or some other person – or group of persons – is beyond saving, I will always think of Pope Francis embracing a

little boy named Emanuele, and telling him, “Remember, God loves us with a daddy’s heart. A papa’s heart. Could God want us to be far away from him?” Or I need to remember Luci, just loving and some days not saying a word.

So whatever is worrying you, whatever is making you cry... come, and whisper it in God’s ear.

In the name of God: the father, the son and the Holy Spirit - three in one.

Amen.



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: I am the church.....pg 13 (475)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=50kEqdXz3ao



🗨️ 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: Rev. Reed suggests that one reason to read the Bible is to be “challenged, encouraged, enabled... surprises”. What is a passage that challenges you? encourages you? enables you? surprises you?

Values: Consider a value that another Christian may have that is different from yours. Assuming they’re not mean or crazy, consider why they have that value. Do some research, or just ask them, to find out.

Wonder: In the passage from Acts, Peter stood in front of the leaders and boldly told them that the good things happening are because of Jesus (at personal risk). What would boldness look like now? ...in your life?

Actions: Contact one of the WMS and thank them - and listen for stories and wisdom.

Prayer: ...thank God for self-less love, and help in sharing God’s love.

✦ Spirit Sightings

150 years ago the world was very different. This included barring women from leadership in most organizations. Thankfully that didn’t stop them from responding to God’s Spirit working in the world. One way they responded was to set up the Women’s Missionary Society. Groups working in their congregations supported God’s work both locally and around the world.



Our group here would meet for a time or worship, sometimes a speaker, and refreshments. They also recognized the importance of prayer. One example of this is the prayer meetings hosted by Lois Klempa. In addition to prayer, they raised awareness and funds to support the Spirit’s work. One way was to have a mission Sunday in the fall. Another was their annual Tea & Musical afternoon.

These funds supported local groups such as: New Hope, Chez Madeleine, Dans la Rue, Action Réfugiée & Tyndale St. Georges. They also supported Margaret Kennedy’s work as a teacher and leader in India, Margaret Stewart’s medical work with the Grenfel

Mission in Labrador, and many other important ministries.

There are many ways the WMS can inspire us now. It can be the importance of praying together, of giving (a short word, but big), of being creative (when the Tea & Musical fundraiser became too onerous, they started the imaginary tea - and raised more money),

and we can be inspired by examples such as seeing a problem and believing that we can do something to help. People in the community were struggling to feed themselves, so members of the MWS (especially Helen Campbell) pushed to have a food bank. This initiative grew and helped found the NDG food bank... which is now the Depot.

While the WMS is ending its ministry through Kensington, we celebrate all that the Holy Spirit has done with them... and that the God's Spirit continually finds new ways to reach out in love, hope & 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.

Prayers of the people

Dear Lord,

You call us your friends and your children.

This is amazing, powerful, intimidating,
and takes communication to keep our relationship healthy.

and so we come together,
to pray with you.

When we look around us we see beauty,
and darkness.

We thank you for the magnolia blooms this week,
and time when we've felt unconditional caring from others.
and we pray for places where people are overwhelmed
by issues beyond their control.

- those for whom inflation is forcing them to choose between homes & food.
- those who live in fear of their safety in homes here and in places like Sudan & Ukraine.
- ...

and we pray for those who do have some control,
for political and corporate leaders,
that they may listen to the wisdom of your Spirit.

We thank you for all the people who do listen to your Spirit.
For the examples we have through the ages,
showing us that we can make a difference.

We thank you for the Women's Missionary Society,
and the work they did here.

For reminding us of the importance of worship & prayer,
combined with supporting your work in the world
bringing justice & health to your children.

Like your ministry,
this work never stops, it just reforms.

We ask your continued blessings on:

New Hope, Action Réfugiés, The Depot, Tyndale-St. Georges,
Presbyterian Sharing, Presbyterian World Service &
Development, and the many others that they supported over

the years.

and we echo this prayer from Africa

Enlarge our hearts,

that they may be big enough to receive the greatness of your love.

Stretch our hearts,

that they may take into it all those who believe in Jesus Christ.

Stretch us,

that we may take into our hearts all those who do not know Jesus - yet we still have responsibility for.

And stretch our hearts,

that they may take in all those who are not lovely in our eyes, and whose hands we do not want to touch.

Through Jesus Christ, our saviour.⁶

Amen.

♪ Hymn: There is a spirit in the air.....pg 11 (764)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=4qrwSa8tEfU

✦ Benediction

from a Women's Conference in Japan⁷

Go into the world

with a daring and tender love.

The world is waiting.

Go in peace.

and all that you do

do it for love,

And by the Spirit of Jesus

who is the Lord.

Amen.



6 Gifts of Many Cultures. Tirabassi & Eddy

7 Gifts of Many Cultures. Tirabassi & Eddy

764

There's a spirit in the air

F/A Bb Dm Bb F/A C F C6 C F/A C6 Dm Gm Csus4-3

1. There's a spir - it in the air, tell - ing Chris - tians eve - ry - where:
 2. Lose your shy - ness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:
 3. When be - liev - ers break the bread, when a hun - gry child is fed,
 4. Still the Spir - it gives us light, see - ing wrong and set - ting right:

Dm Cm 6 Gm6 Dm/F C/F /E F Bb /G/F/A /Bb C6 C F

"Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world!"
 God in Christ has come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day!
 praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world.
 God in Christ has come to stay. Live to - mor - row's life to - day!

5. When a stranger's not alone,
where the homeless find a home,
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

6. May the Spirit fill our praise,
guide our thoughts and change our ways.
God in Christ has come to stay.
Live tomorrow's life today!

7. There's a Spirit in the air,
calling people everywhere:
praise the love that Christ revealed,
living, working, in our world.

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: John W. Wilson (1905-1992) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © 1969, 1995 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1979 by Hope Publishing Co.

Come sing, O church, in joy!

1. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!
 2. Long years have come and gone, and still God reigns su-preme,
 3. Let cour-age be our friend, let wis-don be our guide,
 4. Come sing, O church, in joy! Come join, O church, in song!

For Christ the Lord has led us through the a-ges long!
 em-power-ing us to catch the vi-sion, dream the dream!
 as we in mis-sion mag-ni-fy the Cru-ci-fied!
 For Christ the Lord has tri-umphed o'er the a-ges long!

In bold ac-cord, come cel-e-brate the jour-ney now and praise the Lord!

Words: Brian Dill (1949-) Music: John Darwall (1731-1789)

Words: copyright © Brian Dill, 1989 Music: public domain CCLI# 4440603

When the poor ones

EL CAMINO Irregular

Unison
Dm A7 Bb

1. When the poor ones who have noth-ing - share with strang-ers,
 2. When at last all those who suf-fer find their com-fort,

D7 Gm C7 F

when the thirst-y wa-ter give un-to us all,
 when they hope though e-ven hope seems hope-less-ness,

F E7 A7 Dm

when the crip-pled in their weak-ness strength-en oth-ers,
 when we love though hate at times seems all a-round us,

Refrain Bb A7 Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us,

D7 Gm A7 Dm Gm Dm

then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing,
 when our lips can speak no words other than true,
 when we know that love for simple things is better,
 Refrain:
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance
 when we learn how to make peace instead of war,
 when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour,
 Refrain:

Words: Miguel Manzano, J.A. Olivar, English translation, George Lockwood (1946-) Music:
 Miguel Manzano (20th cent.), J.A. Olivar (20th cent.); arrangement, Alvin Schutmaat (1921-1988)

The Church

475

I am the church! You are the church!

PORT JERVIS 7 7 8 6 with refrain

Refrain
G

Em7

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to -

C/D

D7

G

Em

geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,

Am

D

Bm

Em

C/G

G

Fine

all a-round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

Verses

G

C

C6

1. The church is not a build-ing; the church is not a stee-ple;
 2. We're man - y kinds of peo - ple, with man - y kinds of fac - es,
 3. Some-times the church is march-ing; some-times it's brave - ly burn-ing;
 4. And when the peo - ple gath - er, there's sing - ing and there's pray - ing;
 5. At Pen - te - cost some peo - ple re - ceived the Ho - ly Spir - it

D

G

C6

D

D:C

the church is not a rest - ing place; the church is a peo - ple.
 all col - ours and all a - ges, too, from all times and plac - es.
 some-times it's rid - ing, some-times hid - ing; al - ways it's learn - ing.
 there's laugh - ing and there's cry - ing some-times, all of it say - ing;
 and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

Words: Richard Avery (1934-), and Donald Marsh (1923-) Music: Richard Avery (1934-), Donald Marsh (1923-)

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When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we express our faith, proclaiming God's love, hope and grace through the decisions we make and the actions we take. Together, we support congregations, theological colleges, camps, presbyteries, synods and specialized ministries as they nurture disciples and share our faith. We help leaders explore new models of ministry, and we help people experiencing barriers to traditional social engagement overcome them in innovative ways. Through mission staff and grants, we accompany international mission partners. We live out God's call for justice by collaborating with ecumenical and interfaith partners to speak out against injustice, advocate for human rights and care for creation around the world. God does remarkable things with the gifts we give.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 30 On **Mission Awareness Sunday**, we pray for members of the Atlantic Mission Society and Women's Missionary Society who are leading worship services in their congregations.

Monday, May 1 (Asian Heritage Month) We give thanks for the rich contributions of people of Asian descent to the church.

Tuesday, May 2 We pray for the women of the Mvano Guild in Malawi who devote their lives to worship, Bible study and helping others in need.

Wednesday, May 3 We pray for the candidates for ministry and guidance counsellors as they faithfully engage in the shared process of vocational discernment during Guidance Conference this week.

Thursday, May 4 We pray for congregations going through transitions. May they be patient and open to seeing and acting on God's will when times are challenging.

Friday, May 5 We pray that members of the Atlantic Mission Society and Women's Missionary Society experience joy in all they have accomplished and find ways to continue with their missions both locally and abroad.

Saturday, May 6 We give thanks for all the many ways people generously give their time and talent to the church.

SOCIAL ACTION SPOTLIGHT

What is a "Just Transition"?

Human activity is the most significant force driving the climate crisis and profoundly harming the Earth's ecosystems. Our economy relies heavily on the consumption of natural resources, especially fossil fuels (i.e., coal, oil and gas), which are major contributors to climate change. Societal values fuel our consuming economy. Therefore, it will take society-wide changes to make possible the kind of transition needed—a *just* transition—so that all of God's creation can thrive for generations.

A "just transition" is a term that sums up the crucial need to move from an economy that harms people and ecosystems to an economy that works to preserve the earth and nurture better equity among people. This means that in a just transition:

- Communities would be equipped with the necessary information and resources to adapt to regional changes in their climate.
- People whose livelihoods rely on the fossil fuel industry would have meaningful consultation, appropriate compensation and new job training.
- Systemic injustices in our economy, especially those faced by Black, Indigenous and racialized people and temporary workers, would be addressed and removed.
- Decision makers would be empowered to develop necessary policies and programs to meet these needed changes.

A just transition also requires respecting the principles of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

What can you do?

- Learn about what a just transition is and why it's needed by watching a free webinar: bit.ly/just-transition-webinar or reading more at bit.ly/CPJ-just-transition
- Get resources for learning, conversation and advocacy from For the Love of Creation, a national faith-based coalition for climate justice, at forthe loveofcreation.ca
- Advocate for Canada to legislate a just transition. Template letters are available at presbyterian.ca/resources/advocacy
- Consider ways to reduce your household's and/or congregation's carbon footprint. Ideas and resources can be found at presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action/ecological-justice