



Kensington Presbyterian Church
Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love
since 1786

How to divide and lead people

Oct 1, 2023

WELCOME to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person, as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).



Second Adam - Bruce Herman

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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

Communion this week: All who want to know our Lord better are invited to join us the Lord's Supper. If you are celebrating from home you will have to provide your own elements.

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)

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

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

Family Food & Film Fiestas: Fridays at 6:30

Next Friday will show **Honey, I Shrunk the Kids.**

This is a good opportunity to invite someone.

Please let Peter know so we have enough food.

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry, and diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands.

Students for Dinner: Friends for Dinner is a Christian organization looking for people to host international students for holiday meals. If you are interested, please visit [friendsfordinner.ca](https://www.friendsfordinner.ca)

New Hope Harvest Festival: October 27 at 5:30

Enjoy a delicious meal celebrating their vegetable garden, music, a silent auction & a fundraiser! Tickets are \$50 (with a tax-receipt for \$25) and are available from New Hope or

newhopedg.eventbrite.com

Cookie, snacks request: Saturday, Oct 28th

We are hosting a workshop for Presbytery (and anyone else interested) on hard conversations and facilitating meetings. To help people feel at home we would appreciate donations of home baking. Please let Rev. Peter know if you can help.



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 (based on Psalm 108:1-4)

Our hearts are ready, O Lord,
our hearts are ready!

We will sing and make melody!

We will awaken the dawn!

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.

**For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

Let us worship



Supper at Emmaus - Barredo Maximino Cerezo

♪ Hymn: God is here.....pg 11 (799)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=QbkNXq71iis



Prayer of Approach

To you, O Lord,
we lift up our souls.

In you we put our trust.

We can do this because of the leadership you show.

In Jesus, and in our lives, you show us

that you listen to us,

and respond.

...though like the disciples, we don't always understand.

Lord, please forgive us when we stop looking to you

and focus on ourselves

or think that we know best.

Help us to seek forgiveness from those we hurt

and listen to them... and to you.

Please forgive us when we feel too inadequate to help others,

and use the excuse of not knowing where to start.

Help us to look to you, and listen to those in need.

Help nourish our faith in you.

In Jesus name

Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Here the good news

To all who turn from sin in sorrow,

to all who turn to God in hope,

this is God's Word of grace:

We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

This gift we have from God.

Thanks be to God.



Listening to God

♪ Hymn: Now Lord, I gladly trust.....pg. 11

🧘 Prayer for Illumination

Lord,
open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may learn from you how to live.

Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings

Last week we heard about David, the youngest son of a farmer living beside nowhere. David was told he would become king... and after twenty years of life experience it happened. He even managed to unit all twelve tribes. As king, David made good and bad choices. You could easily make a TV show out of it. Through unifying the kingdom, trying to correct his mistakes, writing honest psalms, ...and starting as one with the people, David is remembered as the greatest king they ever had.


He had several wives and sons. The problem with that is that there were different opinions on who should take over. It ended up being Solomon. There's a nice story about him asking God for wisdom, and using that to decide which woman was actually the mother of a baby he threatened to chop him in two. I wonder if the women were some of his (reportedly) 700 wives and 300 concubines. Solomon's most known for his building projects. God turned down David's repeated offers to build a temple - which Solomon built. God did remind Solomon of the covenant (ie. serious deal) between God and the people. For Solomon it basically went, 'If you follow me you will be a great king, and so


will your family... but if not it will lead to exile and destruction.' So, Solomon built a great house for God, and a grand house for



himself (palace)... and towns to store his wealth & supplies, ...and various smaller temples for his wives' various gods. To help do this, he imposed heavy taxes, compulsory volunteer labour, and made foreigners living there into slaves. For those who remember history, it's very reminiscent of what the Pharaoh did to the Israelites when they lived in Egypt. As happens to everyone, Solomon died. As happened previously, there were disagreements as to who should take over.

Now, before Solomon died a young man was told by a prophet that he would become the next king, and the current King tried to kill him - which sounds like David and King Saul. This man was named Jeroboam, and he fled to Egypt. From the family, Rehoboam was able to take power. Today we'll hear how about how this third generation started.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,² or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[1 Kings 12](#): 1-17
[Psalm 25](#): 1-9

 Sermon: How to divide and lead people
Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.³ Amen.

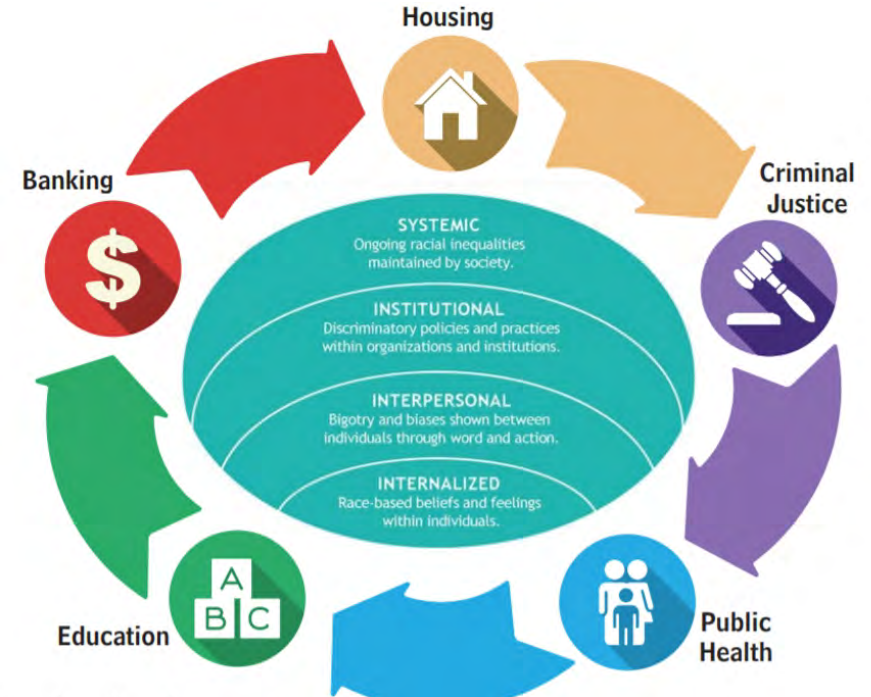
Today's reading could be another episode in the exciting period drama 'The Kings'. This week we have a new king selected. His first speech is pretty immature, with bits about torturing people with scorpions and comparing his pinky finger to his father's ...well, a part of the body we don't name in the Bible. There's a much more elegant poetic response, after which Rehoboam runs back to Jerusalem - which is rather ironic considering he had just been boasting about his great strength.

In case you were wondering, there wasn't a civil war - which is pretty miraculous if you remember other nations that have split. Jeroboam became king of the northern Kingdom - Israel. This history, written by those in Jerusalem, doesn't paint him so well, but that's another episode.

There's an obvious lesson here. Listen to your people and serve them. Servant leadership is a common theme in Christianity. You might be tempted to just assume you've heard it before. You're probably right, but don't doze off. We still have things to remember here.

There's a number of good points that come out of this. One is that it doesn't start with the current leadership. This is history repeating itself. The way of being king - the way the kingdom was set up - led to problems. These are systemic problems.

We do well to remember this story when looking at problems now - because history repeats itself. We've all complained about our leaders at some point. Sometimes the problem is their choices. Sometimes the problem is the way things work - ie. the system. Both are valid complaints. I suspect that part of the problem is also that 'The System' encourages only a certain type of person to become a leader - which doesn't provide an opportunity for everyone to have a voice.



Remembering this doesn't create an easy answer, but it reminds us to work both on current problems and the system which fosters them.

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

How can we do this?

Young King Rehoboam collects some advisors. This is good. First he gathers the older men, then the young men. This isn't bad - though I would have advised they be gathered together... and to include women. An advantage that the older advisors have is that they are more likely to remember the history - which is important if you don't want to repeat previous mistakes. Other than that, I think the older/younger categories are distracting. The big issues are whether to change the system, and how to work together. In today's passage one group doesn't want to change the system; they want their turn basking in glory. The other group suggests that if you want people to listen to you, you need to listen to them. If you want people to work with you, then you need to work with them.

These were big issues before today's story - and ever since. It's pretty easy to come up with examples of people who become leaders so they can have a turn enjoying the power. I wonder if this is Putin's motivation? There's also examples of well intentioned insurrections in which the power corrupts the leaders. Yesterday I read a bit about the destruction in Sudan caused by a civil war between a general and the man who had been his deputy. I don't how well intentioned their motivation is... but the effect is the destruction & death of many many people's lives. This can all get worse when regimes are transferred to the next generation - such as King David to Solomon to Rehoboam. Those that grow up with privilege tend to



forget what it's like to live as a shepherd struggling every day for your livelihood. It's hard to relate to someone if you haven't walked that mile in their shoes.

It would be different if they listened to people - or rather, if they listened to all the people. It's so tempting, and easy, to just listen to people who will say what we want to hear. As nice as it is, this isn't healthy. God created diversity; this is important.

I wonder what our political system would be like if the cabinet had to include every party elected? What if instead of a vote they had to reach a consensus? (Probably nothing would get done until working together was re-learned.) What if low paid employees had to have a representative on the company board? What if leaders had to live on the mean, or average, income and use public schools and medical care? Would this help with listening? The fear is that nobody would be willing to be a leader. I wonder what God would do if we tried?

That's part of this story too. That God is involved. That the leaders don't follow God, and this leads to the kingdom literally coming apart - and later to both parts being conquered and taken into exile.

Before I wrap up I want to apply this passage to two different situations.

Yesterday was Orange Shirt Day. It helps us remember problems with both 'The System' and leaders. The system was one in which boarding

schools were what the wealthy leaders wanted for their children. There was the assumption this was a good thing. There was also the arrogance that their way was best. There were faults in the system, such as inadequate funding and standards - but the whole system was also wrong.

Then there were the leaders. They didn't listen to the people they were leading - in this case the indigenous people living in Canada. There were leaders and teachers involved out of good intentions, but the people were not listened to. They were not respected. This was wrong.

We need to acknowledge the tragedies this caused, and remember the lessons so that we won't repeat it.

The other situation is even more directly about us.

Once upon a time Christianity was respected and churches were leaders in their communities. While most of Canadian society moved on, most churches remained content in their ways. In Québec there was a rebellion against a church that ruled without listening. In both regions, the church as a leader declined to almost none.

God calls us to be a part of our communities - to help shape them. If we want to have influence, then we need to remember the lessons in this passage. We need to listen to the diversity in our communities. This includes different incomes, languages, ages, ethnicities, & religions. If we don't listen, we can't do the next stage - serve. Rehoboam was advised to serve the people, and they would serve him. If we want our community/society to go along with any of our ideas, we need to both listen and serve them.

An example of this? Before Jesus asked anything of anybody he healed them. What healing needs to happen in our communities? Where do people need caring or hope? We can have a role in

shaping life for the better (to be leaders again), but first let's listen and then serve.



10 lepers - Jesus MAFA

To God be all the glory
Amen.



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love.....pg 12 (229)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZjFNpoEy8mY

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

Etching: Who is a leader that you admired (teacher, political, business, sports, ...)? Tell about them... and maybe why you admire them.

Actions: What concerns or needs have you heard from your neighbours/communities?

Wonder: How could Kensington help? (listen? advocate? tangible? ...)

Prayer: ...that you will have a chance to hear, be able to listen, and help us to serve.

✦ Spirit Sighting

Yesterday I heard a piece on CBC radio about the power of Gospel music in indigenous communities. Even those who don't believe in God or have any Christian background find the singing, or just hearing, Gospel music "brings peace, helps you to focus more, and closes out those other voices." Those with faith say the music helps them feel God is in the room with them. Even though everybody's relationship to the music and God is different, it still brings people together and helps them feel God's presence. This is the Holy Spirit at work.

...I wonder if you will feel something when we sing our next hymn - a traditional Spiritual

✦ 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.

All donations are gratefully received and support God's work in our local and extended community.



Communion

♪ Hymn: Let us break bread together.....pg 12 (548)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Egk-pX_1nHg

www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmcDFmbKg4g (P. Robeson)



Bread in hands - Safet Zec

✦ Invitation to the table

I would like to invite you to the table.

It's not my table, or the churches. This is God's table.

Maintenant, c'est le moment de se rassembler autour de la Table de notre Seigneur.

Parce que

C'est la volonté de Dieu

que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus 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.⁴

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper,
let us also join with Christians of many types,
around the world and through the centuries.
in a common confession of our faith.

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 the dead.
On the third day he rose again from the dead.
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.

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.

We thank and praise you for all of creation;

for the shifting of the seasons

as the colours shift to oranges and browns

and the days cool from the summer heat.

We thank and praise you that you care about us;

that you listen to us,

make space for us to make our own decisions,

and try to help us make healthy choices.

We thank and praise you for the Bible,

and the prophets

and the people in our lives

who help us to see your ways.

Now 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.

⁴ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

We shout Hosanna because of the glorious things you have done;
not just in sending people,
but coming yourself
to walk among us
showing us how to listen
and serve
and lead others into the light of your loving.

Sometimes we struggle to walk in your light
or even to see it.

Jesus
you showed us that you will always follow us
to help us.
even through shame and torture and death.

You show us true leadership.

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

While we wait for your return,
we thank you for the presence of your Holy Spirit.
That your Spirit moves around us,
and even in us,
to help us to see you
and offers us strength & humility to follow you.

Lord Jesus,
there are things about this word that make you sad,
and things that make us sad as well.

This week we pray for

- systemic racism that continues to damage generations
- for those that don't see it
- for those that need healing
from abuse that was done to their ancestors, and them.
- We pray for leaders who will listen to everyone,
and respectfully serve
- We also pray for those in need of your peace and healing...

Lord God,
as we gather at your table,
we pray that as we share your bread and your cup.
your will make them alive
so that we may be closer to you
and be strengthened by you until you come again.

Let us join together in speaking the words Jesus taught us to pray,
saying:

 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.**

GOD IS HERE! AS WE HIS PEOPLE

GATHERING
796

1. God is here! As we his peo - ple, Meet to of - fer
2. Here are sym - bols to re - mind us Of our life - long
3. Here our chil - dren find a wel - come In the Shep - herd's
4. Lord of all, of church and king - dom, In an age of

1. praise and prayer, May we find in full - er mea - sure
2. need of grace; Here are ta - ble, font and pul - pit,
3. flock and fold; Here, as bread and wine are tak - en,
4. change and doubt, Keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel,

1. What it is in Christ we share: Here, as in the world a -
2. Here the cross has cen - tral place: Here in hon - es - ty of
3. Christ sus - tains us as of old: Here the ser - vants of the
4. Help us work your pur - pose out: Here, in this day's ded - i -

1. round us, All our var - ied skills and arts Wait the com - ing
2. preach - ing, Here in si - lence as in speech, Here in new - ness
3. Ser - vant Seek in wor - ship to ex - plore What it means in
4. ca - tion, All we have to give, re - ceive; We who can - not

1. of his Spir - it In - to o - pen minds and hearts.
2. and re - new - al God the Spir - it comes to each.
3. dai - ly liv - ing To be - lieve and to a - dore.
4. live with - out you, We a - dore you! We be - lieve!

Text: 87 87 D; Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000, © 1979, Hope Publishing Co. All rights reserved. Used with permission.
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH; Cyril Vincent Taylor, 1907-1991, © 1942, renewed 1970, Hope Publishing Co.
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LORD, I Gladly Trust 25B

D G D A
1 LORD, I glad - ly trust in you: let me not be
2 In your hands I place my past: all my sins you
3 Teach me what is true and good; let me hear and
4 When my trou - bles mul - ti - ply you a - lone can

A7 D G D
put to shame. As I look up toward your throne
know so well. Your for - give - ness, LORD, I need,
un - der - stand! In the choic - es I must make
bring me through: so with all your saints I say,

Esus E7 A D
make your gra - cious pro - mise known: God my ref - uge
for my guilt is great in - deed; ev - en great - er
show my heart the way to take, so that I may
"Be my strength and shield to - day." Since I know you

G D Bm Em D/A A D
and my hope, your pro - tect - ive care I claim.
is your love - mer - cy more than I can tell.
al - ways tread on the path which you have planned.
hear my prayer, LORD, I glad - ly trust in you.

Guitar chords do not correspond with keyboard harmony.
This tune in a higher key: p. 346.

229 Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love

Refrain

F /A Gm6

Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love; show

C7 F /A Bb6 C7 F Fine

us how to serve the neigh-bours we have from you.

F Dm7 Gm /Bb C7 /E

1. Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their
 2. Neigh-bours are rich and poor, var - ied in col - our and
 3. These are the ones we should serve; these are the ones we should
 4. Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their

F /A Dm /C Bb6 C7 F

feet, mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 race; neigh-bours are near and far a - way.
 love; all are neigh-bours to us and you.
 feet; this is the way we should live with you.

Words: Tom Colvin (1925-) Music: Ghanaian folk melody; arrangement, Jane Marshall (1924-); adaptation, Tom Colvin (1925-) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © 1969 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: adaptation, copyright © 1969 and this arrangement © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co.

Rev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

548 Let us break bread together

Eb /D Cm Fm/Ab Bb Eb Ab/Eb Eb

1. Let us break bread to-gether on our knees;
 2. Let us drink wine to-gether on our knees;
 3. Let us praise God to-gether on our knees;

Fm Gm Bb/Ab Eb/G Eb6 F Bb Bb7

let us break bread to-gether on our knees;
 let us drink wine to-gether on our knees;
 let us praise God to-gether on our knees;

Eb/G Bb13/F Eb Bb/D Cm7 Fm/D Eb Fm /Eb Bb7/D

when I fall down on my knees with my face to the ris - ing sun,

Bb6 - 7 Cm7 Bb6 Abmaj7 Bbsus2-3 Eb

O Lord, have mer-cy on me.

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual; arrangement, F.R.C. Clarke (1931-)

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Anglican Church of Canada and United Church of Canada, 1971

LINSTEAD 8 8 8 LM with refrain (5 5 3)

C Dm7C F/G C G7

1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2. Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

C F/C C C Dm7C F/G C

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

G7 C/G G C Refrain C

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) eve - ry - where!

F (Dm7) G7 C F C

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-) Music: Jamaican folk song; adaptation, Doreen Potter (1925-1980);
 arrangement, Andrew Donaldson (1951-) CCLI #4440603

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Rev. Peter Rombeek
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Hummingbird Ministries, one of the Indigenous ministries supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, is committed to bringing peace and healing to Indigenous families living in BC's lower mainland. Led by The Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly, the ministry helps to restore hope by offering regular healing circles, working with the community in art and celebration, and providing educational and healing workshops, Bible studies, children's art and music programs. The ministry has also recently embarked on a journey to gather the wisdom and teachings of Indigenous elders through a series of interviews, reviving and preserving their treasured stories for generations to come.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 1 (World Communion Sunday) We give thanks for the global Christian community and all those who gather around the Lord's Table on this World Communion Sunday.

Monday, October 2 We give thanks for the staff and faculty of our theological schools. We pray that God will nurture grace, wisdom and energy in them as they seek to follow God's leading in times of enormous change and challenge.

Tuesday, October 3 We pray for those who serve partner churches outside of Canada.

Wednesday, October 4 (Sisters in Spirit) We pray for Indigenous girls and women who have faced terrible levels of violence and for the families and friends seeking justice for murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls.

Thursday, October 5 We pray for the Rev. Harry Currie, serving as synod clerk for Alberta and the Northwest.

Friday, October 6 We pray for ministers and other professional church workers who are on long term disability.

Saturday, October 7 We pray for Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario, as it provides an urban "home" for elders and young people who have endured the residential school system or have aged out of the child welfare system.