



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

The Bible: Bury or Trust

Nov 5, 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).



Prayer of illumination - M Moyers

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 **Big Hero 6** (and Nov 17: board game night
 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.

New Hope Harvest Festival: Nov 10 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.

Contacts

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 514-773-4620
 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

From the silence of eternity
the sound of the Word echoes,
speaking life into being.

**Come let us hear,
let us rediscover,
let us re-read our lives
in the light of the Word's
goodness and truth,
and as we do so
may we worship God.²**



The Last Supper - Ivan Guaderrama

² Spill the Beans #17

♪ Hymn: All hail the power of Jesus' name.....pg 12 (363)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmxCpX28-Gc



Prayer of Approach

God, present in our building today,
yet not confined to it,
make your power known in our worship.

As we praise your name,
may our voices be strengthened and our hearts be lifted.

May we be reminded that we cannot contain you
or define your majesty
or limit your power
to what we know and understand.

Forgive us when we have made you smaller
so we can be comfortable,
when we have attempted to hold you back
because we are not ready.

Forgive us when we ignore the sins of the past,
or look to the future and give up.

Forgive us when we don't live as your people
in this present.

You crash into our sanctuaries,
into our worship, into our lives,
whether we are ready or not.

You refuse to wait any longer.

May we be disturbed
caught up in your wake
as you flow through the world,
changing the lives of all your people with the power of love.

In Jesus name **Amen.**

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Here the good news spoken through the prophet Isaiah (1:18)

Come now, let us argue it out,
says the Lord:
though your sins are like scarlet,
they shall be like snow.
though they are red like crimson,
they shall become like wool.

Thanks be to God.



Listening to God

✦ Children's Time

What are some rules we have to live by? (ex. Don't just grab what you want. Don't hit. Clean up after yourself.)

Every family/community has rules. They help everyone to live happier lives. When somebody doesn't follow them, then people get frustrated or hurt.

The Bible contains some basic rules, and then many ways that they are lived out. In today's Bible passage we're going to hear how people forgot about them until King Josiah reminded everyone.

What is the big rule(s) that God has in the Bible?

How can we love God and love others?

One way the Sunday School is living this out the rule about cleaning up and helping others is by cleaning the Sunday School toys. What else could we do?

prayer

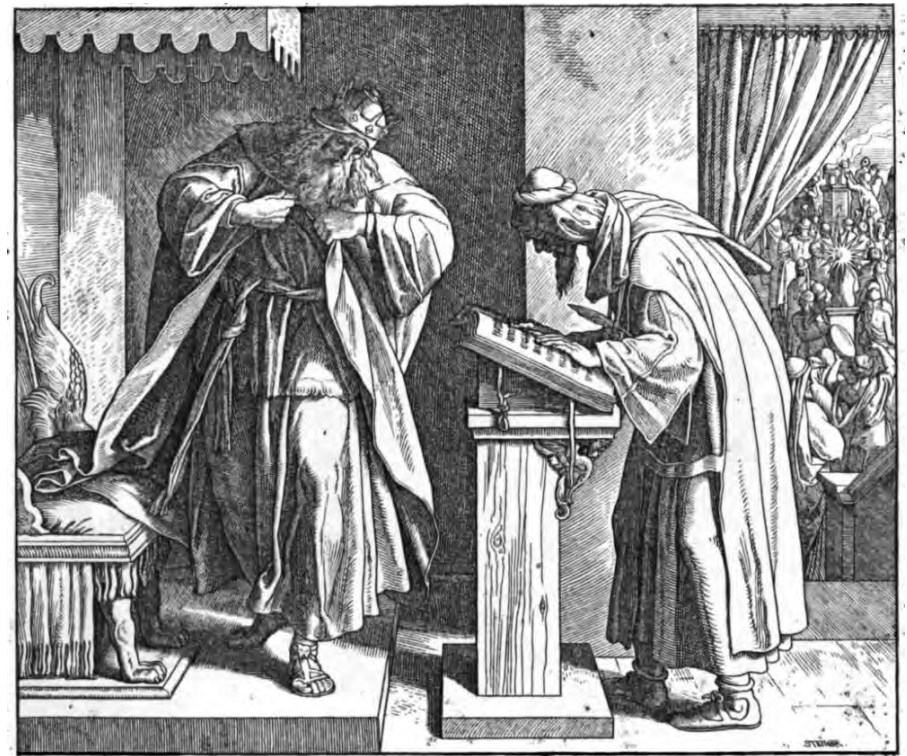
*Dear Jesus, thank you for giving us rules about how to live.
Please help us to do all we can to love both you and others. Amen.*

♪ Hymn: Open the eyes of my heart Lord.....pg. 12
www.youtube.com/watch?v=iwqpKD-qBt4

🧎 Prayer for Illumination

Lord,
open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may be moved to dive into your word
and follow your light.

Amen.



King Josiah - JS von Carolsfeld


✦ Intro to the readings


Today's main passage is both long and interesting. It is set in Judah some generations after the split. There's been the

occasional good king, notably Hezekiah, and several considered evil - like his son Manasseh and grandson Amon. What made them evil? They supported foreign gods and not The LORD.

The next king is different. Amon, after being assassinated after two years, is replaced by his 8 year old son. His mother is the model for love. King Josiah grows up respecting God and doing what a king of Judah should do. This is a change in relationships.

Today's psalm picks up some of the good things they discover in the passage from 2nd Kings.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[2 Kings 22:3 - 23:3](#)
[Psalm 19](#)

 Sermon: How to divide and lead people
Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁴ Amen.

Did you know this passage? Perhaps not, as it isn't in the usual list of Sunday readings. I'm not sure why. It's full of good and interesting bits. There's the details of the workers and the trust they are shown. There's the excitement, and concern, about the book of the Law. There's the surprise of it being found. What had happened to it? There's the inclusion of Huldah, the prophetess - and what she says. There's the king's response. This makes a lot of interesting pieces in this passage... but what's it about?

I think it's relationships.

³ 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

⁴ Psalm 19:14

Before this passage starts we are told about the reign of Manasseh - and how he has broken the relationship with God by supporting the Assyrian gods. Now we have King Josiah, who will try and restore their commitment to the covenant. They are trying to restore the relationship.

We have the relationship with the workers. They are trusted. I've heard of, and even been in, places where the trust between workers and leaders is broken. It makes for a horrible atmosphere - and no loyalty. Workers leave as soon as they can. When there are relationships of trust - more than is reasonable can happen.

In this case, the Word of the Law is found. Was it discovered in the re-construction? Was it found when the treasury was given out? How was it lost in the first place? Perhaps it was so unused that it was forgotten about. Perhaps it was hidden by earlier priests from the kings that didn't follow God - keeping it safe until it was forgotten. Perhaps the high priest was just waiting for the right time.

Whether planned or not, this was the right time for an impact. On hearing the Word of the Law the king realized how badly the relationship was broken - and tore his clothes. He then sought advice and led change.



Do you think that would happen now? If we sent a copy to the UN? or to individual leaders? or if you read it to your friends? Would you even be comfortable doing that?

There is no longer the same relationship with the text - there isn't the same trust. I was at a little conference the other week about the future of the church in

Canada. One of the many interesting observations was that it's not unusual for people outside, and even inside the church, to find the Bible embarrassing or shameful.

How do you feel about the Bible?

There are horrible things in the Bible: murder & mass slaughters, rape, stealing & pillaging, slavery, the treatment of women, etc etc. Sometimes this behaviour is condemned, and sometimes it is given God's support. This should be troubling. It impacts what you believe the Bible is about, and even what it is.

Is the Bible the word of God - as in, dictated by God to somebody who wrote it down? If so, how come it's so confusing and seems to have contradictions? If it's not dictated by God, then what is the influence of the person writing it? and the culture they live in? These questions are at the root of most disagreements about what the Bible means.

As an example, take the role of women in the church. For thousands of years women were not considered leaders. Their role was looking after the home. We can see this in the Bible and the church - but in the last century this has changed. In Canada women were recognized as people and given the right to vote. Later some churches allowed them to be leaders outside of teaching children. Then some, like the Presbyterians, allowed women to become ministers. The passages that said women should not be above men and should not teach were seen as cultural. Passages like the women being the first to tell of the resurrection, and this passage about Huldah, were lifted up as the sort of loving relationship God really wants for women. Did you notice that even though Huldah's identity was linked to being the wife or a man, she was treated as an authority by the king?

The role of women is not universally agreed on by Christians. A more recent topic is the acceptance of people identifying as LGBTQ+. Are the few passages about this in the Bible culturally influenced? As the Biblical world didn't have any long-term committed same sex relationships... how do we interpret what they wrote? How much is God's will, and how much is cultural influence? That Christians debate this causes some people to be confused. It also leads to people, inside and outside the church, being embarrassed or ashamed by the Bible - and perhaps putting it away... where it might get lost until the workers start doing some needed renovations.

And how about our interpretation of what's going on? Tearing open your clothes sounds pretty dramatic. Should we rip our clothes when we hear the Bible read? or when we are shocked or experiencing grief? Are the behaviours of people in the Bible how we should behave, or people trying to live in relationship with God in their way ...or trying badly, as the case may be. In the case of tearing open your clothes, this was a common way of showing grief at the time. I've noticed that, stereotypically, Italian funerals have lots of crying and the Irish share stories and will laugh. We have variety responses. Is one better or worse? We interpret Josiah ripping his clothes as a cultural sign of grief and not a model for our behaviour approved by God... what about other behaviours.

What about when the Israelites kill people? Last week we heard about Elijah having the prophets of Baal killed. Was this God's wish or Elijah human wish for revenge? What about when they went into the Promised Land - killing and plundering. Was this God's plan? Because it doesn't sound like the Ten Commandments where it says don't kill, and don't covet (desire) what someone else has.

How do we interpret the Bible and what's going on?

What sort of relationships is God trying to have?
What sort of relationship can we have with the Bible?

In short, a complicated one. One that includes thinking, and having faith - providing space for scholars, people we agree and disagree with, and (very importantly) the Holy Spirit to help with interpretation. We need a relationship with the Bible because it is the most important witness to God's plan... or more accurately, it's the most important collection of witnesses.

The give witness to relationships with God. There are good examples and bad - such as in these history books. There's disagreements & challenges in the letters section about how to live as God wants. There's honesty about relationships in the psalms. There's the gospels in which Jesus reveals God's relationship with us in new and shocking ways. Throughout the whole collection, we can see that *'the steadfast love of the LORD lasts forever'*. God is continually bringing love, hope and healing to the world - which is a good key to interpreting the Bible. This helps us trust the Bible and discover what the psalm reminds us of - that the Bible will revive the soul, make the fool wise, bring joy to the heart and light to the eye.

King Josiah realized that they were not living out God's love, hope and healing. They have broken their relationship with God and each other. He was torn up by this and led changes. He started by trusting the workers. He gets advice from a prophetess who speaks for God - and is told that making changes now will just delay the inevitable. Still, he makes the changes. It is the right thing to do - the right way to live. He has heard the word and trusts it to lead them.

We can trust the Word too. It's not always easy to figure out,

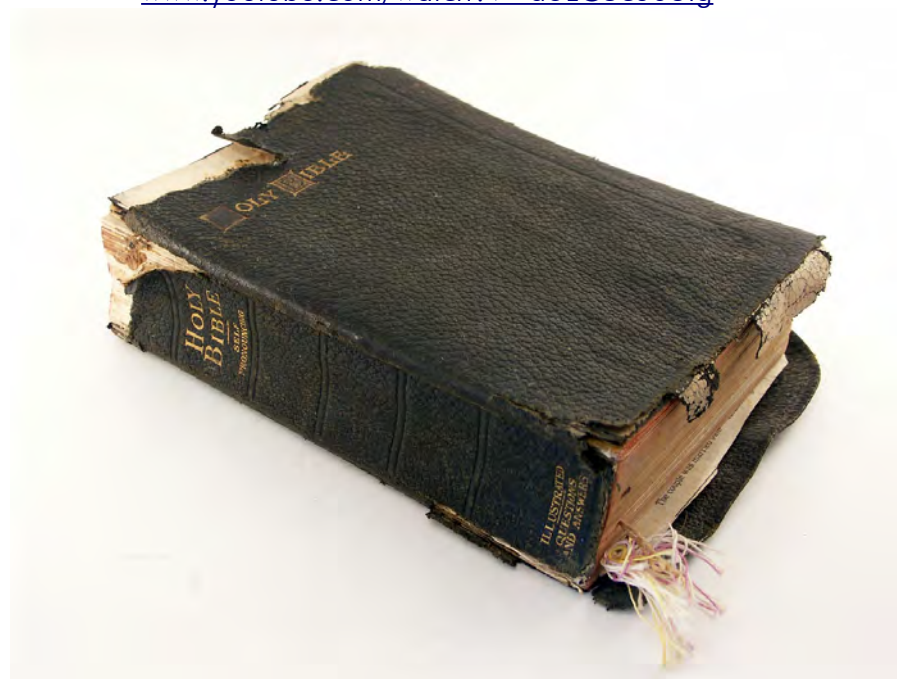
but there are lots of books and people to help - not to mention God's Holy Spirit. By using a key of *'love, hope and healing'*, or *'do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God'* or *'love the Lord your God with all your heart & soul & mind & strength, and your neighbour as yourself'* the Bible will help us into a right relationships with God and each other - one that will be challenging, but hopefully not embarrassing ...and you won't need to rip your clothes.

To God be all the glory
Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Thy word is a lamp unto my feet.....pg 13 (496)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=a6LC8cu03lg



🗣️ 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: How do you feel about the Bible?

Etching: What Bible passages are precious for you?

Values: What is your key to interpreting the Bible? What would you say the big message of the Bible is?

Wonder: What passages in the Bible would you like to ask God about?

Say a quick prayer, and speculate how God might answer. Consult some books or podcasts and see what they say (you can ask Rev. Peter for suggestions).

Wonder: How do you balance what in the Bible is God inspired and what is human influenced/interpreted

Prayer: ...give thanks for the Bible, and ask for help in understanding the Word of God.

✦ Spirit Sighting

The Holy Spirit is at work in the world. One way is through the churches. The Presbyterian Church in Canada sees the conflict in Gaza as not how God wants relationships to be. Over the years, we have partnered with groups who try to build positive relationships between the peoples there. At our last General Assembly, in June, the award for 'cutting edge in mission' was given to the Parents Circle Family Forum. It is made up of parents, both Israeli and Palestinian, who have lost children due to the ongoing conflict. You can watch the presentation at presbyterian.ca/gao/the-cutting-edge-of-mission.

The Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) is collecting money to provide aid through its partners. Donations until Nov 12 will be matched by the Canadian Government up to \$10 million. presbyterian.ca/2023/10/19/a-just-and-lasting-peace

or call 1-800-619-7301.

God isn't going to walk in and bring peace - but the Holy Spirit is working through people like the Parents Circle Family Forum, and the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

✦ 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: I come with joy #1-3.....pg 13 (530)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=QtYGMsD5XiY



Broken for You
Aaron Miller

✦ 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.⁵

As we come together to share this taste of 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.

⁵ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

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 praise you God for all that you do.

For the glorious things

like good friends on our journey.
and for the hard things you ask us to do,
like loving people we don't agree with.
We thank you that your steadfast love stays with us forever.
When we live the way you want us to,
and when we don't.
We thank you that you walk with us
...with all of creation.
That you push us to think bigger
to love more
and reach out to you
and each other
so that together all of creation
can all living amazing lives.

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.**

Thank you for not just giving us words,
but for being the Living Word.
for being the Word made flesh in Jesus.
Thank you for living among us
and sharing in our lives
the joys and the tragedies.
Thank you for coming as Jesus long ago,

and for being here now.
For continuing to help us walk according word,
because it is hard to live first for you,
and then for others.
Jesus, you showed us the cost this can have.
and it can be scary... and more
...Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

And because death couldn't hold you,
we have faith that you will be with us forever.
May this help us to continue on until you come again.

As we wait,
help us not to wait passively.
May your Holy Spirit give us strength, wisdom & love
to share with creation.
To do what we can,
and to turn to you (depend on you) for help and guidance.

Lord Jesus,
there are things that we pray for:

- the continued inequality between genders...
- the Bible. Help us to spend more time with your word,
and to be given wisdom in how to follow you...
- the increasing polarization between people...
- the tragic violence in Palestine & Israel
and what is less noticed in Ukraine & other regions...

- also for those who are trapped in cycles of violence with those that should be trustworthy...
- We pray for those who need your healing. . .

May we be like King Josiah,
that while we don't know the future and can't control it,
may we do our best to live today in a right relationship with
you, and all others.

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.**



 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 sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi”
Take and drink.

[take and drink]

Prayer after Communion

Loving God,
 We thank you for this time with you,
 uniting us with Christ,
 and for the hint of the glorious banquet to come.
 Send us out in the power of your Spirit
 bringing love, hope & healing to the world.
 In Jesus name,
 Amen.

♪ Hymn: I come with joy #4-5.....pg 13 (530)
youtu.be/2k5v3ZgqQeE?t=22 (different church)

Benediction (Romans 15:13)

*May the God of hope
 fill you with all joy and peace in believing,
 so that you may abound in hope
 by the power of the Holy Spirit.*



In Guatemala, Leslie—a mother to four—takes great pride in the small home, built atop a former landfill site, she has owned for 15 years. To make ends meet, she sorts plastic bottles from the landfill, with her five-year-old daughter Kaitlin often accompanying her. Leslie's other daughter, Naomi, attends the PWS&D-supported Francisco Coll School. At this school, she has developed essential reading and writing skills. Leslie also participates in parenting classes, noting, "[It's] very helpful because I've changed the way I parent. I shout less. I used to come home from work and start shouting at the kids, but I've learned differently. The classes are very beneficial."



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, November 5 November is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. We pray for those facing violence in their families or relationships. We pray that decision makers enact desperately-needed housing and support for people trying to leave violence in their home.

Monday, November 6 We pray for the members of the Women's Missionary Society, past and present, and give thanks for their faithful ministry over the past 110 years.

Tuesday, November 7 We pray for young Palestinian and Syrian refugees learning marketable skills through the Electronics and Computer program of the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon.

Wednesday, November 8 We pray for congregations worried about finances, that God will provide the resources they need to do the ministry they are called to do.

Thursday, November 9 We pray for human rights educators and advocates that seek to protect human dignity and work for the flourishing of all people.

Friday, November 10 We pray for the ministry of chaplains serving in the Canadian Armed Forces.

Saturday, November 11 (Remembrance Day) We pray for all who mourn or suffer as a result of conflict and war. We ask God to protect and guide peacekeepers and those who serve in the armed forces.

All hail the power of Jesus' name

MILES LANE 8 6 8 6 with repeat

A /C# D A/C# E A B7/F# E A/C# D A/C# /E E A

1. All hail the power of Je - sus' name; let an - gels pros - trate fall;
 2. Crown him, ye mar - tyrs of your God, who from his al - tar call;
 3. Ye seed of Is - rael's cho - sen race, ye ran - somed from the fall,
 4. Sin - ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm - wood and the gall,
 5. Let eve - ry tribe and eve - ry tongue, re - spon - sive to the call,

/C# D A/C# Bm6 A B E A

bring forth the roy - al di - a - dem to
 ex - tol the Stem of Jes - se's Rod, and
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him,
 go, spread your tro - phies at his feet, and
 lift high the u - ni - ver - sal song, and

F#m E A D A/E E 7 A

crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.

Words: v. 2, 4, anonymous; v. 1, 3, 5, Edward Perronet (1726–1792) Music: William Shrubsole (1760–1806); fauxbourdon, Edgar C. Robinson

Words: public domain Music: fauxbourdon, copyright © Oxford University Press, 1931

Open the Eyes of my Heart – Spanish lyrics

Guitar

D Dmaj7
 Abre mis ojos, oh Cristo; Abre mis ojos, te pido,
 Yo quiera verte, Yo quiero verte.
 G D (- Asus if repeating)

(repeat)

A Bm - G A
 Y contemplar Tu majestad, y el resplandor de tu gloria.
 Bm G A
 Derrama Tu amor y poder, cuando cantamos santo, santo.

D Dmaj7
 Santo, santo, santo, santo, santo, santo,
 Santo, santo, santo, yo quiero verte.
 Gmaj7 D - Asus (omit at end of piece)

D Dmaj7
 Open the eyes of my heart, Lord, Open the eyes of my heart;
 I want to see You. I want to see You.
 G D (- Asus if repeating)

A Bm G A
 To see You high and lifted up, shining in the light of Your glory.
 Bm G A
 Pour out Your power and love, as we sing holy, holy, holy.

D Dmaj7
 Holy, holy, holy; holy, holy, holy;
 Holy, holy, holy, I want to see You.
 Gmaj7 D - Asus (omit at end of piece)

Words and music by Paul Beloeche. Copyright © 1997 Integrity's Hosanna! Music.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet

THY WORD Irregular

Refrain
G Am/G D/G G C/G D/G G Fine

Thy word is a lamp un-to my feet and a light un-to my path.

D/F# Am (/C) Em Bm C D

1. When I feel a-fraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right be-side
2. I will not for-get your love for me, and yet my heart for - ev - er is wan-

C/G G D Am Em Bm

me, and no-thing will I fear as long as you are near.
dering. Je-sus, be my guide and hold me to your side, and

C D D/E Em Am/D D (9) D.C. al Fine

Please be near me to the end.
I will love you to the end.

Words: Amy Grant (1960-) Music: Amy Grant (1960-)

Re for Words: copyright © Meadowgreen Music Co., Bug and Bear Music, 1984. All rights reserved. Used by permission of CMC Ltd.
Music: copyright © Meadowgreen Music Co., Bug and Bear Music, 1984. All rights reserved. Used by permission of CMC Ltd.

I come with joy

DOVE OF PEACE 8 6 8 6 6

Unison F Gm7 Am Bbsus2 F/C

1. I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en,
2. I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share, each proud di -
4. The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but
5. To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that

Dm C/E F Bbmaj7 C6 Dm7 F/A

loved and free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in
all are fed, the new com-mun - i - ty of love in
vi - sion ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
ev - er near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -
God has done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the

Bb6 Am7 (F/A) Bb C 9 (C7) F

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
Christ's com-mun - ion bread, in Christ's com-mun - ion bread.
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: Walker's Southern Harmony 1835; harmony, Charles H. Webb (1933-) CCLI #4440603

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