



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

## *Christmas Invitations*

*December 24, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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*

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca  
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### *Announcements*

*Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site*

#### **Christmas Day**

**Pot-luck Breakfast & singing** - 9:30 at the church

**Community Dinner** - from 1 until 7 pm

at St. Ignatius 4455 West Broadway (north of Sherbrooke)

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

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

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Nativity in Townsville- Jan Hynes

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

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

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

**Friday's Fantastic Family Food & Film Fiestas:** returning mid Jan

**Drop Box:** Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry, diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands, and cloths & accessories for the New Hope Boutique.

**Church Office closed:** from Dec 25 until Jan 8. If you need something, please contact Rev. Peter.



## Approaching God

🗨️ Call to worship<sup>2</sup>

The angels sing the glory of God in the highest heavens.

**“Be not afraid, for I bring you good news of great joy for all people. To you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord... you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger. Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom God favours!”** (Luke 2)

At Christmas, God speaks in signs. The baby in the manger is a sign of a new life and new governance shining in the world.

**Christ is born**

**and the world is filled with the promise of hope, peace, & joy. God’s love in a body.**

Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

**Jesus Christ is the light of the world.**

We join with all creation in joyful praise.



**We light this candle because God has been made flesh and lives among us.**

🎵 Hymn: O Come all ye faithful.....pg 9 (159)

[www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=7aH9XnLwNws](https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=7aH9XnLwNws)

✨ Spirit Sightings

Normally after the sermon I include ways to respond to hear God, and one of them is to look for what the Holy Spirit is doing around us. This isn’t quite the same, but is about God being in the world. I’m moving it up in the order so that it might sit with you as we journey through the Christmas story.

Yesterday on a CBC radio program called Day 6 I heard an

<sup>2</sup> from *Presbyterians Sharing* and being used across Canada

interview with a minister in Bethlehem.<sup>3</sup> He reflected on how relevant the Christmas Story is this year.

We will hear how a foreign military power, Rome, ordered Mary & Joseph to travel from the north, in Nazareth, to the south, in Bethlehem... which has been happening in Gaza. We will hear about a very pregnant Mary having to make this journey, as are thousands of pregnant women in Gaza. Mary doesn’t have a place to deliver Jesus, and neither do they as their homes are destroyed and most hospitals are out of service. We’ll hear about King Herod who tries to keep power by ordering attacks that kill children.

The minister didn’t bring up Hamas, which is different than the Christmas story. He does point out how different God is in the way Jesus brings peace - in his birth, life, and in his death Jesus does not raise armies or use force. His point is that God goes into tragic situations and lives with people.



Nativity in Bethlehem 2023

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cbc.ca/listen/live-radio/1-14-day-6/clip/16031872-palestinian-christians-prepare-subdued-christmas-bethlehem>

## Prayer of Approach

Amazing God,  
we are here tonight to share again your story  
which tells us of the mystery of the birth of Jesus, your Son,  
the one who is both fully divine and fully human.  
We don't claim to understand how you did it,  
but we are glad that you did.

We are excited, and a little impatiently,  
to join with our family and friends  
in celebrating your coming to be our Lord and Saviour.


The angels you sent with the news are here once more.  
They are around us and will be revealed in our carols & readings,  
they come to tell us the good news  
just as they did all those years ago.  
They come to remind us that Jesus became like us,  
with tiny hands and feet,  
wrinkled and naked,  
needing to be cared for by his family.

We come today to welcome Jesus once again.  
We come to offer him what we have,  
not our toys or gadgets - our advancements,  
but ourselves.  
We come to offer ourselves,  
that we too might become human angels,  
holy messengers, telling others about Jesus.

Amen.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> adapted from *Spill the Beans* issue 17.

As we wait for your return,  
help us to live out the prayer you teach us:

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



## *Listening to God*

### Children's Time

Throughout Advent the children in Sunday School have been building a giving tree. The idea is that as God gave himself to us in Jesus, we respond by giving to others. They came up with idea and have been practising.

I'd also like to just go through one of the Christmas Carol, so we know what we're singing about. Some points I'll make for The snow lay on the ground

🎵 Hymn: On Christmas Night All Christians Sing.....pg 9 (162)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqsnfgVQQuyk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oqsnfgVQQuyk)



## Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may be filled with joy and hope  
from knowing you better

Amen.

## Intro to the readings

Today we are going to hear several readings. I suspect they'll be familiar to you. Each section focuses on different people. Each of them are invited to do something. I'll invite you to consider their situation - to consider if you can relate to any of them... if you can accept any of these invitations.



## Mary & Joseph

Reading: Luke 1: 26-38

Thoughts:

Mary & Joseph were dreaming of having a family. It was expected of them. Her parents were looking forward to having little grandchildren around. It was the career that Mary had been training for. This was normal. I suspect, though, it was more than that; I expect Mary was a young woman who dreamed of having children. (perhaps you were like that too.)

and now, she received the invitation for this dream to come true - but in such a different way. Instead of being about her family, she was becoming a servant in God's family. Instead of having a child with Joseph she would be the surrogate mother for the son of God. She would raise him as her own, but knowing that he was part of something so much bigger than the quiet family life she dreamed of. As for providing grandchildren for her parents - they might never speak to her again.

True, Mary dreamed of starting a family... but not like this.

What would you do if God invited you to expand your dreams to be a part of something bigger? What would you do if you were invited to let go of your dreams and trust God to change lives for the better?

♪ Hymn: The snow lay on the ground.....pg 10(157)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WktRp3PrAuk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WktRp3PrAuk)

(P.S. Venite adoremus Dominum = Come, let us adore God)

## Innkeeper

Reading: Luke 2: 1-7

Thoughts:

An innkeeper's job is to balance everybody's desires. If you're the sort of person who tries to make everybody happy, then you can relate. You know it's a hard job. In this case, an unsatisfied customer and he'd lose honour... and no more customers.

With the census, the whole town is full. Now, there's another couple looking for a place. His life is full, but can he make room? Would they upset the balance? What if the baby comes? Babies upset any carefully balanced life.

What would you do if God invited you to make room, in an already full life, for someone else? for someone needing space from you? It may not be your couch, but for practical resources... or emotional space?

What would you do if God invited you to make room for Jesus?

♪ Hymn: Once in royal David's city.....pg 10(166)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmspXB6lUeg](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QmspXB6lUeg)



Road to Bethlehem  
M Torevell



Heavenly Host - M Moyers

## Shepherd

Reading: Luke 2: 8-20

Thoughts:

The shepherds are ordinary people. Well, almost ordinary, or rather, less than ordinary. They were only special because nobody wanted to be a shepherd - especially the night shift. It's similar now. People don't want to be a farm hand. It's why we need so many migrant labourers. It's even worse than having a night time cleaning job because you have to leave your family behind.

The shepherds were not important... and yet, God chooses them to tell about Jesus' birth. The angles turn out en mass to a group nobody's ever going to believe. And the shepherds accept the offer - they go and find out it's all like it's supposed to be - like God said.

And then they, like the angels, start praising God and telling everyone what they've seen and heard.

What would you do if God invited you to notice something God is doing? Do you feel you're special enough for God to invite? What would you do to catch a glimpse of God in the world? What would you do if you did glimpse God in life?

♪ Hymn: Angels we have heard on high.....pg 11(147)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN\\_Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN_Y)

## King Herod

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-4, 7-8, 16

Thoughts:

King Herod is the king of the Jews. He likes that. He has his choice of food... his choice of anything, really. Life is good as the king.

He made life good for the people too - especially in Jerusalem. He had them build theatres, political offices & marketplaces. He doubled the size of the Temple, even if it did mean adding the Roman eagle above the Temple gate. It was their honour to pay the taxes and do the work for him. Some people said he got more paranoid in his old age - but they didn't say that for long.

Then, as he's getting old, along come some foreigners to celebrate the newborn king of the Jews. He's already killed some sons who had thoughts of getting his throne. Apparently there's someone else getting in the way of what he wants?

What would you do if God invited you to change the way you live? Will you allow others to suffer so you can live the way you want to?

♪ Hymn: If I have been a source of pain.....pg 12(199)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8RsYntBEqA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8RsYntBEqA)

✦ Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news spoken by the angel to Joseph  
She will give birth to a son,  
and you are to give him the name Jesus,  
because he will save his people from their sins.  
Thanks be to God.



Les rois mages chez Hérode - James Tissot

## Magi

Reading: Matthew 2: 1-2, 9-12

Thoughts:

The magi were scholars and priests - back then science and religion were combined. A common belief is that they were Zoroastrian priests who believed that God would be born and save the world.

They thought that this was happening. They left their families and travelled across at least one desert to search for this saviour. Eventually they found him, Jesus, and honoured him with precious gifts.

They sacrificed lots of time & money - not to mention comfort - to look for Jesus. Then they blessed him with gifts.



What would you do for a chance to meet Jesus? What would you sacrifice? What gifts would you offer?

♪ Hymn: What child is this.....pg 12 (161)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfORpRy7N\\_M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfORpRy7N_M)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTPQrrWcj4Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTPQrrWcj4Y)



## *Responding to God*

💡 FaithTalk: There are various questions with the readings for you to explore with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

### ✦ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: [kensingtonchurch.ca](http://kensingtonchurch.ca). Just click the 'Donate Now' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is [info@kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

### 🧑 Prayers of the people

Dear God,  
Tonight we remember the story of your coming as Jesus,  
and the ways it reminds us of you.

You came to us as a baby,  
vulnerable - even helpless.  
You came and lived in our world

as one of us.

And so we come to you,  
knowing it is safe to be vulnerable with you,  
to acknowledge our joys and fears,  
because we know that you live with us. . .

For your presence Lord,  
**we give you thanks.**

In inviting the shepherds and the magi  
you show us that you invite everyone to join you.  
The poor and the rich,  
the labourer and the educated,  
the inside person and the stranger.  
Jesus,  
thank you for inviting us to join you...  
and we pray for those  
who still need to meet you. . .

For your presence Lord,  
**we give you thanks.**

By being born in a stable,  
we can be reminded of those who normally live in barns:  
cows, donkeys, and chickens.  
We also thank you for those who normally live in barns,  
for farmers, their animals & crops that serve us. . .  
Being born in a stable  
also shows us your choice to be with those needing a home.  
We pray for those who are not at home in this season,  
and especially for those who don't have a home.  
Help them to find an emotional home with you,  
and to find practical stability and a safe home to live in. . .

For your presence Lord,  
**we give you thanks.**

While tonight is a story of joy,  
we are also reminded that there was horrible tragedy.  
You know that people can bring suffering & death on each other;  
that this is unfair...  
Jesus, please be with those who are suffering from injustice  
or grief from the loss of their loved ones. . .

For your presence Lord,  
**we give you thanks.**

While we didn't hear it tonight,  
your story also includes becoming a refugee  
as you family must leave their work, processions,  
family, friends... all beyond to start new in a foreign land.  
Jesus, we pray for refugees now  
who are struggling in refugee camps,  
or have made it to places like Montreal.  
May they receive hospitality and help;  
May they feel your love, hope & healing. . .

For your presence Lord,  
**we give you thanks.**

And Jesus, tonight we remember the angels  
who sang Glorias celebrating you becoming human  
becoming God with us - Emmanuel.  
Jesus, Help us to feel your Holy Spirit with us now, and always...,  
and to celebrate you (now and always). . .

*In Jesus name*  
**Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain .....pg 13 (133)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9o7bv7enYI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9o7bv7enYI)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfDUkWy3IW8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfDUkWy3IW8) (gospel)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=W\\_GgZsUyzHA](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_GgZsUyzHA) (banjo & fiddle)

✦ **Benediction**

*May the joy of the angels,  
the eagerness of the shepherds,  
the perseverance of the Magi,  
the obedience of Joseph and Mary,  
and the peace of the Christ child be yours this Christmas.  
And the blessing of God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always. Amen.<sup>5</sup>*



God's Hope - F Peter



# Oh come, all ye faithful

1. Oh come, all ye faith-ful, joy-ful and tri-um-phant; oh  
 2. God of God, Light of light,  
 3. See how the shep-herds, sum-moned to his cra-dle,  
 4. Sing, choirs of an-gels, sing in ex-ul-ta-tion;  
 5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap-py morn-ing;

come ye, oh come ye to Beth-le-hem.  
 born un-to Ma-ry, the vir-gin blest,  
 leav-ing their flocks draw nigh with ho-ly fear;  
 sing, all ye ci-ti-zens of heaven a-bove:  
 Je-sus, to thee be glo-ry given;

Come and be-hold him, born the King of an-gels:  
 ve-ry God, be-got-ten, not cre-at-ed:  
 we too will thith-er bend our joy-ful foot-steps:  
 "Glo-ry to God in the high-est!"  
 Word of the Fa-ther, now in flesh ap-pear-ing:

# On Christmas night all Christians sing

SUSSEX CAROL 888888

Unison

1. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the  
 2. Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Re-deem-er  
 3. When sin de-parts be-fore his grace, then life and health come  
 4. All out of dark-ness we have light which made the an-gels

an-gels bring, on Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to  
 made us glad, then why should we on earth be so sad, since  
 in its place; when sin de-parts be-fore his grace, then  
 sing this night; all out of dark-ness we have light, which

hear the news the an-gels bring, news of great joy, news of great  
 our Re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us  
 life and health come in its place. Hea-ven and earth with joy may  
 made the an-gels sing this night; "Glo-ry to God," we sing a-

mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful King's birth.  
 free all for to gain our lib-er-ty?  
 sing, all for to see the new-born King.  
 gain now and for-ev-er-more, a-men.

Verses

1. The snow lay on the ground, the stars shone bright, When  
 2. 'Twas Ma - ry, Vir - gin pure of ho - ly Anne, That  
 3. Saint Jo - seph, too was near to tend the child; To  
 4. And thus that man - ger poor be - came a throne; For

1. Christ our Lord was born on Christ - mas night. *Ve - ni - te,*  
 2. brought in - to this world the God made man. She laid him  
 3. guard him and pro - tect his moth - er mild: The an - gels  
 4. he whom Ma - ry bore was God the Son. O come, then,

1. *a - do - ré - mus* *Dó - mi - num,* *Ve - ni - te, a - do -*  
 2. in a stall at Beth - le - hem; The ass and ox - en  
 3. hov - er'd 'round, and sang this song: *Ve - ni - te, a - do -*  
 4. let us join the heav'n - ly host, To praise the Fa - ther,

Refrain

1. *ré - mus* *Dó - mi - num.* *Ve - ni - te, a - do - ré - mus*  
 2. shared the roof with them.  
 3. *ré - mus* *Dó - mi - num.*  
 4. Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*Dó - mi - num, Ve - ni - te, a - do - ré - mus Dó - mi - num.*



IRBY 878777  
G7/D G7 C7 F /A F

(F/A C7/G) F/A F

1. Once in roy - al Da - vid's ci - ty stood a  
 2. Christ came down - to earth from heav - en, who is  
 3. and our eyes at last shall see him, through his  
 4. Not in that poor low - ly sta - ble, with the

C/E F Bbmaj7 (F/C)C F (F/A C7/G) F/A F G7/D G7

low - ly cat - tle shed, where a moth - er laid her  
 God and Lord of all, shel - tered by a hum - ble  
 own re - deem - ing love, for that child so dear and  
 ox - en stand - ing by, we shall see him, but in

C 7 F /A F C/E F Bbmaj7 (F/C)C F Bb /D

ba - by in a man - ger for his bed: Ma - ry  
 sta - ble, cra - dled in a cat - tle stall: with the  
 gen - tle is our Lord in heav - en a - bove, and he  
 heav - en, set at God's right hand on high; there God's

F Gm C7 F Bb /D F /A Bbmaj7 (F/C)C F

was that moth - er mild, Je - sus Christ her lit - tle child.  
 poor, op - pressed and low - ly, lived on earth our Sav - iour ho - ly,  
 leads his chil - dren on to the place where he is gone.  
 chil - dren ga - ther round, bright like stars, with glo - ry crowned.

Words: Cecil Frances Alexander (1823-1895), alt  
 Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805-1876); harmony, A.H. Mann (1850-1929)  
 Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © Novello & Co. Ltd. CCLI #4440603

# Angels we have heard on high

IRIS (GLORIA) 7 7 7 7 with refrain (9 9)

**I**  
F E/A C7/G F Dm<sup>VI</sup> Am Gmsus C7 F

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,  
 2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?  
 3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;  
 4. See him in a man - ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

F Dm Am/C Dm7 C7/E F (F/C /A) Gmsus C7 F

and the moun - tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy - ous strains.  
 What the glad - some tid - ings be which in - spire your heaven - ly song?  
 come, a - dore on bend - ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.  
 Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

**Intro** **I VI ii V I IV**  
 Refrain F Cm/E<sup>b</sup> D Gm C/E F B<sup>b</sup>7/D (Dim)

Glo

Glo

**V**  
C G7/D C/E Dm C F Gm F/A /B<sup>b</sup> C F

ri - a (1st) in ex - cel - sis De - o.  
 (2nd) in ex - cel - sis De - o.  
 ri - a

1. Les anges dans nos campagnes  
 ont entonné l'hymne des cieux,  
 et l'écho de nos montagnes  
 redit ce chant mélodieux.  
 Refrain  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo!  
 Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Bergers, pour qui cette fête?  
 Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?  
 Quel vainqueur ou quel prophète  
 méritent ces chœurs triomphants?  
 Refrain
3. Ils annoncent la naissance  
 du libérateur d'Israël  
 et pleins de reconnaissance  
 chantent en ce jour solennel:  
 Refrain

Words: Luke 2:6-20; traditional French carol Music: traditional; arrangement; Martin Shaw (1875-1958) from Oxford Book of Carols

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Oxford University Press, 1928



Lent

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# If I have been the source of pain

Unison

Fm Eb Db Cm Fm

1. If I have been the source of pain, O God, if to the  
 2. If I have spo-ken words of cru - el - ty, if I have

Eb Db6 Cm Fm Eb6

weak I have re - fused my strength, if in re - bel - lion  
 left some suf - fer - ing un - re - lieved, con - demn not my in -

Db Cmsus4 Fm/Ab Bbm6 Cm 1.-3. Db 4. F

I have strayed a - way, for - give me, God.  
 sen - si - ti - vi - ty: for - give me, God.  
 (Verse 4) A - men, a - men.

- 3 If I've insisted on a peaceful life,  
 far from the struggles that the  
 gospel brings,  
 when you prefer to guide me to the strife,  
 forgive me, God.
- 4 Receive, O God, this ardent word of prayer  
 and free me from temptation's  
 subtle snare;  
 with tender patience, lead me to your care.  
 Amen, amen.

Words: Sara M. de Hall, based on text by C. Maude Battersby, (19th-20th cent.);  
 translation, Janet W. May (20th cent.) Music: Pablo Sosa (1933-) CCLI #4440603  
 Words: translation, copyright © The Pilgrim Press, 1992 Music: copyright © Pablo Sosa, 1988

JESUS CHRIST

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# What Child Is This?

William Dix, 1868

GREENSLEEVES

87 87 68 67

English folk melody

arr. John Stainer, 1868

1. What Child is this who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?  
 2. Why lies He in such low es - tate where ox and lamb are feed - ing?  
 3. So bring Him in - cense, gold and myrrh, come peas - ant, king, to own Him.

Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?  
 Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.  
 The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne Him.

This, this is Christ the King, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;  
 Nails, spear shall pierce Him through; the cross be borne for me, for you.  
 Raise, raise the song on high. The vir - gin sings her lul - la - by.

haste, haste to bring Him laud, the Babe, the son of Mar - y.  
 Hail, hail the Word made flesh, the Babe, the son of Mar - y.  
 Joy, joy for Christ is born, the Babe, the son of Mar - y!

GO, TELL IT 7 6 7 6 with refrain

Refrain G C/G G G/B D D7 Em/D D G G/B Am7 D7

Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and eve - ry - where.

G C/G G G/B Am/C Am G/D D7 G Fine

Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

C/G G G/B D Em D G

1. While shep-herds kept their watch-ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,  
2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo, a - bove the earth  
3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

G C G/B G G/B A A7 D/F# D7 D.C.

be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.  
rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - iour's birth!  
and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American traditional; adaptation, John W. Work (1901-1967)

Music: African-American traditional; arrangement, John W. Work (1901-1967), alt

Re Words: adaptation, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 Music: arrangement, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 CCLI #4440603  
Kensington Presbyterian Church

Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, December 24** We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

**Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day)** We thank you, loving God for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings reconciliation. May we come to know you more clearly and serve you more faithfully as we receive the Christ Child again.

**Tuesday, December 26** For Christ, there was no room in the inn; we pray for those who seek shelter. Christ had to flee his birthplace; we pray for those who seek refuge. Christ read scripture as a child; we pray that God's wisdom will enlighten our minds and direct our paths.

**Wednesday, December 27** We pray for Cedar Tree Ministries, an outreach ministry for Indigenous people on Vancouver Island that hopes to bring healing and reconciliation between the church and the First Nations, as well as to worship God.

**Thursday, December 28** We pray for Bishop Szablocs Bogdán as he provides leadership to the Reformed Church in Romania, Királyhágómellék District for the next five years.

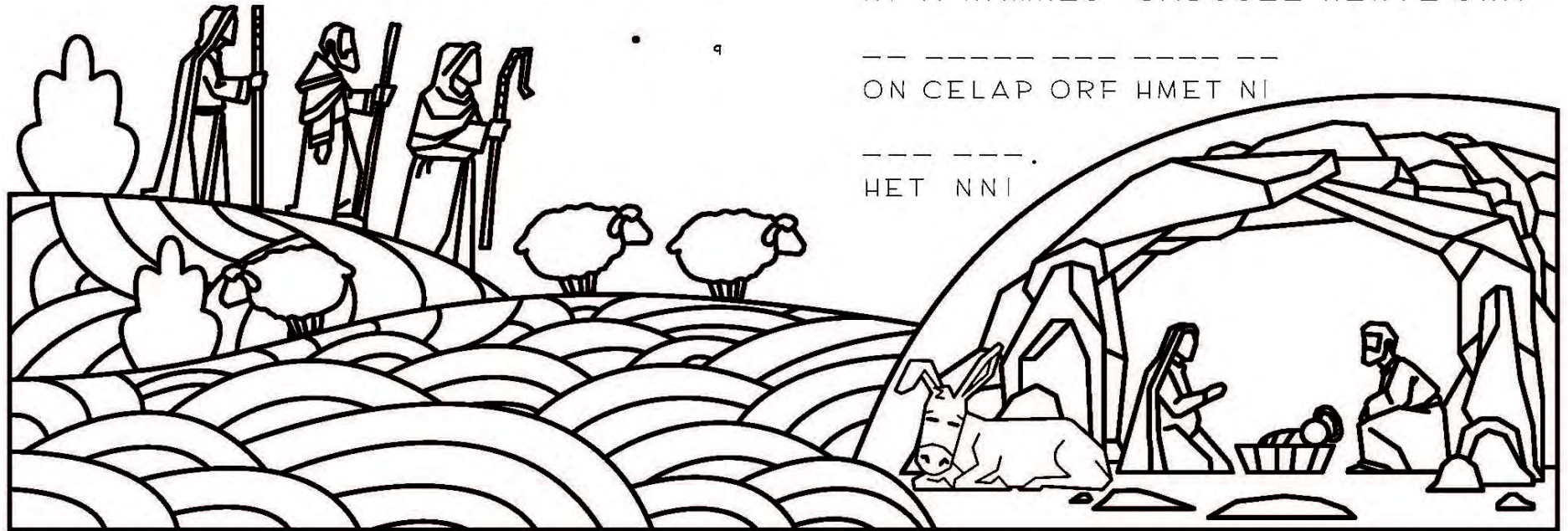
**Friday, December 29** We give thanks for the Rev. Mary Fontaine, Moderator of the General Assembly, and the connections she is making with congregations and individuals as she serves the church.

**Saturday, December 30** Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that God's love blesses and fills the world. , 2023  
.....ations



# CONNECT the DOTS

Scripture tells us the angel and a beautiful star led the way for people to find Jesus after he was born. Connect the dots to form the angel chorus and the star.



# UNSCRAMBLE IT

How does the Gospel of Luke describe Jesus' birth? Unscramble the words to find out.

-----  
 DNA RMYA VEAG TIHRB OT EHR  
 -----  
 BIFORSTNR ONS DAN PAWREPD IMH NI  
 -----  
 SNDAB FO OTCLH NAD IADL MIH  
 -----  
 NI A RAMNEG CABUSEE HERTE SWA  
 -----  
 ON CELAP ORF HMET NI  
 -----  
 HET NNI