



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

Something's growing
 December 3, 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).



Cavendish & Summerled, NDG

Contacts

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¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

Announcements

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

Ethnic mistreatment: TODAY (Dec 3) at 3 pm - online

The 2023 General Assembly adopted a Confession regarding the ways in which The Presbyterian Church in Canada has silenced, mistreated and slandered the “ethnic contingent” of the church. As part of this a Worship Service of Repentance, Healing and Hope will be held. You can join online timothyperc.com/repentance

Advent & Christmas Events: see page 11 (last page).

♪ **Advent & Christmas Hymns:** If you have any suggestions, please let Zoé or Peter know.

Daily Advent Devotions:

print booklet: let me know and we'll get you one

www.uhill.net/daily - short and nice

cca.biola.edu/advent - pick and chose from daily scripture, art, poem, reflection, music, ...

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)

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 for pizza

Elf is this week's movie - and 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, diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands, and cloths & accessories for the New Hope Boutique.



Approaching God



Call to worship

The prophets call and the psalmist sings to announce that hope comes from God.

“O that you would tear open the heavens and come down, so that the mountains would quake at your presence.”

(Isaiah 64)

“We shall see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living.” (Psalm 27)

The world cries for justice and transformation. Advent summons us to watch, to wait and to hope. In the destruction of the current order is the promise of a new order beyond our imagination. Signs of hope are all around us if we have the patience to wait and to see them.

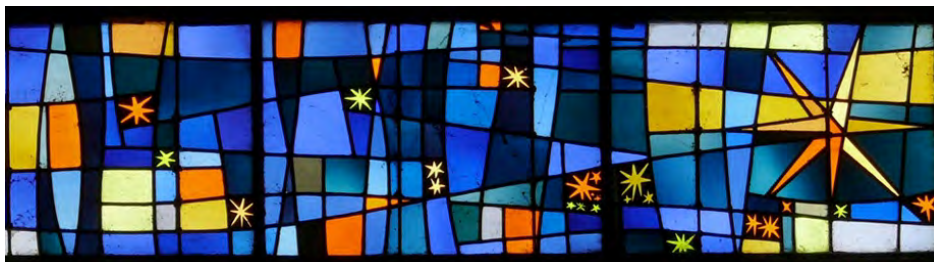
Holy are you, Source of all new life among us.

Jesus Christ comes as the hope of the world.

We join with all creation and lift our hearts in joyful praise.



We light this candle to bear witness to hope.²



Heavenly Window - Villeneuve sur Lot

♪ Hymn: Hope is a star - verse 1.....pg 11 (119)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wrfmAHWuy4



Prayer of Approach

Majestic Lord,

We gather here to remember you.

That you came in the voices of prophets

speaking your reminders

no matter how much people ignored them

- only to be proven right.

That you came as a humble baby,

an infant - and brought new light to the world.

Light that showed our dirty ways,

and our pain and scars

...and showed us the way to peace & healing.

We gather to remember,

and to hope for the promised day when you will come again

in ways we can't fully imagine,

but can still dream of.

We gather here to worship.

To celebrate you.

To listen to you.

To honour you.

For you are God.

Amen.

² This is being used across Canada, and written by *Presbyterians Sharing*



Listening to God

✦ Children's Time

The Sunday School is going to share a story they had about being kind and forgiving... and how that is helping them decorate their 'giving tree'. This is like a Christmas Tree, but instead of putting gifts underneath they are putting actions on it that they can do for others.

prayer

*Dear Jesus, Help us to understand how others are feeling
so we can help them.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Lo, how a Rose e'er blooming.....pg. 12 (151)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=DlnGvyZwKzQ

✦ Prayer for Illumination

Lord,
open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may feel your light shining in the darkness.
Amen.

✦ Intro to the readings

Our first reading is from Jeremiah. It is a book full of warnings and descriptions of what will happen if the people of Jerusalem don't turn back to God's ways... and offers hope when this destruction finally happens.

Our other reading is from Psalm 25. Here is an attitude that would could have saved them a lot of grief... and others too.

📖 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Jeremiah 33](#):1-4, 14-18

[Psalm 25](#): 1-10

✦ Sermon: Something is growing
Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁴ Amen.

Jeremiah was living in dark times - literally. I'm not saying that because it was before electricity, or there was some sort of Hollywood situation of the sun going out. Jeremiah had been delivering God's message to the people of Jerusalem... and in response, they threw him down a pit.

Even if you've never lived in a basement apartment, I expect you can relate to the effects of not having much sunlight. It's that time of year. For many people, less sunlight leads to feeling tired, unmotivated, ...depressed. It is hard in the dark.



Jeremiah - M Chagall

And then there's the news. God had asked Jeremiah to tell the people that because they were not living the way they should, their city would be destroyed - their way of life forcibly changed.

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

That's dark news to deliver.

And then there's the more current news (because it's old news that they had been living out of touch with God). The Babylonian army is coming - and the Judeans are actually taking down (destroying) their own houses to build defences. Having your home and way of life actually facing destruction... these are dark times.

Here in Montréal, we don't have an army marching up to our gate. The news tells us of places in the world where this is happening. This is depressing, but doesn't require us to change our lives - to be like the Judeans and take down our houses in order to live. That said, we do have to live with the environment. People have strong opinions on the root cause of environmental changes, but I think everybody agrees that it is changing. I think everybody agrees that when water is polluted, this is bad for drinking and crops; that air pollution leads to smog, which is bad for breathing.

This week the UN is having another climate conference. We are being told that the time of no return is almost now - like Jeremiah warning the



Judeans. We are being told we need to radically change the way we live if we hope to prevent cataclysmic disaster, like the Judeans taking apart their homes to use for defences. We may not have a physical army at our door, but the news is dark.

Our parallels with this passage continue with what has led to the current crisis. They were repeat offenders. They were warned, repeatedly and by multiple prophets, about living their way instead of in a healthy relationship with God, each other, and

creation. That if they didn't change their ways, destruction and suffering would come. We too have been warned. We've changed a bit to polluting less in our own backyards, but we find it hard to do more. We continue to let our society live in ways that hurt our relationship with creation. We are failing to provide ways for other societies to live in healthier relationships with the environment.

Which leads to another parallel - living with the consequences. Their choices lead to the Babylonian army coming and squashing them. Historians talk about little Judea being defiant neighbours. Theologians talk about ignoring God. The result is the same. In our case, there are places where the water isn't drinkable; where the air makes people sick. There's the increase of micro-plastics in our food. And then there's the warnings coming out of the COP conferences that the temperature of the planet will soon reach levels that will bring wide-spread destruction to life as we know it.

The specifics have changed since Jeremiah's time, but there are many parallels. We, as a society, haven't listened to how God wants us to respect each other and the environment. There have been repeated warnings... and we are facing the consequences. We too are living in dark times.

Thank God, the parallels don't stop there. The rest of the passage is also true.

The first is the most exciting. God is going to "*cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David, and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land.*"⁵ This is about the coming of the Messiah. We understand it to be when Jesus talked about coming again. When this happens, all will be made right.

5 Jeremiah 33: 15

What will this look like? In Jeremiah's time justice was about taking care of the needs of others - especially those who were vulnerable. Righteousness was about living right with God. The prophets repeatedly talk about giving aliens the same rights as citizens. Jesus talks about loving your enemies - even those who persecute you. Jesus also talks about how the first shall be last, and applies this to many situations. He also shows that God would rather die on a cross than use violence force people to live a certain way. God is growing new life in a way that everyone will know peace and love.

Jesus hasn't come yet, but God is still with us. God is working in us and through us... and always sending people to lead us towards lives of justice and righteousness.

In Biblical times aliens were not Jews (or from outer-space). There were people from elsewhere - and God said they were supposed to have the same rights as everyone else (a little different in religious rules). We can look around and see that we are better than 'those' places. Thankfully we have people who are reminding us that our



Stump - Youngki Son

society is still not equal. Ethnicity, gender, wealth, and other factors all impact how you are treated and your opportunities. There is still a lot of hard work to be done, but we can thank leaders for making changes to bring more justice and righteousness.

There are also leaders challenging us to do better at looking after the vulnerable. Thinking of the environment, we hear voices suggesting that the developed nations who advanced through centuries of pollution pay to help other countries build a better infrastructure. Last Thursday at COP 28 there was the announcement of a fund to help vulnerable countries deal with extreme climate events. This isn't quite the same, but it is progress.

This passage shows up now in the lectionary because we are in a time of darkness. There are short days, and numerous troubles in the world, but there is hope. God provides leaders now, and (as Advent reminds us) Jesus came and is coming - bringing justice and righteousness.

*Thanks be to God
Amen.*



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Amazing Gracepg 12 (670)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7n145-J8ejg just voices
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tvt6E9N7AQw with guitar
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5p2CbHG9O0s with everything

💡 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: Identify one issue that you think is wrong/unfair/injust? Can you develop this by explaining why it is important to you? perhaps share a story that illustrates it?

Wonder: What will the world be like after Jesus comes again? How might God bring about this "justice and righteousness"?

Actions: Brainstorm together what you could do to help address the issue you are concerned about. (ex. pray, write letters, talk to someone, reach out, get help, change your shopping habits, change your life-style, ...) And then ask each in the following weeks how it's going (and offer to help).

Prayer: ...that we will walk in God's light.

✦ Spirit Sighting

Jennifer lives in Malawi. When she was ten years old her parents died of HIV. She is also HIV positive. She was able to join a program for orphans and vulnerable children, supported by the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D). Through this she received training as a beekeeper and tailor. She is now 19 and has sold her first honey harvest to buy food, and has plans to volunteer with a tailor to get more experience. She is able to live positively with HIV and support herself.

✦ 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.

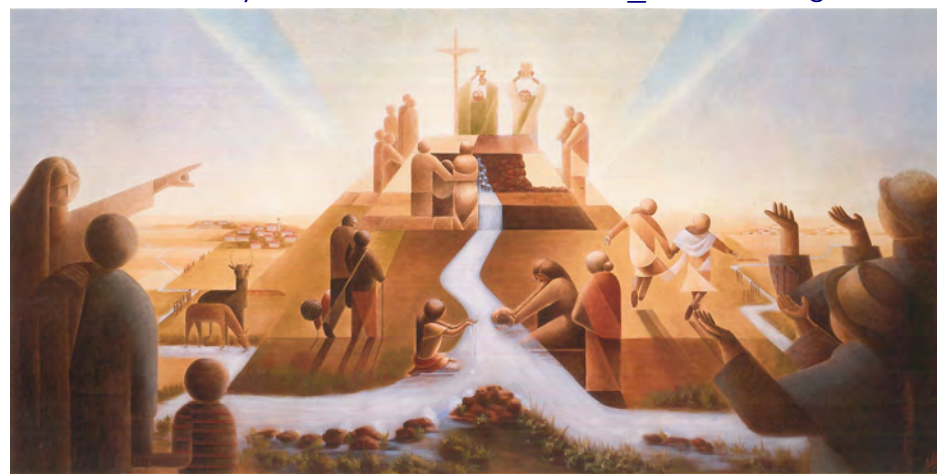
Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

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



Communion

🎵 Hymn: Eat this bread.....pg 13 (527)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=x_QTrePmuLg



Eucharist, Source & Summit - Garcia

✦ 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.⁶

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.
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.

⁶ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

 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 for the wonder of creation.
For the ways in which elements can combine
to build a universe of diversity around us.
For the ways in which you breathed life
into what sometimes seems like infinite variety.
For the ways in which emotions
bring depth and meaning into our lives.

We recognize that we as a society, as a church, and as individuals
have all failed to live up to your creation.
We accept your invitation to create,
and while we heal, we also create ways to hurt.
We celebrate the life you created,
and hurt it's ability to live... destroying habitats and species.
We can place our emotions ahead of others,
leaving pain and brokenness in our wake.

We thank you that you don't give up on us;
that a branch is growing - now - that will bring justice and
righteousness to the world.

And so,
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.**

As we approach Christmas,
these words remind us of the angels singing,
“*Glory to God in the Highest*”
when you came as Jesus.
That this happened is still a wonder,
and that you came in a way that everyone could approach you
be reconnected with you
so that our relationship with you
might start fresh.

We sin,
but in Jesus we can see how to live again
and to dream of your return to make all things right.

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

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

Help us in this season of Advent,
as we wait for Christmas
and for when Christ will come again.

May your Holy Spirit help us to see the leaders


you have nurtured to lead us into ways
of greater justice and righteousness.
Give us the wisdom to see,
and the courage to follow.
And if you have called us to be leaders,
even in small ways, give us the courage for this too.

Lord Jesus,
you came to us, listening, teaching & healing.
and so we know we can come to you...

- we pray for the COP 28 conference - may honesty and co-operation overcome fear and selfishness.
- we pray facing difficulties paying for food and housing, may we find ways to help the vulnerable in ways that help them live to your potential.
- We pray that cycles of violence will stop, and that everyone will gather together at your table

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.**



We are all One in Jesus Christ - Soichi Watanabe

 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 each other.
 Send us out in the power of your Spirit
 bringing love, hope & healing to the world.
 In Jesus name,
 Amen.

🎵 Hymn: O Come, divine Messiah.....pg 13 (530)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=dzNiBdW4Le4

 Benediction

As you go from this time, remember Jeremiah’s words.
 God is with us in the dark, and bringing light to the world.

*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.⁷*



⁷ (Romans 15:13)

In Malawi, Jennifer joined a program for orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) supported by PWS&D. When she was in Grade 5, Jennifer lost both of her parents to HIV and was cared for by her great-aunt. Jennifer is also HIV positive and is undergoing treatment. Through the OVC program, Jennifer received training in tailoring as well as beekeeping. Now 19 years old, Jennifer has just had her first honey harvest, yielding 5 kg of honey, which she sold to buy food. Jennifer now dreams of volunteering with a local tailor, hoping to secure a paid job in the field. With the skills she learned from this program, Jennifer is able to live positively with HIV and earn a livelihood to support herself.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 3 Nourish us with hope during this season of waiting, O God, as we prepare to receive Christ among us again.

Monday, December 4 We pray for students from theological colleges who will be graduating in December.

Tuesday, December 5 Pray for the spirit of resilience to move among refugees around the world and remember the PWS&D work that helps protect their rights.

Wednesday, December 6 (National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women) We pray for the healing and wellbeing of women who experience violence and for God's guidance that we may build communities that do not tolerate misogyny and gender-based violence.

Thursday, December 7 We pray for those who find this time of year a time of mourning and sadness.

Friday, December 8 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Vancouver Island.

Saturday, December 9 We pray for the Women's Missionary Society Council Executive members as they prepare for the WMS Council meeting and celebration of the 110th WMS Anniversary to be held in May 2024.

Journeying for Hope



"What an excellent experience to be together raising both awareness and funds for PWS&D. Can't wait until next year!" shared Laura Kavanagh, team leader of Together in Motion based in Victoria, BC, after PWS&D's first ever Journey for Hope.

Journey for Hope brings together people from across Canada in support of PWS&D food security programs. The climate crisis, conflict and ever-increasing costs are exacerbating an already urgent food crisis. PWS&D and our partners assist marginalized communities to address hunger and food insecurity.

Food security projects provide hope to families and communities. Amalia, an Indigenous woman in Guatemala, shares how her life has changed. "Before, our situation was poverty and violence, but this project is good for the community and Maya Mam women. I hope other families and communities see my life as an example."

Journey for Hope is crucial in supporting this essential work. In just two years, over \$50,000 has been raised across the country. We hope you'll join us next time!

This Advent season, faithfully respond to Christ's call to show our faith and bring hope to those in need.

Hope is a star

MOON BEAMS Irregular

Unison

1. Hope is a star that shines in the night,
 2. Peace is a rib - bon that cir - cles the earth,
 3. Joy is a song that wel - comes the dawn,
 4. Love is a flame that burns in our heart.

lead - ing us on till the morn - ing is bright.
 giv - ing a prom - ise of safe - ty and worth.
 tell - ing the world that the Sav - iour is born.
 Je - sus has come and will nev - er de - part.

Refrain

When God is a child there's joy in our song. The last shall be first


and the weak shall be strong, and none shall be a - fraid.

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: Joan Collier Fogg (1949-)
 Words: copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1989 by Hope Publishing Co.

Christmas at Kensington 2023

Christmas Decorating - Saturday, Dec. 2 from 6:30 p.m.

Pot-luck Lunch - Sunday, Dec. 3 at about 11:30
(after the 10:30 worship)

Movie Series - Fridays 
pizza 6:30, movie at 7 (RRSP appreciated)

Dec 1: Rise of the Guardians

Dec 8: Elf

Dec 15: Muppets Christmas Carol

Montreal Children's Theatre Community Dinner

Sat., Dec. 16 Volunteer or reserve a spot at a table
by calling Sandra 514-268-0963

Christmas Pageant - Sunday, Dec. 17 at 10:30

This will be an active and joyous time for all ages.

Blue Christmas: a peaceful service

Wednesday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Christmas is not always an easy time.

Please join us for this meditative service.

Community Caroling - Friday, Dec. 22

with the *Montreal Children's Theatre*

6:30 p.m. Outdoor Caroling or indoor crafts

7:00 p.m. Hot Chocolate & Snacks

7:30 p.m. Carols & choirs around the piano



Christmas Eve - Sunday, Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

A time of lessons and carols, stories and music.

Christmas Morning - Monday, Dec. 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Pot-Luck breakfast and Carol Sing



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216 Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

ES IST EIN ROS' 7.6.7.6.6.7.6

1 Lo, how a Rose e'er bloom - ing from ten - der stem has sprung!
 2 I - sa - iah 'twas fore - told it, the Rose I have in mind.
 3 Flow - er, whose fra-grance ten - der with sweet-ness fills the air,

Of Jes-se's lin - eage com - ing as saints of old have sung.
 With Ma - ry we be - hold it, the vir - gin moth - er kind.
 dis - pel in glo - rious splen - dor gloom and grief ev - 'ry - where.

It came, a flow'r - et bright, a - mid the
 To show God's love a - right, she bore to
 True man, yet ver - y God, from sin and

cold of win - ter, when half spent was the night.
 us a Sav - ior, when half spent was the night.
 death he saves us, and light - ens ev - 'ry load.

Text: stanzas 1-2 anon., "Es ist ein Ros' entsprungen" (present-day Germany), 13th c.; *Alte Catholische Geistliche Kirchengesang* (present-day Germany), 1599; trans. Theodore Baker (USA), 1894; stanza 3 Friedrich Layritz (Germany), *Liederschatz*, 1832;

Amazing Grace!

433

1. A - maz - ing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
 2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
 3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
 4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;

I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.

5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,
 and mortal life shall cease,
 I shall possess within the veil
 a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we've first begun.

St. 1-5, John Newton, 1779

AMAZING GRACE C.M.

Eat this bread

EAT THIS BREAD 6969

G C Am D Bm Em 6 Dsus4-3

Eat this bread, drink this cup; come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

G D Em Bm C maj7 Dsus4-3 G

Eat this bread, drink this cup; trust in me and you will not thirst.

Descants for melody instrument(s)

G C Am D Bm Em Dsus4-3

G D Em Bm C maj7 Dsus4-3 G

G C Am D Bm Em Dsus4-3

G D Em Bm C maj7 Dsus4-3 G

Words: John 6:35; paraphrase, Robert J. Batastini (1942-), and Taizé Community (France)
 Music: Jacques Berthier (1923-1994)

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 Music: copyright © Les Presses de Taizé (France), 1984. Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications Inc., exclusive agent. All rights reserved.

367 O Come, Divine Messiah

1. O come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day
 2. O come, De-sired of na - tions, Whom priest and proph - et long fore-told,
 3. O come, in peace and meek-ness, For low - ly will your cra-dle be:

When hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.
 Will break the cap - tive fet - ters, Re-deem the long - lost fold.
 Though clothed in hu - man weak - ness We shall your God-head see.

Dear Sav - ior, haste! Come, come to earth. Dis - pel the night and show your

face, And bid us hail the dawn of grace. O

come, Di-vine Mes - si - ah, The world in si - lence waits the day When

hope shall sing its tri - umph, And sad - ness flee a - way.

Text: *Venez, divin Messie*; Abbé Simon-Joseph Pellegrin, 1663-1745; Tr. by S. Mary of St. Philip, 1877