



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

Whose is it?

March 3, 2024

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).

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.

Annual Meeting: today after church (and lunch). If you need a print copy of the report, ask Rev. Peter or pick one up in the hall.

LATTE: Lent Accountability Teams Towards Easter

People are still joining our email group. If you're interested, please talk (or email) Rev. Peter.

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

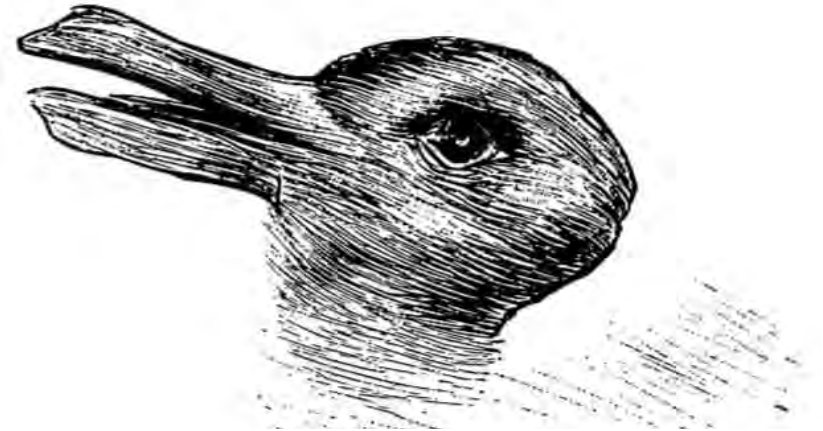
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Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

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

Choir: is preparing some special music for Easter. You are welcome to join the practices, Sundays at 9:30.

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



March's marvelously majestic movies and munchies: pizza 6:30 pm
 This month we'll be starting Season 2 of The Chosen. We had 4 new people join us this week. You're welcome to come be a part of the group.

RSVP with Peter appreciated

NEW Youth Group: March 10th, during Sunday School time and continuing once a month as they link faith and life.

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.

NDG Community Cafe - Mondays 10-1 at 5964 av. NDG
 Enjoy some food and conversation. You can also get help with tech questions. A Community Council community worker will be there as well. shadysafar@ndg.ca 514-484-1471

Contacts

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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

Come, let us return to the Lord our God,

Our God, whose steadfast love endures forever.

Let us press on to know our God the Lord,

**whose coming is as sure as dawn,
whose name shall be adored.²**



² inspired by hymn 194, *Come, Let us to the Lord Our God*

♪ Hymn: Come, let us to the Lord our God.....pg 10 (194)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=RHrDEPPb5n4



Prayer of Approach (Boethius c 480-524)

O Father, give our spirit power to climb

To the fountain of all light, and be purified.

Break through the mists of earth, the weight of clay,

Shine forth in splendour, you who are calm weather,

And quiet resting place for faithful souls.

You care us, And you go before,

You are the journey, and the journey's end.

Amen.³



Listening to God

♪ Hymn: Cornerstone.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=a3HH_-1Zbs



Prayer for Illumination

Lord,

open our hearts and minds

by the power of your Holy Spirit,

that we may clearly see the way of things.

Amen.



Intro to the readings

The way Jesus' story is told in Mark is that he's always on the move around Galilee. They are amazed by his confident teaching and power to make people well - basically, they are amazed by his authority. Halfway through Mark there's the transfiguration meeting with Moses, God & Elijah. After that Jesus is heading

³ from *The book of a Thousand Prayers* #11

for Jerusalem. All the time he is teaching his disciples, who (despite their best efforts) don't always understand what sort of Messiah Jesus is - how Jesus is rebuilding the world differently.

Today's passage is set a little after Jesus has arrived in Jerusalem - with a celebratory parade. The next day he cursed a poor fig tree and overturned the tables in the temple. The day after that, the day of today's passage, Jesus goes back to the Temple. There a group of church authorities ask Jesus what his authority is based on. Jesus' answer pushes them into an awkward corner and leaves them embarrassed - losing face before the crowd.

Before Laura tells us what follows on from this, I just want to remind you that this is a discussion between Jews - it is not a statement against Judaism or Jews.



What's going on in these paintings? Do you see the layers? The woman reading; the man playing the recorder... and in each of them a large head? In these cases I think the point of the two layers is the optical illusion rather than to add meaning to the painting.


Sometimes though, seeing what else is going on does add meaning, such as in today's text.⁶

In the first part Jesus tells a story about a vineyard that isn't doing what the owner wants. You may only think of this story, but the original listeners would remember passages from the Hebrew Bible - such as this from Isaiah 5

*My beloved had a vineyard
on a very fertile hill.
²He dug it and cleared it of stones,
and planted it with choice vines;
he built a watch-tower in the midst of it,
and hewed out a wine vat in it;
he expected it to yield grapes,
but it yielded wild grapes.*


In Isaiah this ends with the beloved destroying the vineyard.

This story, and others, would help people understand that the owner of the vineyard is God and the grapes are the people. In Jesus' story the tenants are those who are given responsibility for the people... such as the good church leaders he is talking with. The servants sent to bring the produce back to the owner (or the

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Mark 12](#): 1-17

[Psalm 86](#): 6-13

 Sermon: Whose is it?

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁵ Amen.

⁴ 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

⁵ Psalm 19:14

⁶ and there's a lot more that I won't go into today

people back to God) are the prophets... and the beloved son who we know is Jesus. Even if you hadn't heard it before, you probably figured much of that out.

The story is a good reminder that God is the one who owns everything. That God acts with absurd grace and love. The only other explanation for repeatedly sending people one at a time to get beaten up or killed, and then to send the beloved son, is stupidity... and the owner/God isn't that. The gospel has also already included stories about how God, through Jesus, is absurdly generous in healing and nurturing people (such as feeding the 5000+ back in Mark 6).

God is the owner, God is absurdly generous, ...and there's the bit about the cornerstone. A layer to this you may not know is that the Hebrew for cornerstone is 'eben' - and the Hebrew for son is ben. You wouldn't hear this spoken without noticing the similarity. Even without knowing that, you probably assumed Jesus was referring to himself when he quoted Psalm 118.

The psalms were the hymn book of Jesus' day. People would know them all - and know the quote Jesus was making. Psalm 118 is about someone celebrating how God answered them when they were distressed - celebrating that "God's steadfast love endures forever", and celebrating that God using what the builders rejected to become the chief cornerstone "is amazing in our eyes."

This suggests the unexpected, something else that has been happening a lot in the gospel. I also suspect that a building using a different cornerstone, one so different the builders didn't want it, would lead to a very different building, or kingdom, or concept of what the Reign of God will look like.

Unlike expectations based on the Isaiah passage, there isn't a focus on the destruction of everything. Here some people are turfed out of the vineyard, after an absurd amount of chances to

give to the owner what is theirs.

In a huff those questioners leave and are replaced by another group.⁷ After some compliments that Jesus has so much integrity that he doesn't care about the impact of his teaching (is that really a compliment), they ask him about paying taxes.



The tax they are referring to is the Roman head tax. Everyone was supposed to pay it. It wasn't popular. Attempts to enforce it when Jesus was a kid caused a revolt led by Judas of Galilee - I wonder if Jesus remembered this? and who else? For those around when The Gospel According to Mark was new, the Zealots considered those who didn't pay the tax as faithful Jews... and those who did as collaborators. Paying the head tax was a hot issue.

This layer helps us understand how their question was a trap. If Jesus said to pay it, then he was a collaborator. If he said not to pay it, then he was a dangerous revolutionary.

A funny part of that is that Jesus doesn't seem to have a coin, yet those asking the question do - which suggests they have bought into the system. I wonder if Jesus winked at the disciples as they passed over the coin?

In our translation Jesus replies by saying to 'give to Caesar's the things that are Caesar's' The word for 'give' can equally mean 'repay'. This implies that you're giving back what was already theirs, rather than giving up something that has always been yours.

⁷ the idea that the Pharisees were sent by their competitors the Sadducees would strike people as odd - as would the Pharisees being with Herodians (people associated with Herod).

So Jesus says, “*repay to Caesar the things that are Caesar’s, and to God the things that are God’s.*” What is Jesus saying? What is going on?

It could be that Jesus is saying to pay your taxes. It could be that Jesus is saying that if you have these coins, then you’re part of the system - so participate in it and pay your taxes. It could be that Jesus is saying to give back to Caesar the things that are his - send it back where it came from.

What do you think?

Personally, I think there’s more. For one thing, I’m aware that God created everything... including the metal that Caesar has used to make the coins. I think that makes them God’s.

The more interesting aspect, and probably what Jesus is getting at, goes back to what Jesus observed about the coins. Caesar’s claim on the coin is because his image is on it. Genesis 1:27 says, “*So God created people in his image, in the image of God they were created; male and female he created them.*” We have the image of God on us. Jesus’ answer isn’t about taxes, it’s about relationships and identity. Sure, give Caesar the coins, but give yourselves to God because you are God’s.

This is hard. It involves trusting God - even more than the government you pay taxes too. It involves building your life and goals around a rejected cornerstone - not one built on coins or independence (like the tenants in the vineyard), but the values of God.

To remind you of this, God will send absurd amounts of invitations to rejoin the Master... and even the beloved Son. God will build something new, with a surprising cornerstone to shape this new realm. A place in which we can give ourselves entirely back to God - in whose image we are made.

To God be all the glory
Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: O Lord of every shining constellation.....pg 11 (302)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=NC-ViMwBnT4

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

Memories: Who have people said you look like?

Value: We can have loyalty to God, family, work, group, church, ...

How do you wrestle with conflicting loyalties/values?

Wonder: Explore the idea of giving yourself to God. Break it down into aspects of your life: your home or possessions, your hobbies, your relationships (family, friends, neighbours, ...). Try getting very specific.

Actions: Brainstorm something together.

Prayer: ...for the Holy Spirit to help you live God’s way.

✦ Spirit Sighting

Yesterday on the CBC news I heard about how there is already concern about another drought in Manitoba’s Bible-Belt. This isn’t being blamed on the churches, but they are getting involved. While there are a lot of climate change deniers in the area, the churches are trying to convince people to change anyway to look after the environment.



✦ 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: All who hunger, gather gladly⁸.....pg 12 (534)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXrB8x6-jbU>

✦ Invitation to the table

The Lord has prepared this table.
Inviting everyone to return
and know the one who created them.

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 Jesus,
and you who feel trapped by their failures.⁹

This is not my table, or the churches.
All who want to return to God
are invited to The LORD's table.

8 interesting talk about the hymn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-YwwfAmY90>

9 very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

*Rassemblons-nous 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.*

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.



Barredo Maximino Cerezo

🗨 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 praise you God for all that you have created.

Like the vineyard owner,

you have prepared places for us to live,
and ways for us to help nurture others.

You have given us creativity and initiative
and grow what you have given
so that all may know your generosity.

We praise you

that together we are made in your image.

May your Spirit help us not to forget this,
but to see you in everyone we meet.

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.**

We praise you for sending your blessed Son
to remind us of who we are - and whose we are.

Jesus, please forgive us for

- the ways we use what you have given us just for ourselves
- when for fail to see you in our neighbours,
or those we don't like,
or everyone

...including when we fail to see you in ourselves.

- when we struggle to give you all that we are
- or even forget that we are yours

Jesus, we thank you for coming to us,

being prepared to sacrifice everything you are
to invite us to return to you.

This is not the way the world seems to work,
but your way is built on a new cornerstone.

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Jesus, as we wait for your return,
we thank you that your Holy Spirit is with us.
Guiding us,
and those around us.
Pulling us to church,
we're we can nurture each other
Learning more about loving, hoping & healing.


As you have come to us,
we know we can come to you.

We pray for

- those who are struggling to have enough to eat
both abroad & here.
- those who struggle with the need to be in control
or to have more and more.
- those who are sick...
may you make them well.

Lord God,
as we gather at your table,
we pray that in sharing 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 with each other.
Let us go out in the power
of your Spirit
bringing love, hope &
healing to the world.
In Jesus name,
Amen.



Pentecost - Kelly Latimore

🎵 Hymn: Great Foundation.....pg 13
www.youtube.com/watch?v=FjyvKMrTJzU

✦ **Benediction** (2 Corinthians 13:13)
*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.*
Amen.



MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, March 10

“We are brave and strong because we learned important information about rights, feelings and participation.” PWS&D supports a human rights program in Guatemala that not only empowers women by ensuring they know their rights but also equips them with essential skills and knowledge about food security and nutrition. Through education on when and how to plant vegetables, grow tree seedlings and how to care for livestock, women have more stable incomes and improve their family’s access to nutritious meals. “We are happy for our project. We sell the trees in the town and use the money to buy food,” shares one of the participants. This program provides women with the resources and skills they need to lift themselves out of poverty and create a more equitable society.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, March 10 We pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide the Atlantic Mission Society into new and effective ways to share Christ’s love and light.

Monday, March 11 We praise God and pray for the people in our congregations who share the gift of hospitality—from after church fellowship hours to welcoming the stranger, their gifts put faith into action.

Tuesday, March 12 We pray that we may act with dignity and respect, offering compassionate care and encouraging a sense of belonging and connection to Christ through our actions.

Wednesday, March 13 We pray for the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families at home and abroad.

Thursday, March 14 We give thanks for ministries with Indigenous people that provide support to people impacted by intergenerational trauma and overwhelming loss and grief.

Friday, March 15 We pray for the congregation of St. Andrew’s (Lunenburg) as they work through the PCC’s New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry

Saturday, March 16 We pray for the work of the Leadership Centre at The Presbyterian College, Montreal and its director Adrian Langdon. May the centre’s ministry continue to enrich and energize pastors and lay leaders.

194 Come, let us to the Lord our God

KILMARNOCK 8 6 8 6 CM

E♭ /G A♭ E♭ /B♭ B♭ 7 E♭ A♭

1. Come, let us to the Lord our God with
 2. God's voice com - mands the tem - pest forth and
 3. The night of sor - row long has reigned, but
 4. Then let us know, let us press on to

E♭/G E♭ C♯m6 E♭/B♭ B♭ E♭/G A♭ E♭/G E♭ G7/D

con - trite hearts re - turn; our God is gra - cious,
 stills the storm - y wave; God's arm is strong and
 dawn shall bring us light; God shall ap - pear, and
 know our God the Lord, whose com - ing is as

Cm B♭ E♭ A♭ E♭/G A♭ E♭/B♭ B♭ 7 E♭

nor will leave the de - so - late to mourn,
 swift to strike, but al - so strong to save.
 we shall rise with glad - ness in God's sight.
 sure as dawn, whose name shall be a - dored.

5. As dew upon the tender grass
 diffusing fragrance round,
 as rain that ushers in the spring
 and cheers the thirsty ground,
6. so shall God's presence bless our souls
 and shed a joyful light,
 that hallowed morn shall chase away
 the sorrows of the night.

Words: John Morison (1750-1798), Scottish Paraphrases 1781, alt. Music: Neil Dougall (1776-1862)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Cornerstone

Verse 1

My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame
 But wholly trust in Jesus' name

Chorus 1

Christ alone, Cornerstone
 Weak made strong in the Savior's love
 Through the storm He is Lord
 Lord of all

Verse 2

When darkness seems to hide His face
 I rest on His unchanging grace
 In every high and stormy gale
 My anchor holds within the veil
 My anchor holds within the veil

Chorus 2

Christ alone, Cornerstone
 Weak made strong in the Savior's love
 Through the storm He is Lord
 Lord of all

Verse 3

When he shall come with trumpet sound
 Oh may I then in Him be found
 Dressed in His righteousness alone
 Faultless stand before the throne

302 O Lord of every shining constellation

HIGHWOOD 11 10 11 10

B♭ Gm/B♭ B♭ Cm/B♭ B♭ F/A Dm/F Eb/G(Gm) Fsus4-3

1. O Lord of every shining constellation
 2. You, Lord, have made the atom's hidden forces,
 3. O Life, a-waking life in cell and tissue,
 4. You, Lord, have stamped your image on your creatures,

B♭ C/B♭ F/A Dm Gm F/A Gm/B♭ Dm C

that wheels in splendour through the mid-night sky,
 your laws its mighty energies fulfil;
 from flower to bird, from beast to human brain,
 and, though they mar that image, love them still;

Cm Gm Am6 Gm/B♭ Gm B♭/F F/E♭ B♭/D B♭ 7

grant us your Spirit's true illumination
 teach us, to whom you give such rich resources,
 help us to trace, from birth to final issue,
 lift up our eyes to Christ, that in his features

E♭ F/E♭ B♭/D B♭7 Cm B♭/D Cm7/E♭ F B♭

to read the secrets of your work on high.
 in all we use, to serve your holy will.
 the sure unfolding of your purpose plain.
 we may discern the beauty of your will.

Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901–1984) Music: Richard Runciman Terry (1865–1938)

Words: copyright © Oxford University Press Music: copyright © Oxford University Press

All who hunger, gather gladly

HOLY MANNA 8787D

Unison

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. All who hung-er, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na
 2. All who hung-er, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a
 3. All who hung-er, sing to-geth-er; Je-sus Christ is

Bbmaj7 Dm C/E Dm C Bbmaj7

is our bread. Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering.
 wel-come guest. Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing.
 liv-ing bread. Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing.

Am Bbmaj7 C6 F F /E Dm7 /C

Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for
 Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were
 Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who

Bbmaj7 /A Gm7 Dm Bbmaj7 C6 Bbsus2 Am7 Bbmaj7 Gm7 Csus2 - 3

days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
 lost and scat-tered in com-mun-ion's love have stood.
 from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

F Dm C Gm7 Am Bbmaj7 C6 C F

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

See also: Holy Manna 305

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955-1993) Music: attributed to William Moore (fl.1825); harmony, Charles Anders (1929-)

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O Christ the Great Foundation



1. O Christ the great founda - tion On which your peo - ple stand
 2. Bap - tized in one con - fes - sion, One church in all the earth,
 3. Where ty - rants' hold is tight - ened, Where strong de - vour the weak,
 4. This is the mo - ment glo - rious When he who once was dead



To preach your true sal - va - tion In ev - 'ry age and land:
 We bear our Lord's im - pres - sion, The sign of sec - ond birth:
 Where in - no - cents are fright - ened The right - eous fear to speak,
 Shall lead his church vic - to - rious, Their cham - pion and their head.



Pour out your Ho - ly Spir - it To make us strong and pure,
 One ho - ly peo - ple gath - ered In love be - yond our own,
 There let your church a - wak - ing At - tack the pow'rs of sin
 The Lord of all cre - a - tion His heav'n - ly king - dom brings



To keep the faith un - bro - ken As long as worlds en - dure.
 By grace we were in - vit - ed, By grace we make you known.
 And, all their ram - parts break - ing, With you the vic - tory win.
 The fi - nal con - sum - ma - tion, The glo - ry of all things.

Text: Timothy T'ingfang Lew, 1891-1947, alt., © Christian Conference of Asia
 Tune: AURELIA, 7 6 7 6 D; Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1810-1876



Response to God - Phil Irish