**Kensington & Area Christian Council**

**Harvest Festival Ecumenical Service**

**Kensington Credit Union Centre**

**Sunday, August 20, 2023, at 9:30 a.m.**

**“Celebrating Our First Responders”**



**THANK YOU, FIRST RESPONDERS**

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Service led by the Anglican Parish of New London

Rev. Shirley Cole & Licensed Lay Ministers Kim Gallant & Dennis Cole

Music led by the combined Parish choir, accompanied by Hugh Jones

**PRELUDE - 2 -**

**WELCOME**

**OPENING HYMN** “Soldiers of Christ, Arise”

Soldiers of Christ, arise, and put your armor on,

strong in the strength which God supplies through His eternal Son.

Strong in the Lord of hosts, and in His mighty pow’r,

who in the strength of Jesus trusts is more than conqueror.

Soldiers of Christ arise and answer the call each day

making a difference in the lives of those who have lost their way.

In health and safety too, in harm and danger near,

giving the strength, the help, the peace, protecting when we fear.

Working by day and night, assisting in the fight,

brave in their call our heroes all courageous in their might.

Compassion for each need from misery all are freed,

we offer thanks for sacrifice, soldiers of Christ in deed.

Leave no unguarded place, no weakness of the soul,

take every virtue, every grace, and fortify the whole.

From strength to strength go on, wrestle and fight and pray,

tread all the pow’rs of darkness down and win the well-fought day.

Stand then in His great might with all His strength endued,

and take, to arm you for the fight, the panoply of God;

that, having all things done, and all your conflicts passed,

ye may o’ercome through Christ alone, and stand entire at last.

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 **THANK YOU, GOD, FOR**

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 **WHO FIRST RESPONDED TO MY NEED.**

**- 3 -**

**OPENING PRAYER**

**RESPONSIVE PSALM 133**

How very good and pleasant it is

**when kindred live together in unity!**

It is like the precious oil on the head,

**running down upon the beard,**

on the beard of Aaron,

**running down over the collar of his robes.**

It is like the dew of Hermon,

**which falls on the mountains of Zion.**

For there the Lord ordained his blessing,

**life forevermore.**

**GRADUAL HYMN “Thank You, Lord, for Your Blessing”**

The world looks upon me, as I struggle along

They say I have nothing, but they are so wrong

In my heart I’m rejoicing, how I wish they could see

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings on me.

There's a roof up above me, I've a good place to sleep

There's food on my table, and shoes on my feet

You gave me your love, Lord, and a fine family

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings on me.

They say I'm not wealthy, and these shoes are not new

I don't have much money, but I have you

To me that's what matters, though the world may not see

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings on me.

There's a roof up above me, I've a good place to sleep

There's food on my table, and shoes on my feet

You gave me your love, Lord, and a fine family x2

Thank you, Lord, for your blessings on me.

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**GOSPEL READING** Matthew 15:21-28

**REFLECTION**

**CHILDREN’S VBS CHOIR**

**OFFERTORY HYMN** “Let All Things Now Living”

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving

to God the Creator triumphantly raise,

who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,

who guideth us on to the end of our days.

His banners are o’er us, His light goes before us,

a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,

‘til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,

as forward we travel from light into light.

His law He enforces: the stars in their courses,

the sun in His orbit, obediently shine;

the hills and the mountains, the rivers and fountains,

the deeps of the ocean proclaim Him divine.

We too should be voicing our love and rejoicing,

with glad adoration a song let us raise,

‘til all things now living unite in thanksgiving

to God in the highest, hosanna and praise.

Let all things now living a song of thanksgiving

to God the Creator triumphantly raise,

who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us,

who guideth us on to the end of our days.

His banners are o’er us, His light goes before us,

a pillar of fire shining forth in the night,

‘til shadows have vanished and darkness is banished,

as forward we travel from light into light.

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**PRAYER FOR THE OFFERING & THANK YOU’S**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

**CLOSING HYMN** “When I Needed a Neighbour”

When I needed a neighbour
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was hungry and thirsty
were you there, were you there?
I was hungry and thirsty, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

I was cold, I was naked
were you there, were you there?
I was cold, I was naked, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

When I needed a shelter
were you there, were you there? When I needed a shelter, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

**- 6 -**

When I needed a healer
were you there, were you there?
When I needed a healer, were you there?
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, were you there?

Wherever you travel
I'll be there, I'll be there.
Wherever you travel, I'll be there.
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter, I'll be there.

***SPECIAL THANKS!***

*Thank you to all the children who came out to share their voices and enthusiasm in song!*

*Thank you to all who took part in the worship service.*

*Thank you to Christian Council members for greeting, collecting the offering, and looking after the food donations.*

*Thank you to the staff of the Credit Union Centre for setting up for the worship service.*

*****Offering*** *– All loose offering is used to support ministries of the Christian Council in the Kensington area. Offering envelopes will be returned to the appropriate home congregations.*

**AND THANKS AGAIN**

**TO ALL OUR FIRST RESPONDERS.**

 **OUR PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU.**