



St. Paul's is a family, commissioned by Christ, gathered together in faith to glorify God and nurture spiritual growth through worship and service.



Our Sunday Service begins at 10:45 AM.
We are located at 319 Prescott Street at the corner of Mary Street in Kemptville, Ontario.

The Sunday Service at our sister church Knox begins at 9:15AM.
They are located at 2227 Simms St. in Mountain.

St. Paul's Matters

www.stpaulskemptville.ca

Fall—2014

Thanksgiving Isn't Just a Holiday - It's a Lifestyle



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A few years ago, a friend of mine visited Canada. After staying one week in Toronto, he told me: "It must be so hard to be a Christian in Canada." I asked him what he meant. He responded, "You have so much, it must be hard to depend on God."

That's true! We have so much here in Canada and we live under stress day after day trying to keep up with demands of modern life. Our modern lifestyle has made it so hard for many to see God's blessings in their lives and remember to Give Thanks for it.

The original idea behind celebrating Thanksgiving Season is the need to devote ourselves to Giving Thanks to God for the many blessings we enjoy. Thanksgiving is an expression of our gratitude, a response to someone who has been with us all along and has provided all our needs in all times. It's also a time to think about others and to share with them the blessings that we do have.

But someone may say, how do I know that I am blessed? Am I blessed because I have a home to live in and food in my fridge which millions of people around the world do not have?

Am I blessed because diseases like Malaria, Polio and Ebola are not a threat to my life here in Canada? Am I blessed because I do not live in a war zone and my church is not persecuted where millions in the world do not enjoy such privilege?

All the above is true, but being blessed is about our attitude, not our circumstances.

- * We know that we are blessed when our inside world, our mind and heart are put right with God. Then we can see God in the outside world.
- * We know that we are blessed when we are able to forgive others from all our hearts.
- * We know that we are blessed when we serve God and share His Good News with others.
- * We know that we are blessed when we give God the best of us.
- * We know that we are blessed when we are able to look at everything on the bright side and Give Thanks for everything not just the things that please us.

Thanksgiving isn't just a holiday, it's a lifestyle. Reflect upon your many blessings and acknowledge the Author of those blessings. Make it a habit to thank God in all things. Exalt Him above your circumstances. Let your attitude of gratitude be a daily discipline, a daily delight and an evidence of your faith in Him.

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR HE IS GOOD, HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER!

May God's richest blessings be continually upon you and yours!

Rev. Samer Kandalaft



Robert and Susan Wood, along with proud parents Chris and Megan, were very excited to welcome to our family our grandson William Stanley Pagonis on March 30, 2014 weighing 7lbs 8 oz. He is perfect in every way and quickly won the hearts of our family!

Operation Christmas Child - St. Paul's Challenge for 2014



For more than 35 years, Samaritan's Purse has been working in more than 100 countries around the world providing humanitarian aid. Our work encompasses the provision of safe water, food, clothing, shelter, medical assistance, and educational resources to impoverished communities throughout the developing world. The mandate of Samaritan's Purse is to help and comfort those in need, regardless of race, religion, or gender. Our programs, including Operation Christmas Child, reflect this mandate.

Operation Christmas Child is a hands-on project that allows individuals and groups in Canada to help bring joy and hope to

children in desperate situations around the world, through gift-filled shoeboxes. It is one way to remind children suffering through war, poverty, famine, disease and disaster that they are loved and not forgotten.

Each shoebox is filled by Canadians with hygiene items, school supplies, toys, and candy, and is given to children regardless of gender, race, or religion. When culturally appropriate, copies of a book entitled *The Greatest Gift*, which has been translated into 130 different languages, are offered to children after the shoeboxes have already been distributed.

To date, 100 million shoebox gifts have been distributed world-wide in some of the worst crisis zones and disaster areas imaginable. Of that number, 664,000 donations came from Canada.

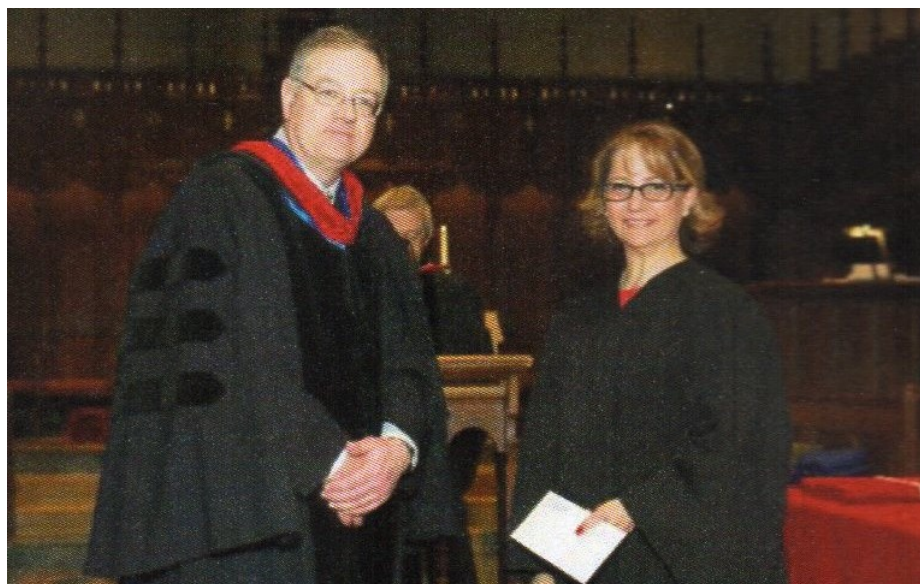
Last year in Kemptville, 1,300 shoebox gifts were collected and 148 came from St. Paul's and Knox, Mountain.

The goal for Christmas 2014 is to collect over 2,000 shoeboxes from the Kemptville area. The Mission and Outreach Committee believes that Presbyterians are up to the challenge.

Please pick-up and fill a couple of extra shoeboxes this year to help this committee reach its goal. It doesn't take much time, but the impact on children is huge.



Congratulations Shahrzad!



Last May, I graduated from the Presbyterian College of Montreal and was certified for ordination by the Presbytery of Seaway and Glengarry.

I thank God for my two joyful years of study at the College. I have gained not only knowledge related to the different areas of ministry through courses, class discussions, assignments and lectures, but also friendships, leadership skills and practical skills. My courses were interesting and the instructors' passions to teach and to give more to the students are amazing.

At the beginning of my study I was anxious to go back to school after 11 years since I graduated from The Near East School of Theology in Lebanon. My challenges to study were not the same as the years back. This time, I am a mother and a wife who is involved in different activities within my church and my community. It challenged me to balance and to grow between my different roles within my life.

The In Ministry Year programme at PC truly has helped me to know myself better and to mature in faith while facing the real ministry in practice. It also challenged me to think deeper about my call and my ministry, as well as giving me a new theological understanding.

The two years of study at The Presbyterian College has strengthened my academic basis, also helped me to discover and realise my interest in ministry and how my future ministry pathway should be. Beside my academic preparation, The Presbyterian College also molded me into a better person with greater confidence.

I thank God for His abundant grace in my life. I thank my family for their support: my husband and my children, without whom I could not do it. I am thankful for their patience and their prayers.

Also, I am thankful for the Congregations of St. Paul's-Kemptville and Knox-Mountain for their encouragement and prayers. Thanks to the Presbytery of Seaway and Glengarry, my Lay Committee, my Supervisor and the Congregations of Spencerville and Prescott for their care and support during my journey of study.

I have accomplished a step in my life and I am looking forward to the next step and to a new beginning in ministry, new learning and challenges. May God lead me and use me to glorify His name among His people.

Yours in Christ,
Shahrzad Kandalaft

Update on the Syrian Family Mission Project

Earlier this year, St. Paul's Mission and Outreach Committee asked the congregation to help support St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, in its attempt to bring three refugee families from Syria to Canada.

While the Government of Canada provides financing for the first six months, St. Andrew's is

responsible for the rest of the year.

Together with our Church School, St. Paul's raised an impressive \$1,964.35 towards this project. Thank you for your generosity!

This money will be forwarded to St. Andrew's when the first family is on its way to Canada. A dedication ceremony will be held in the near future.

**DID YOU KNOW
THAT OUR WEB-
SITE AT ST.
PAUL'S IS UP-
DATED EVERY
WEEK? IT IS A
GREAT PLACE
TO LOOK FOR
PHOTOS AND
INFORMATION.
YOU CAN FIND
IT AT:**

stpaulskemptville.ca

**IF YOU KNOW
OF FRIENDS OR
NEIGHBOURS
WHO WOULD
LIKE TO RECEIVE
OUR
NEWSLETTER BY
EMAIL,
CONTACT
JIM ARMOUR AT
j.armour@cogeco.ca**

**HOLY
COMMUNION
WILL BE HELD
ON:**

**Nov. 30, 2014
March 29, 2015
June 7, 2015**

A PEI Pilgrimage - Submitted by Janet Stark



One of our best holidays took place just a few weeks ago, as my husband and I cycled part of the trans-Canada trail. For eight days we biked in Prince Edward Island on that part of the trail called the Confederation Trail. From Summerside—to Tignish—the north point of the island, and back to Summerside, four days up, and four days back.

Our first pilgrimage was last year, walking from Guelph to Midland to honour the memory of the martyred Jesuit Priests. This year, we decided not to camp. We had cozy beds in bed and breakfasts, hot water and flush toilets! We ate seafood! We biked about 230 kilometres.

Although we mapped out our route ahead of time and booked our accommodations, we didn't really know what we would encounter along the way. There were many rewards, and some surprises.

On day two, our longest ride, my husband suffered from heat and exertion stress. (We are not 'seasoned' cyclists!) However, we got him cooled off and rested and didn't have to abandon our plans.

We learned about the history of the Acadians (French), the English, the Micmac natives and the Irish and Scots settlers. The local people were incredibly friendly and so we experienced hospitality.

One night we got a ride home from a pub after dark by a neighbour of the B & B we were staying at. We found out later that he was the ex-premier of the island!

We learned about geography and geology, enjoying the scenes of the iron-filled red dirt, the small fishing villages, and the fields and fields of potatoes in fall blossom.

We learned about local culture—the fishermen were getting ready to go out for the 2nd lobster harvest of the season.

We also learned about hardship—the McCain french fry plant announced they were closing, putting 140 people out of work this fall.

I learned that a pilgrimage is not just about the destination. It is definitely more about the journey. I contemplated all those pilgrims and pioneers that settled the land without car or even bicycles.

I thought about all the blessings God has given me in my life: How fortunate I was to have a healthy body; a supportive husband and family, a comfortable home and an opportunity to live my faith freely in my work and my church.

A lighthouse is built near the sea to guide the fishermen and sailors home in the dark, and around rocks and hazards.

A lighthouse is a security, a guide, a welcome beacon of light. I have a guide that will keep me safe on life's journey and bring me home safely. Do you?

With thanks for many blessings, **Janet Stark**



Eldership in the Presbyterian Church

For the first time in many years, St. Paul's is in the process of electing new elders. This is probably a good time for a quick refresher on what an elder is, what their responsibilities are, and what characteristics congregations should consider when voting for them.

Why Elders?

While eldership is part of most congregations in the Reformed tradition, no denominations are more closely identified with this method of church governance than Presbyterians.

In fact, it's where our name comes from. The Greek word for elder that is used in the New Testament is *presbuteros*.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada ordains both teaching elders (known as clergy and ministers) and ruling elders (leaders elected by the congregation) to provide leadership in a system of church courts.

Each congregation has a **session** comprised of ruling elders with the minister serving as moderator. (The moderator does not have a vote, except to break a tie.) **Presbytery**, a regional body which meets several times a year, is comprised of an equal number of ruling elders - as does **synod**, that comprising congregations from a larger geographic area. **General Assembly**, the highest court of our church, meets once a year and is comprised of one-sixth of the ministers in the church and an equal number of ruling elders.

Responsibilities of Ruling Elders

So what do ruling elders do anyway? In short, they are responsible for providing leadership, pastoral care and oversight for the congregation. More specifically, elders need:

Leadership

- To know the Scriptures and basic Christian doctrine;
- To determine the direction, vision and goals of the congregation;
- To know, or learn, the Presbyterian system of governance;

Pastoral Care

- To oversee the spiritual welfare of the congregation;
- To ensure that candidates for new church membership are properly instructed in the Christian faith;
- To communicate the Christian faith in a variety of ways, including pastoral care, evangelism, mission and Christian education programs, as well as baptismal instruction;
- To be an example to the believers in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity;

Oversight

- To regulate the hours and forms of public worship and arrange for special services and provide for the administration of the sacraments. The minister is responsible for the conduct and the content of public worship and pulpit supply;
- To approve policies and procedures related to the use of church buildings and property;
- To be accountable to other courts of the church for the supervision of the life of the congregation - including the election of elders, maintaining a roll or list of church members and the appointment of an organist;

- To develop and maintain programs of mission and outreach, as well as stewardship;
- To review all groups meeting under the auspices of the congregation; and,
- To critically select and review church school curriculum, Bible study guides and other materials for church programming.

What to Look for in an Elder

The Presbyterian Church in Canada says that, at a minimum, an elder must be a member who is a committed Christian, regularly attends public worship, and is of sound judgment and upright character.

Other useful talents include:

- An ability to see the "big picture" of life in the church;
- A gift for discerning the character of other people and who has a good knowledge of leadership styles, and when they are needed for specific tasks;
- A comfort when it comes to sharing his/her faith;
- An appreciation for the Presbyterian tradition, but an openness to God's Spirit leading the church in new ways and new directions;
- An enthusiasm for engaging in community activities and outreach;
- A strong sense of financial stewardship and a deep commitment to responsible fiscal management; and,
- A passion for the global mission of the Christian church.

No single individual will have all these gifts, so it is important to consider the make-up of the current session and identify what they could benefit from the most.

The Process

The Session of St. Paul's decided to ask members of the congregation to elect four elders to fill positions made vacant by the retirements of Moira Anderson, Alan Gilhooley, Ron Kelso and Ron Stewart.

A ballot of individuals, aged twenty years and over, eligible for eldership was distributed to professing members on September 28th. Members shall choose **only four** names on the Voting Ballot and return it in a sealed envelope to their elder by **Sunday, October 19th**.

It is important that you seal the envelope and include your signature across the seal. **Do not**, however, sign the ballot itself.

If you haven't received a ballot or are unsure whether you are eligible to vote, please contact the minister, your elder or another member of session.

All envelopes will remain sealed until St. Paul's Session gathers to count the votes.

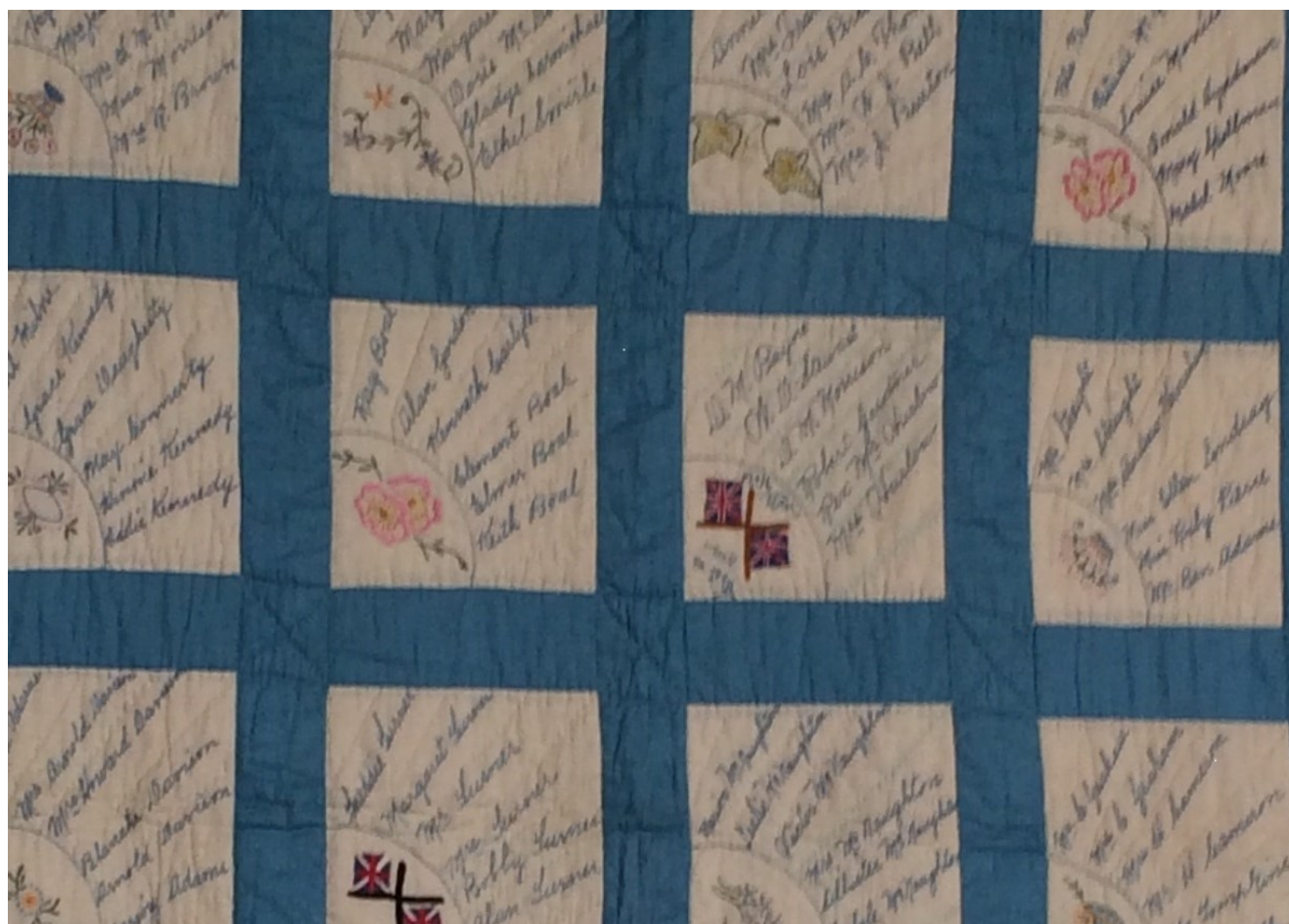
Results of the election will be announced on **Sunday, November 2nd** and the new elders will be ordained or inducted on **November 9, 2014**.

"For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ."

I Corinthians 3:11

For those looking for more information on eldership in the Presbyterian Church, the Elders' Institute (www.eldersinstitute.ca) has a wealth of resources, on-line courses and webinars on a wide variety of subjects.

It's Amazing What You Can Find in a Church Kitchen



This past summer, a few brave souls decided it was time to give our kitchen a thorough cleaning. In the process, they stumbled upon an old quilt rolled up in a corner. The quilt dates back to the Reverend Hurlow's ministry (1931 to 1938) and lists the names of all the members of St. Paul's from that period. It's quite a find and an important part of this congregation's history.

The Difference Between Presbyterians Sharing and PWS&D

Presbyterians Sharing is the national church fund that supports the overall mission and ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Congregations commit to raising an accepted allocation each year.

Through *Presbyterians Sharing*, our church shares a wide range of ministries in Canada and around the world. Together, we:

- Encourage congregational renewal and development
- Support inner city; native and refugee ministries
- Send mission personnel to work with international partners
- Equip congregations for education, worship, evangelism, stewardship, youth ministries and justice work
- Facilitate short-term mission experiences
- Support theological colleges
- Encourage and support ministry candidates and new clergy

Presbyterian World Service & Development is the development and relief agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. PWS&D raises funds directly from congregations, individuals, and through government grants.

Through PWS&D, our church responds internationally to:

- Promote food security
- Provide aid in times of conflict and disaster
- Improve health and nutrition for families
- Increase access to water and sanitation
- Promote education and economic empowerment
- Protect human rights and refugees

This year, St. Paul's commitment to Presbyterians Sharing is \$4,400 and we're on track to give almost \$1,100 to PWS&D.

Dates to Keep in Mind

St. Paul's Christmas Bazaar & Lunch

It's not too early to start thinking about Christmas. Our annual church bazaar and luncheon will take place on Saturday, **November 8th**.

If you can supply baked goods, pies and crafts - especially those with a Christmas theme, please contact Sharon Côté.



Workshop on Church Growth

Why do some churches thrive and play vital roles in their communities while others struggle to retain members and stay financially sound? How can churches today build on their strengths as they move forward to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century?

Dr. Kennon Callahan will attempt to answer these questions and more in a workshop entitled *"The Gifts of the Local Church."*

It will be held on November 26th at St. John's Presbyterian Church in

Cornwall.

Those interested in attending are encouraged to speak to the Rev. Samer Kandalafi. Car pools can be arranged.

Food Bank Sundays

At St. Paul's, the first Sunday of the month is Food Bank Sunday.

Members are encouraged to bring non-perishable items with them and place them in the baskets by entrance.

These donations go to the Salvation Army here in North Grenville.

Wedding Bells in the Stewart Family



Luke Stewart married his sweetheart, Amanda Walker, on September 27th, 2014 at Stanley's Olde Maple Lane Farm in Edwards, Ontario.

Though the wedding took place near Ottawa, close to Lucas' hometown of Kemptville, Ontario, Lucas and Amanda live in Chetwynd, British Columbia, which is Amanda's hometown.

There they have a cozy home which they share with their pet pig, Scarlet, and dogs Grady and Ginger Rogers.

Amanda is employed with the District of Chetwynd as a supervising instructor/trainer and national lifeguard at the Municipal Recreation Centre in town.

She also manages a small animal chiropractic business, which she studied for in Kamloops, B.C.

Having grown up active in the western Canadian rodeo circuits, Amanda still enjoys spending spare time training and riding the couple's two young horses, Maddy and Leroy.

Lucas works as truck driver/operator, contracting to the oil, gas and mining industries for a small company based in Chetwynd. He has been an active firefighter with Chetwynd Fire/Rescue since moving to the town in 2009. Here he has found a true passion which he hopes to continue expanding.

Having always enjoyed playing drums in various bands back home, Lucas plays in a rock/folk band locally called the Hillbilly Mafia. He is also active in the Masonic Lodge.

Luke is the son of Ron and Heather Stewart of Kemptville with big brother, Jesse, who is also the Best Man.

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Poet's Corner – Submitted by Gerald Anderson

TROUBLE IN THE AMEN CORNER



It was a stylish congregation: you could see they'd been around,
And they had the biggest pipe organ of any church in town.
But over in the amen-corner of that church sat Brother Eyer,
and he insisted every Sunday on singing in the choir.



His voice was cracked and broken; age had touched his vocal chords,
And nearly every Sunday he'd get behind and miss the words.
Well, the choir got so flustered the church was told in fine
that Brother Eyer must stop singing or the choir was gonna resign.

So the pastor appointed a committee, I think it was three or four,
and they got in their big fine car and drove up to Eyer's door.
They found the choir's great trouble sitting there in an old arm-chair,
The summer's golden sunbeams lay upon his snow-white hair.

Said one, "We're here dear Brother, with the vestry's approbation
To discuss a little matter that affects the congregation.
Now, it seems that your voice is interfering with the choir,
So, if you'll just lay out, or...Are you listening, Brother Eyer..?"



The old man raised his head, a sign that he did hear;
and on his furrowed cheek they caught the glitter of a tear.
His feeble hands pushed back the locks as white as silky snow,
And he answered the committee in a voice both soft and low:

"I wonder if beyond the tide that's breaking at my feet,
In that far-off heavenly temple where my Master and I shall meet:
Yes, I wonder if, when I try to sing the songs of God up higher
I wonder if they'll kick me out of singing in Heaven's choir?"



A silence filled the little room, the old man bowed his head;
The committee went on back to town, but Brother Eyer was dead.
A few church-goers watched the door, but the old man entered not.
The choir missed him for a while, but he was soon forgot.

Far away his voice is sweet, and he sings his heart's desires
Where there are no church committees and no fashionable choirs.

Archie Campbell

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
When sorrows like sea billows roll;
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to know,
It is well, it is well, with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should
come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin — oh, the bliss of this glorious thought! —
My sin — not in part but the whole, —
Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!

For me, be it Christ, be it Christ hence to live:
If Jordan above me shall roll,
No pang shall be mine, for in death as in life,
Thou wilt whisper Thy peace to my soul.

But Lord, 'tis for Thee, for Thy coming we wait,
The sky, not the grave, is our goal;
Oh, trump of the angel! Oh, voice of the Lord!
Blessed hope, blessed rest of my soul.

And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be
sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall
descend,
A song in the night, oh my soul!

Horatio Spafford

