Ezra Institute

EZRA INSTITUTE PRESENTS

Think Christianly conference

ABOUT THE CHURCH & THE KINGDOM OF GOD

CONFERENCE BOOK

Saturday, November 14, 2026

Grace Canadian Reformed Church · Winnipeg, MB

BOOKLET DESIGNED BY SDG MEDIA

WELCOME

About the Conference

In an age of therapeutic religion and ecclesiastical minimalism, the church has been stripped of her theological nerve and cultural authority. Pietism has taught Christians to privatize faith, shrink the Kingdom to the inner life, and abandon the public square to secular powers. This conference confronts that retreat head-on.

The Ezra Institute invites pastors, scholars, and serious Christians to Winnipeg for a day of rigorous teaching on what it means to be the church — and what it means for Christ's Kingdom to extend over all of life. Come prepared to think, to be challenged, and to leave equipped.

HOSTED BY

The Ezra Institute

Informing Faith. Reforming Culture.

SPONSORED BY

Christ Covenant Church
Trinity Fellowship Church
Park City Gospel Church

The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.

– REVELATION 11:15B

WHAT'S INSIDE

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"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations … teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you."

MATTHEW 28:18–20

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Think Christianly — the Book ..... Back

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Conference Schedule

8:00 AM	Registration Opens
9:00 AM	Welcome & Introduction
9:05 AM	Songs & Hymns Music begins on page 11
9:15 AM	**Main Session 1: What is the Church?** Pastor Matt Plett · page 5
10:15 AM	Morning Break
10:30 AM	**Main Session 2: The Mission of God & His Church & the Rule of the Word** Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot · page 6
11:30 AM	Lunch Break Off-site, not provided · nearby options on page 20
1:00 PM	Songs & Hymns Music begins on page 11
1:15 PM	**Main Session 3: The Error of Churchianity** Pastor Dave Forsythe · page 7
2:00 PM	**Main Session 4: The Disastrous Consequences of Retreatism & Pietism** Pastor Derek DeVries · page 8
2:45 PM	Afternoon Break
3:00 PM	**Main Session 5: The Recovery of Christianity** Pastor Nate Wright · page 9
3:45 PM	**Q&A Panel Discussion** All five speakers · page 10
4:30 PM	Conference Ends

MAIN SESSION 1 · 9:15 AM

What is the Church?



Pastor Matt Plett

Founding Pastor, Trinity Fellowship · Niverville, MB

"Before you can reform the church, you have to know what it is."

Matt Plett is the founding pastor of Trinity Fellowship, called in spring 2022 after years of church leadership, teaching, and preaching. He holds a Master of Theology from Whitefield Theological Seminary, is adjunct instructor of Apologetics & Ethics at a regional Bible college, and writes regularly for *Eschatology Matters*. His passion is to see the glory of God central in every sphere of life. A bi-vocational minister, Matt and his wife Tanya and their three children own and operate their family dairy farm.

NOTES — Pastor Matt Plett · 9:15 AM

MAIN SESSION 2 · 10:30 AM

The Mission of God & His Church & the Rule of the Word



Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot

Founder & President, The Ezra Institute

"The church doesn't invent its mission. It receives it."

Dr. Joseph Boot is a Christian philosopher, cultural apologist, and the founder and president of the Ezra Institute, equipping Christians to apply the gospel to all of life, culture, and society. He holds a PhD in Christian Intellectual Thought and an MA in Mission Theology, and served fourteen years as founding pastor of Westminster Chapel in Toronto. His books include *The Mission of God*, *Ruler of Kings*, *Gospel Culture*, and *Think Christianly: Developing an Undivided Mind*.

NOTES — Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot · 10:30 AM

MAIN SESSION 3 · 1:15 PM

The Error of Churchianity



Pastor Dave Forsythe

Elder-Pastor, Christ Covenant Church · Selkirk, MB

"Imprisoning the Gospel in the four walls of the Church is contrary to the Gospel of the Kingdom."

David A. Forsythe is an elder-pastor of Christ Covenant Church in Selkirk, Manitoba. He is married to his wife, Alyssa, and they have six children. He studied at Peace River Bible Institute and has served in ministry across multiple countries. Forsythe has also been active in public life, including running as a candidate in the 2022 Ontario provincial election.

NOTES — Pastor Dave Forsythe · 1:15 PM

MAIN SESSION 4 · 2:00 PM

The Disastrous Consequences of Retreatism & Pietism



Pastor Derek DeVries

Park City Gospel Church · Winnipeg, MB

"Retreat was never the plan."

Derek was raised in Transcona, but it wasn't until he moved to another part of the city as a young adult that his eyes were opened to the treasure of Jesus and His Gospel — the obedient Son who swapped His perfect record for Derek's guilty one. After finishing college in 2006, he and his wife, Lana, served in a church in central Alberta before moving back to Transcona at Easter 2013. He now declares the Great News of the Bible regularly at Park City Gospel Church, helping lead, comfort, encourage, and equip a church family held by that Gospel.

NOTES — Pastor Derek DeVries · 2:00 PM

MAIN SESSION 5 · 3:00 PM

The Recovery of Christianity



Pastor Nate Wright

Canadian Director, The Ezra Institute
Senior Pastor, Crossroads Bible Church · Ingersoll, ON

"Recovery isn't nostalgia. It's obedience."

Pastor Nate Wright is the Canadian Director of the Ezra Institute and senior pastor of Crossroads Bible Church in Ingersoll, Ontario. He holds a BA in English Literature from Western University and an MDiv, has spent more than fifteen years in Christian ministry and church leadership, and hosts the Rebel Podcast.

NOTES — Pastor Nate Wright · 3:00 PM

3:45 PM · Q&A PANEL

Bring the hard question.

Every speaker on one stage, taking the room's questions.



Joseph Boot



Matt Plett



Dave Forsythe



Derek DeVries



Nate Wright

slido

ASK FROM YOUR PHONE

1. Scan the code with your camera, or go to **slido.com** and enter **#3959887**
2. Type your question. Add your name or stay anonymous.
3. Upvote the ones you want answered. The most popular rise to the top.

No app or account needed. Send questions any time today.

PANEL NOTES

SING TO THE LORD

Songs & Hymns

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."

COLOSSIANS 3:16

Come, Thou Almighty King 12

Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun 13

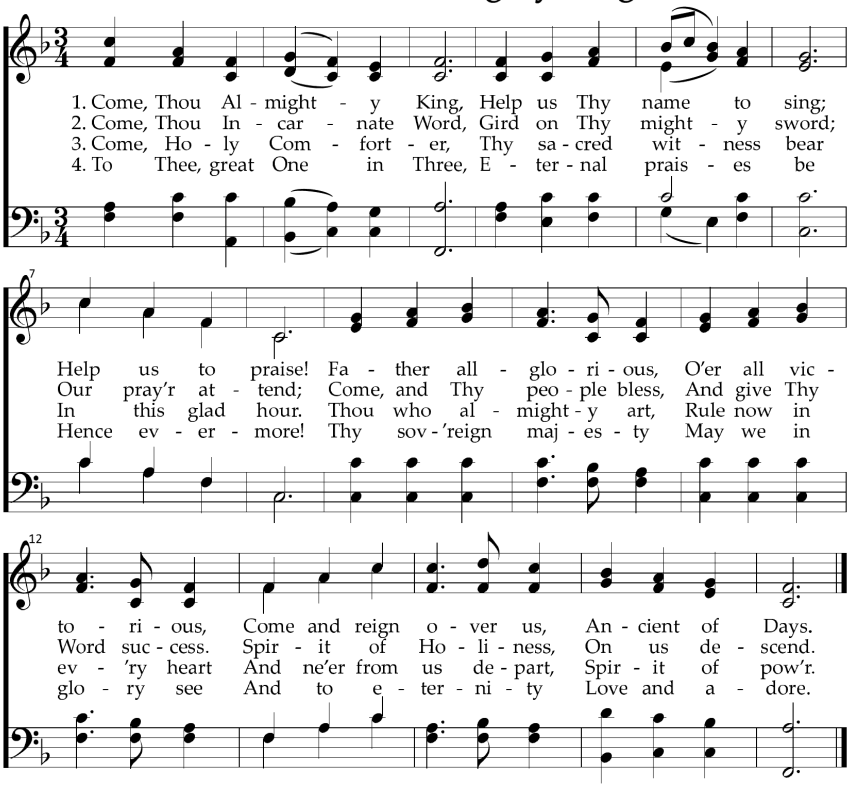
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Crown Him with Many Crowns 16

Doxology 17

331 Come, Thou Almighty King

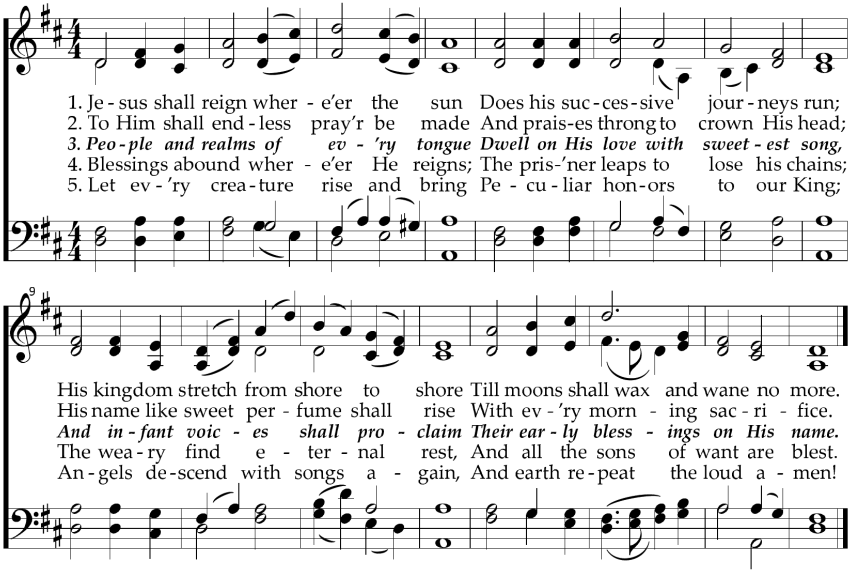


Music: Felice de Giardini, 1769
Text: Whitefield's *Collection*, 1757

ITALIAN HYMN
6 6 4. 6 6 6 4.

137 Jesus Shall Reign Where'er the Sun

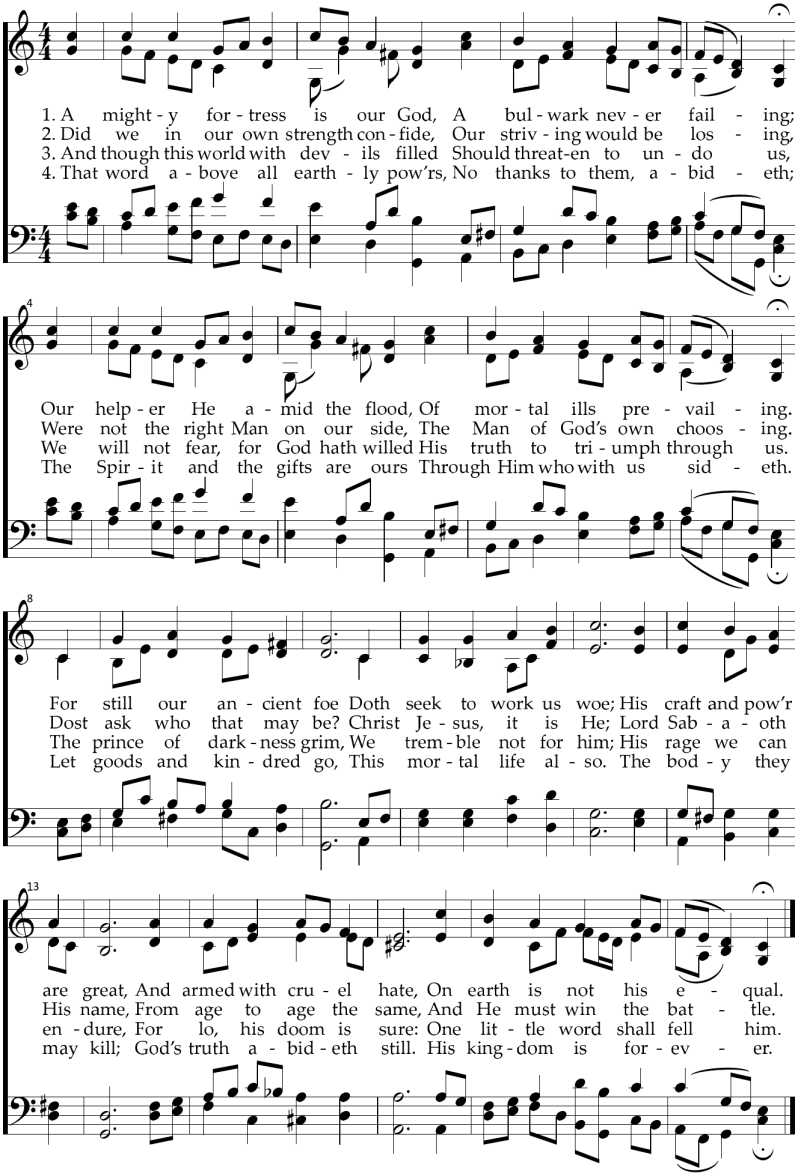
From Psalm 72 portions



Music: John Hatton, 1793
Text: Isaac Watts, 1719

DUKE STREET
8 8. 8 8.

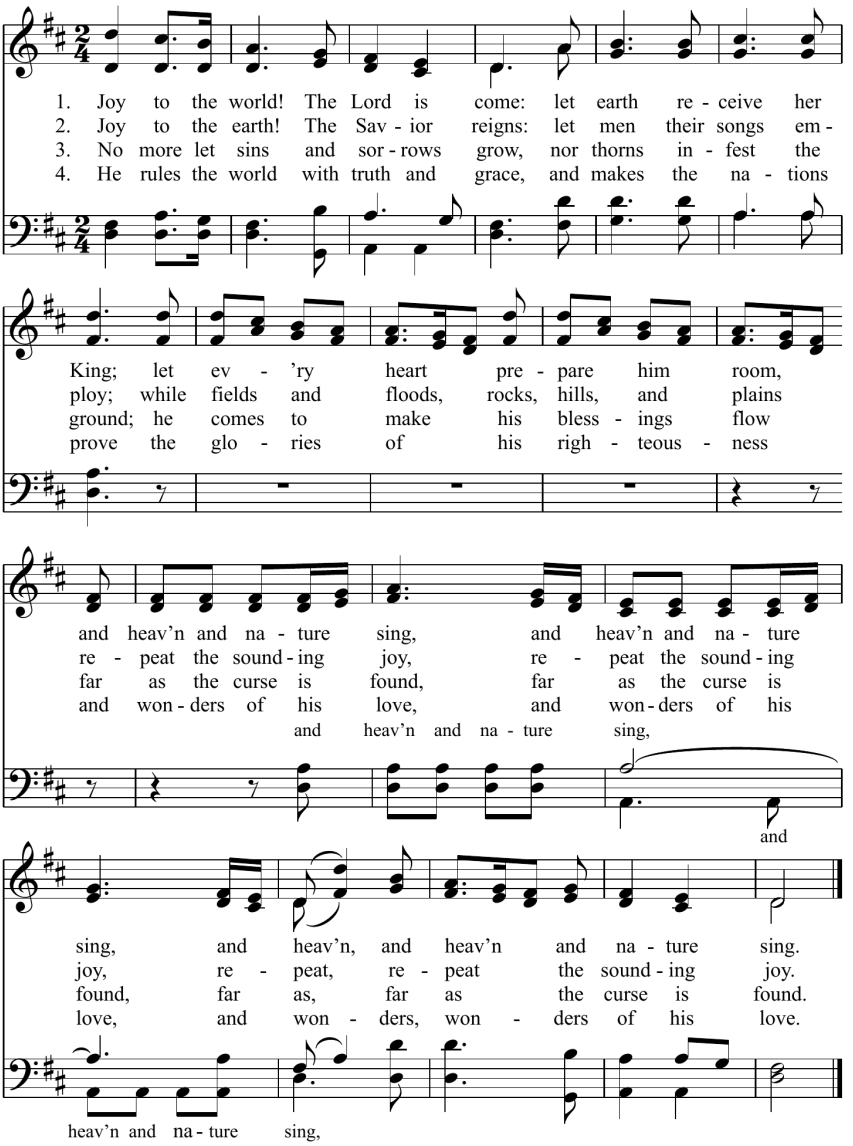
408 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



Music: Martin Luther, 1529; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1628; alt.
Text: Martin Luther, 1529; tr. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853

EIN' FESTE BURG
8 7. 8 7. 6 6. 6 6 7.

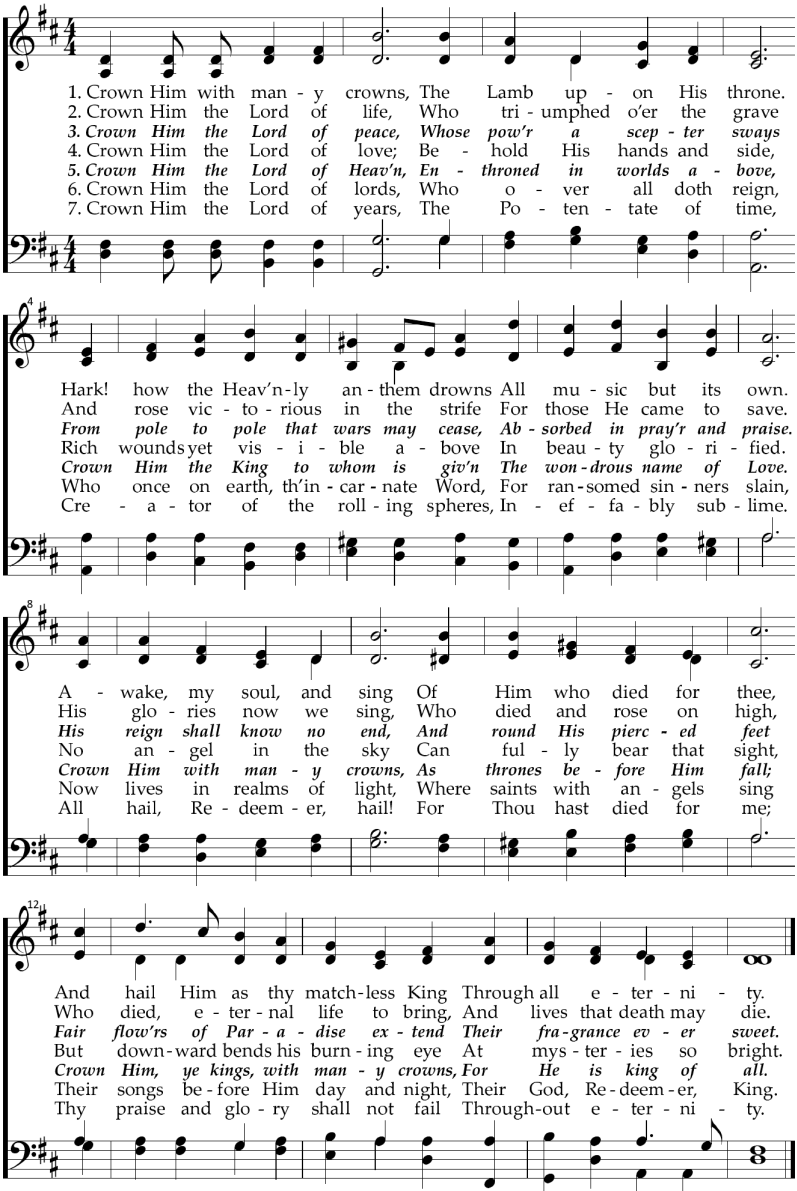
Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come



based on Psalm 98
Isaac Watts, 1719

ANTIOCH C.M.rep.
George Frederick Handel, 1742
arr. Lowell Mason, 1836

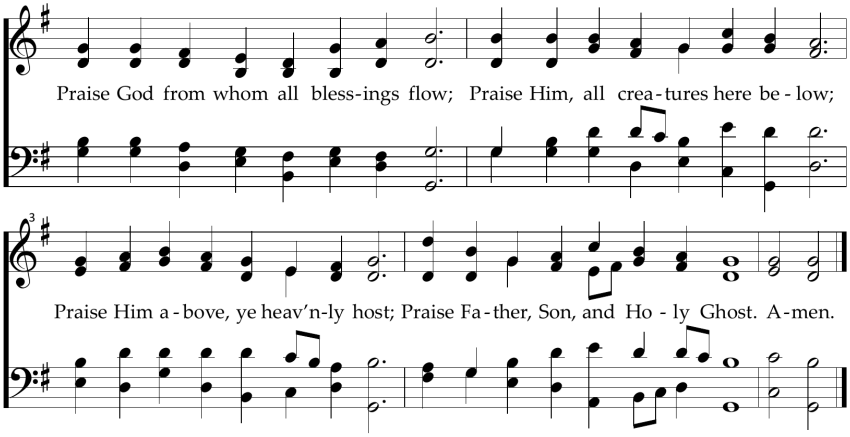
531 Crown Him with Many Crowns



Music: George J. Elvey, 1868
Text: Matthew Bridges, 1851; st. 2, Godfrey Thring, 1874

DIADEMATA
6 6. 8 6. 6 6. 8 6.

734 Doxology



Music: *Genevan Psalter*, 1551; alt. OLD HUNDREDTH
Text: Thomas Ken, 1709 8 8. 8 8.

LOCAL PARTNERSHIP

Our Sponsoring Churches

Christ Covenant Church

SELKIRK & THE INTERLAKE · CREC

"All of Christ, for all of life." A Reformed, confessional congregation with weekly Covenant Renewal worship.

Sundays, 3:30 PM · Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 106 Sawchuk Dr, St. Andrews, MB

thekirk.net · Elder-pastor: Dave Forsythe

Trinity Fellowship Church

NIVERVILLE · REFORMED BAPTIST (1689)

Exists to herald the glory of God over all creation — a biblical, evangelical, Reformed Baptist church in southeast Manitoba.

Sundays 10:45 AM · 2598 PR 200, Niverville, MB

trinityfellowship.ca · info@trinityfellowship.ca · Founding Pastor: Matt Plett

Park City Gospel Church

TRANSCONA, WINNIPEG · REFORMED BAPTIST

A Christ-centred Reformed Baptist church in Transcona, just minutes from today's venue.

Sundays 10:30 AM (Sunday school 9:30 AM) · 751 Kildare Ave E, Winnipeg

parkcitygospelchurch.com · (204) 222-0354
Pastor: Derek DeVries

MEET OUR BOOKSELLER

Visit the Aslan's Den book table today

A family-run Christian bookstore from Innisfail, Alberta: must-reads, classical curriculum and leather goods.
aslansden.com

COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked

What is the focus of this conference?

A serious theological call to action, examining the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all areas of life, and recovering the church's cultural authority from the privatization of faith (pietism).

Is childcare available?

Yes. Free childcare is provided on site for ages 0–10, and no pre-registration is required. The venue has both a nursery and a quiet room, staffed by volunteer helpers, so parents with young children can take part in the sessions.

Will there be food provided?

Tea and coffee are provided during breaks. Lunch (11:30 AM–1:00 PM) is not provided — ten nearby options, most a two-minute drive away, are listed on page 20.

Will the sessions be recorded?

Yes. The conference sessions are being recorded, and the recordings will be available at ezramedia.tv.

What is the refund policy?

Tickets are sold and processed by Brushfire, and refunds and ticket changes are handled there. See the refund policy on the Brushfire event page, or contact Brushfire support for help with your order.

Still have a question? Ask at the registration table, or contact the Ezra Institute at ezrainstitute.com/contact.

3:45 PM · Q&A PANEL

Got a question for the speakers?

Send it from your phone with Slido, code #3959887.

SEE PAGE 10

LUNCH · 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Lunch Nearby

Lunch is not provided. A few spots close by in Transcona:

Pandora Inn Szeto
Chinese · 5 min walk

Kildonan City Pizza
Pizza & chicken · 2 min drive

Reece's Corner
Comfort food · 2 min drive

Sevala's Ukrainian Deli
Perogies & more · 2 min drive

Altos Restaurant
Buffet, Club Regent · 4 min drive

Dal's Restaurant & Lounge
Italian & Greek · 2 min drive

Transcona Bistro
Sandwiches & salads · 2 min drive

L'Arche Tova Café
Bistro & bakery · 2 min drive

Royal Crown Restaurant
Family dining · 3 min drive

Smitty's Restaurant
Canadian diner · 4 min drive

WITH THANKS TO OUR HOST

Grace Canadian Reformed Church

Thank you to the congregation of Grace Canadian Reformed Church for opening your doors and hosting today's conference.

730 Pandora Ave W, Winnipeg, MB R2C 1N1

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LET'S TALK · SDG.MEDIA

Soli Deo Gloria

YOUR PAGE

Notes & Reflections

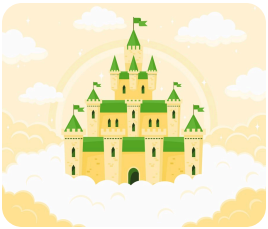
KIDS' PAGE · AGES 7–15

Young Thinkers

Q. What is the chief end of man?

A. Man's chief end is to _____ God, and to _____ him forever.

Westminster Shorter Catechism, Q. 1



E C R O W N O Y N D
N C O C H U R C H G
A H I N A T I O N S
G R U K A G F K B N
L I G O W Y U I I D
O S O B B E L N B G
R T S E P I O G L A
Y W P Y L K R D E N
C C E C G U D O Y H
A W L M M W P M E U

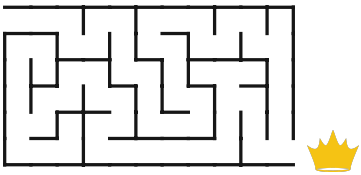
WORD SEARCH

Find all ten words. They run across and down.

KINGDOM
CHRIST
NATIONS
GLORY
OBEY
CHURCH
GOSPEL
CROWN
LORD
BIBLE

MAZE TO THE KING

START →



"Ponder the path of your feet; then all your ways will be sure. Do not swerve to the right or to the left."

PROVERBS 4:26–27

DRAW SOMETHING YOU HEARD ABOUT TODAY

THANK YOU

Thank you for coming.

Thank you for giving us your Saturday. Our prayer is that today was not the end of a conference but the start of conversations that carry on in your homes, your churches, and your callings this week. The church does not invent her mission; she receives it. Go and live it out under the Lordship of Christ, over all of life.

With thanks to our speakers, to Grace Canadian Reformed Church for hosting us, to Christ Covenant, Trinity Fellowship and Park City Gospel for sponsoring the day, to Aslan's Den, and to every volunteer who served.

KEEP LEARNING

Explore more resources from the Ezra Institute

Recovering and declaring the Lordship of Jesus Christ over all of life, culture, and society.

Ezra Institute

Articles, lectures, podcasts and training events.

ezrainstitute.com

Ezra Press

Books that equip the church and renew the Christian mind.

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Today's sessions

Every session from today will be posted online.

ezramedia.tv

The Ezra Podcast

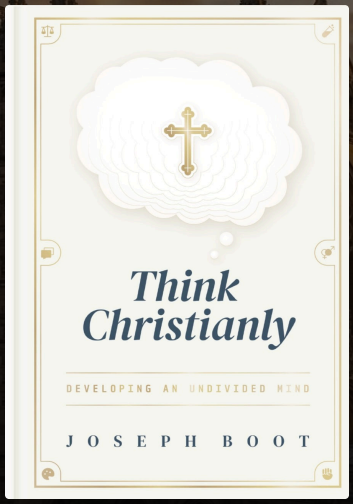
Podcast for Cultural Reformation, weekly with Dr. Boot.

Listen on Spotify

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THE BOOK BEHIND THE NAME



Think Christianly

DEVELOPING AN UNDIVIDED MIND

Rev. Dr. Joseph Boot

In an age of shallow soundbites and cultural confusion, the Christian mind is under siege. Dr. Boot calls the church back to clarity, conviction, and courage — challenging the artificial divide between sacred and secular, and reasserting the Lordship of Christ over all thought, culture, and creation.

It's time to think Christianly — about everything.

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