

O' Canada: Our National Prayer

ORIGINAL ENGLISH LYRICS BY ROBERT STANLEY WEIR, 1908

O Canada! Our home and native land!
True patriot love thy sons command.
With glowing hearts we see thee rise,
The True North, strong and free!
From far and wide
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.



(REFRAIN)

God keep our land glorious and free!
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.
O Canada, we stand on guard for thee.

O Canada! Where pines and maples grow.
Great prairies spread, and lordly rivers flow.
How dear to us thy broad domain,
From East to Western Sea,
Thou land of hope for all who toil!
Thou True North, strong and free!

(REFRAIN)

O Canada! Beneath thy shining skies
May stalwart sons and gentle maidens rise,
To keep thee steadfast through the years
From the East to Western sea,
Our own beloved native-land!
Our True North, strong and free!

(REFRAIN)

Ruler Supreme, who hearest humble prayer,
Hold our dominion within thy loving care;
Help us to find, O God, in thee
A lasting, rich reward,
As we wait for the Better Day,
We ever stand on guard.

(REFRAIN)



FINAL VERSE IN ORIGINAL FRENCH LYRICS
BY SIR ADOLPHE-BASILE ROUTHIER, 1880

F Amour sacré du trône et de l'autel,
R Remplis nos cœurs de ton souffle immortel!
E Parmi les races étrangères,
N Notre guide est la loi;
C Sachons être un peuple de frères,
H Sous le joug de la foi.
Et répétons, comme nos pères
Le cri vainqueur: Pour le Christ et le roi,
Le cri vainqueur: Pour le Christ et le roi.

Sacred love of the throne and the altar,
Fill our hearts with your immortal breath!
Among the foreign races,
Our guide is the law;
Let us know how to be a people of brothers,
Under the yoke of faith.
And let us repeat, like our fathers,
The victorious cry: For Christ and King,
The victorious cry: For Christ and King.



A SERVICE OF COVENANT RENEWAL

EVERY SUNDAY

FOR MORE INFORMATION: WWW.THEKIRK.NET

Contact Us

info@thekirk.net

1 (204) 481-4095

1 (204) 481-5639



THE PEACE TOWER | CANADIAN PARLIAMENT

Canada's Christian Heritage



Visit our website.

Christianity: The Heart of Canadian Culture

Canada was founded as a Christian nation.
This is an undeniable historical fact.

In fact, Canada's Christian heritage long pre-dates its founding. It begins in Christendom. As far back as the third century *Anno Domini* (lit. "year of our Lord," AD), Christianity began to spread in the British Isles, thanks to the missionary efforts of men such as St. Patrick (c. 5th century AD), St. Columba (c. AD 521-597), and Augustine of Canterbury (c. AD 500s-604).

Later, with the monumental efforts of the pious king, Alfred the Great (c. AD 849-899), Christianity would forever influence English law and education. Alfred's Christian convictions were foundational to his legal and educational reforms. He organized his law code, *Domboc* (*the Book of Dooms*, c. 893), on the principles of the Ten Commandments and Mosaic Law, using biblical law and Christian morality as the foundation for civil law and order. This code became a cornerstone of British common law, influencing the development of justice systems throughout the Anglo-Sphere down to this very day.

The French Christian connection is no less profound, dating back probably to the latter part of the first century AD. Later, in AD 800, the Frankish King, Charlemagne (AD 748-814), was named Emperor of the newly formed Holy Roman Empire, signifying France's central place in Christendom.

Therefore, given Canada's origins as French and British settlements, it should come as no surprise that Christianity was central to Canadian culture from its very inception. In fact, the European settlement of the "New World" was viewed through the lens of the Great Commission (Matt. 28:18-20) by both French Catholics and English Protestants alike. Moreover, the church played a central role in the development of education, healthcare, social services, and the growth of Canadian civilization in both French and English settlements.

Initially, Canada was colonized by the French, with French explorer Jacques Cartier (AD 1491-1557) erecting a cross and celebrating Mass upon landing at Gaspé Peninsula in 1534, symbolically claiming the land for France and Christianity.

After years of struggle for settlement and sovereignty, the British won primary control over Canada with decisive victories over the French during the *Seven Years' War* (1756-1763). In February 1763, British sovereignty was officially established with the signing of the *Treaty of Paris*. After that, as a dominion of the British Empire, the British Parliament divided Canada into two main settlements, "Upper Canada" and "Lower Canada," based on their position in relation to the St. Lawrence River, with the Canada Act of 1791.

Later, the British Parliament would draft the original constitutional act of Canada, the *British North American Act* (BNA Act), to establish "the provinces of Canada [later Ontario and Québec], Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick...as one Dominion under the name of Canada" under the royal warrant of the devout Queen Victoria (AD 1819-1901).

Thus, Canada was established as a Christian Constitutional monarchy, a nation under the sovereign rule of the British Empire which, in turn, is under the rule of the supremacy of the One, True, Living, and Triune God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - and upon the rule of His eternal, unchanging law. This reality is reflected in both **Canada's Bill of Rights (1960) and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms (1982)**, which acknowledge that **Canada's legal system is "founded upon principles that recognize the supremacy of God, and the rule of law"** (**Charter Preamble**). This language roots ultimate sovereignty in the God of Scripture, and recognizes the rule of higher law, a law that rules over rulers and subjects alike - the law of God. This legal tradition dates back all the way to the signing of **Magna Carta** in June of 1215 AD, when the leadership of the Church of England had King John sign this royal charter as a way of putting an end to the divine right of kings. Instead of the arbitrary rule of tyrant Kings, *Lex rex*, the law would rule as king. Sadly, as Canada apostatizes and Christianity is jettisoned from the public square, tyranny becomes the "law" of our land once again.

If we want Canada to remain glorious and free, we must return to the God to which we are covenanted.

Origins of Canada Day

The BNA Act came into effect on July 1st, 1867, thus establishing *The Dominion of Canada*.

Accordingly, July 1 became an annual celebration of the birth of the Confederation of Canada known as "Dominion Day," that is, until it was renamed "Canada Day" in 1982.



Coat of Arms & Mottos

Canada's coat of arms is adorned with heraldry that highlights Canada's national heritage, symbols from England and Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and France. Much of this heraldry is rooted in Christian symbology. The prominent "**lion rampant**" appearing multiple times in the coat, was used throughout Medieval Christendom to signify regency, nobility and power associated with Christ as the **Lion of the tribe of Judah** (Gen. 49:9-10).

Likewise, the **fleur-de-lis** is a powerful Christian symbol long used in French heraldry whose **three petals** most notably represent the **Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit** - while also embodying purity, faith, chivalry, divine authority, and the virtues.

The **St. Edward's Crown** sitting atop the lion rampant and floating above the coat of arms signifies Canada's sovereign as the one who rules over Canada. Interestingly, King Edward was known as Edward "the Confessor" and known for his Christian profession of faith. The crown is replete with Christian symbology with alternating crosses and **fleur-de-lis** with a globe and a cross sitting atop the crown. **The cross and globe on top of the crown signified the true sovereign, while the king is sovereign over the realm, Christ is the true sovereign ruler of the entire earth, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, the ruler of the Kings of earth** (Rev. 1:5).

The **Union Jack** of Britain is the stylized **union of three different Christian crosses representing the patron saints of England, Scotland, and Ireland**. England is represented by the prominent red cross on a white background known as **St. George's Cross** after St. George the Martyr (c. AD 280-303). Behind St. George's Cross are two saltires (diagonal crosses). First, the St. Andrew's Cross, the white saltire on a blue background is representative of Scotland and their patron saint, St. Andrew (d. c. AD 60), an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ who was crucified on a diagonal cross, feeling unworthy to be crucified in the same manner as his Lord. The cross is also a symbol of humility, sacrifice, and Christian identity, which perfectly encapsulates the fiery piety of the Scottish people. Finally, the red saltire on a white background is representative of St. Patrick (c. AD 385-461), the renowned missionary of Ireland. The colours are likewise significant. The symbolizes the blood of Christ, redemption, and sacrifice (as in the blood shed for the forgiveness of sins). The **White** represents purity, righteousness, and the white robes of the redeemed in Christ (Rev. 7:14). The **Blue** symbolizes service, loyalty, and devotion to the God of the heavens.

Finally, the two mottos displayed on the Canadian coat of arms are both **Latin quotations of sacred Scripture**. First and most prominently, Canada's official motto **A Mari usque Ad Mare** ("From sea to sea") is an abbreviated quotation of **Psalm 72:8**: "May he [Christ, the true royal son (72:1)] have dominion from sea to sea, and from the River to the ends of the earth!" Secondly, the quotation on the red ribbon behind the Sovereign's Flag displayed on the central shield reads, **Desiderantes meliorem patriam** ("Desiring a better country"), an abbreviated quotation from **Hebrews 11:16**: "But as it is, they desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared for them a city," whose "designer and builder is God" himself (Heb. 11:10).

The Peace Tower AND PARLIAMENT

The Christian idea of the separation of Church and State never meant the separation of State and God. This is evident in the fact that Canada's heritage as a Christian nation is plainly carved on the walls of our Parliamentary buildings. There are 25 verses from the Holy Writ engraved in the arches, embedded in stained glass windows, and carved in stone monuments such as Psalm 72:1 & 8, 139:8-10; Proverbs 29:18; Jeremiah 23:5; Nahum 1:7, and Ephesians 6:13 just to name a few.

FOR YOUR CONGREGATION

Make this brochure your church's own



This brochure can be amended for your church's use — your congregation's name, service times, and contact details set in place of ours — for a small fee.

Write to

MHALLICK@THEKIRK.NET

Canada's Christian Heritage · prepared by Christ Covenant Church, Selkirk