



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Where's Jesus?

April 26, 2020

Welcome & announcements

For now we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer.

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

Owen Lancaster MacLeod was born Easter morning.
Theologically great timing. Catherine & Owen are doing well.

Easter Appeal: brought in \$1377 so far.

Each of these **events** will happen through Zoom. Email Rev Peter for the log-in details: Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca

- **Prayer Time:** Wednesday morning prayer at 9 a.m.
- **Zoom Café:** Thursday at 3 p.m.
Join Rev. Peter for coffee (not included):
- **Worship:** Sunday at 10:30 a.m. [and the text version]
- **Game Party & Bible time:** with Antoinette

If you are interested, but these times don't work, please contact Peter


Offering: We now have a '[Donate Now](#)' button on our website.


Please continue to check out the website <https://kensingtonchurch.ca/>
or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>

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

Approaching God

Prelude: "Schafe Können"; Cantata 208; J. S. Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H9rbnmb6zGg>

 lighting the candle
Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.
Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

 Call to worship (from Psalm 118)
Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;
God's love endures forever.

In our anguish we cried to the LORD
and Jesus answered by setting us free.
Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;
God's love endures forever.

The LORD is our strength and our song;
Jesus has become our salvation.
Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;
God's love endures forever.

We will not die but live,
and will share what the LORD has done.
Give thanks to the LORD, for God is good;
God's love endures forever.

The LORD has done this;
and it is marvellous in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

 Prayer

Loving Jesus,
you are so wonderful to us.
The way you are always trying to connect with us,
to help us feel your love,
and understand what you'll go to the dead to help us turn
and follow you.

Merciful God,
we are sorry that we, individually and as a group,
are often stubborn and set in our ways.
Believing that our little exceptions to your way won't do any harm.


Please forgive us for our sins.
May we recognize your presence in our lives,
and the way you teach us and invite us to follow you
so that we may be filled with your joy that we must share.

In Jesus name
Amen.

 Assurance of Pardon²

While it is true that we have sinned,
it is a greater truth that we are forgiven
through God's love in Jesus Christ.
To all who humbly seek the mercy of God I say,
in Jesus Christ your sin is forgiven.

Thanks be to God.

 Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)
As a part of turning God's way, we pray the prayer Jesus gave us.

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

² Worship Sourcebook (2004). 2.4.32

and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Now the green blade rises.....music at end
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8FN2D9vFAo> (has music)

Listening to God



Prayer

God of life,
your Spirit raised Jesus from dead.
Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.
Your Spirit draws us to Christ
and helps us to acknowledge him as Lord.
We ask that you will send your Spirit now
to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope
through the proclamation of the Easter gospel.
Amen.

Intro to the readings

An important part about listening is realizing your own biases.
What assumptions do you bring to the conversation.

If you look in the bulletin, you'll see this section is called
'Listening to God'. But before we do that, I want you to take a
moment and think about Jesus. . .


When you imagine Jesus, what is he doing? . . .
...dying on the cross? preaching? healing? hugging children?
yelling? sitting at the right hand of God?

After celebrating spring and creation last week, we're back to the
lectionary. Today's passage is a familiar one. It happens on Easter -
not just in the Easter season, but actually on the day. For the

characters in the story Jesus had been killed last Friday. They had grieved with the others through the Sabbath, and now that they could travel again they were heading off.

Before they got out the door they had heard some crazy news. The Hebrew word used to describe the delivery of this news is a medical term that means 'the delirious babbling of very sick people.' They are confused and lost and set off - probably for home.

The Bible says there were two, but only gives us one name. A popular theory is that they were husband and wife. As women unfortunately didn't have much status, it would be normal not to name her in the text. While probably not historically accurate, I've asked for a female voice in our reading.

 Reading: This week you can follow the scripture in this dialogue version, or look it up in your own Bible.³

Luke 24: 13-35

Narrator: On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. Jesus said to them,

Jesus: "What are you talking about as you walk along?"

Narrator: They stood still, with sad faces. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him,

Cleopas: "Are you the only person in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?"

Jesus (innocently): What things?"

Cleopas (in disbelief): "The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth!

He was a prophet strong in what he did and what he said - in God's eyes as well as the people's. Haven't you heard how our chief priests and rulers handed him over for execution, and had him crucified? But we were hoping he was the one who was to come and set Israel free ...

Yes, and as if that were not enough, it's now the third day since all this happened; and some of our women have completely confused us. For they went to the tomb at dawn, and then when they couldn't find his body they said that they had a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of the men went straight off to the tomb and found things just as the women had described them—but they didn't see him!"

Jesus: "Aren't you failing to understand, and slow to believe in all that the prophets have said? Was it not inevitable that Christ should suffer like that and so find his glory?"

Narrator: And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.

As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus gave the impression that he meant to go on further, but they held him back, saying,

Cleopas: "Do stay with us. It is nearly evening and soon the day will be over."

Narrator: So he went indoors to stay with them. Then it happened! While he was sitting at table with them he took the loaf, gave

³ 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

thanks, broke it and passed it to them. Their eyes opened wide and they knew him! But he vanished from their sight. They turned to each other and exclaimed,

Cleopas: "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?"

Narrator: They got up at once and dashed back to Jerusalem. There they found the eleven and their friends all together, full of the news and saying, "The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!"

Then they told the story of their journey, and how they recognized Jesus when he broke the loaf.



Road to
Emmaus -
M. Torevell

Sermonette

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

Imagine you're waiting in line outside the grocery store and somebody walks up to you.

You're probably surprised, and wondering how to keep your distance without being rude or losing your spot in line.

They stop at what used to be a normal distance and ask you what used to be a normal question... "What's going on?"

Not quite sure how to take that, you reply, "It's the COVID distancing rules."

"What's COVID?" he asks.

Can you imagine that?

because that's what Cleopas and his partner felt when this person joined them and hadn't heard about Jesus and his death.

Of course, it turns out that Jesus knows better what's going on than they do - and goes on to help them understand.

Jesus apparently gives them a big sermon with lots of Biblical examples - which is rather unusually for the Gospel According to Luke. Here we usually get Jesus telling stories about common everyday things that illustrates a greater truth.

However, while Cleopas gets a sermon, we get a story that illustrates greater truth... but what are we taught about God and Jesus?

Remember how Jesus enters the story? ... Two followers are walking down the road and Jesus calmly joins them.⁴ Not as a Prince or King or 'Saviour of the Universe', but as an ordinary person - an equal even. This is a very ordinary act. *God comes alongside us in ordinary activities.*

I imagine they nod in greeting. Then Jesus acts ignorant of what's going on. Why would he do that? Well, it might be like I do with my kids, even my students when I was a teacher. I'd ask a question, knowing the answer, to allow them a chance to speak and share their thoughts and feelings. If we picture Jesus knowing everything, we also need to include that *Jesus values our thoughts and feelings enough to ask and listen to them.*

and Jesus patiently hears Cleopas out, as the story and feelings pour out. When they are ready, Jesus helps them. In this moment, it's helping understanding. Something I know some people are looking for right now. This is only one way Jesus helps; through his life we see him offering all sorts of ways.

God comes to us and offers help.

Which is amazing in several ways.

One I just touched on, God is the creator and ruler of everything, including us, and still reaches out to us. Not through a decree or by force, but by walking alongside us.

Another way is that our goodness and faith are not factors.

Cleopas and his partner were walking away. They had turned their backs and left.... and Jesus still joins them. I find that encouraging as I know I'm not perfect.

It also encourages me to ask questions - like those early followers. To wonder why things are the way they are. For us, why is there a pandemic? What's going on? Where are you God? Why do people

not listen and insist on doing things their way? Why do people walk away from God's love?

These followers, like so many since, have asked these questions when faced with uncertain times. They were probably wondering about being picked up by the authorities, if the biology of death had changed, and what to have faith in. We're wondering when we can see a dentist about tooth pain, whether to have faith in our politicians and neighbours, and when we can just get together.

And Jesus comes alongside.

Jesus listens - honouring where we are.

and Jesus offers to help.

So, where is he?

That leads back to the question before the reading. How do you imagine Jesus? What do you imagine him doing?

For the followers in our story, they have Jesus talking with them, but don't recognize him until another ordinary event - sharing dinner. Then they realize and reflect on their experiences.

Do you stop and do that? Reflect on your experiences?

It's something I don't do enough of.

but when I do, I realize that Jesus is there to. In the care teams in the hospitals and nursing homes, in the neighbour who offer to pick up groceries, the child who draws a rainbow on the sidewalk, and the people calling others to let them know their not alone.

Because we never are.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.

⁴ I'm reminded of the opening of *Return of the Native* by Thomas Hardy that shows what it's like to walk those long distances before cars and come across another traveller - how ordinary and calm it is.

[illegible]

Activities

- 5 <https://www.messychurch.org.uk/sites/default/files/uploads/pdf/Emmaus%20at%20home.pdf>

- FaithTalk

Memories: What are qualities and values of Jesus/God? How have you seen those recently? Where have you seen Jesus recently?

Wonder: What questions would you ask Jesus?

Offering

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also options. (Two new people have joined PAR recently.)

🎵 Anthem: God Will Take Care Of You

April 26, 2020
Where's Jesus

Prayers of the people

Note: if you would like specific prayers included here (like with our prayer book), please send an email to: prayer@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Heavenly Father,

We turn to you, knowing that you are there and that you want to hear what we have to say.

We thank you that we have time today to be here to worship you. and we pray for those who have more time than they know what to do with. For people who are out of work and worried if there will be a job to return to - and for those trying to run a business in these times...

and we pray for those who have less time - for people who are trying to juggle working at home and looking after their children. . .

We thank you that the church is not a steeple, but a people. That your Spirit continues to gather us through the various technologies we are blessed with. and we pray for those who lack community - especially a community that knows your presence.

We thank you for days like yesterday that are filled with warmth from the sun, encouraging us to go outside. and we pray for those who can't.

Those who are stuck in quarantine in their residence, or have no place to go where they can keep a prudent distance from others.

May they feel safe in their cocoon, and know you are with them. . .

We also pray for those who are sick in body, mind or spirit. . . for those dealing with the Coronavirus, and those dealing with other problems. . .

and for those waiting for their treatment to start again
We pray for their families as they struggle with what will happen, and with the complications of being with your loved ones.. and we pray for the care teams and first responders. . .

Jesus, we know that you walk with us in uncertain times, help us to give our anxieties over to you, to let you carry them, so that they won't eat a hole in us. and we pray for our leaders, that they may make wise decisions in balancing our health and economic stability. . .

May your Holy Spirit help us to recognize you around is this week, giving us strength and hope - and recognizing the opportunities to share your presence with others.

In Jesus name
Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Come to us, beloved stranger.....music at end

Sending

As you go from this place, look for Jesus, ask questions, and accept help.... and then share the miracle you have found in finding Christ alive with you.

Benediction:

**May the power of the cross,
the joy of the resurrection,
and the presence of our risen Lord
be with you, now and always.⁶**

Postlude: Opening: The New World

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YkoCL7qvOE>

⁶ Angela Ashwin. *The Book of a Thousand Prayers*, 1996

Prayer Partnership

These are invitations compiled by the Presbyterian Church in Canada for our prayers. They were created months ago, and so serve as a reminder that there is more than COVID19 in our world. (That said, I did adapt some.) Should you add these prayers to your own, you will be joining with others throughout the church.

Sunday, April 26 We pray for those suffering from various physical and mental issues that are being sidelined in this times.

Monday, April 27 We pray for the Rev. Roger MacPhee who serves as Convener of the Ministry Committee for the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island.

Tuesday, April 28 We pray for the renewal of soil around the world so that all species can flourish free from wants.

Wednesday, April 29 Give thanks for the children in our church schools and youth groups, and for the leaders who nurture them and their families.

Thursday, April 30 We pray for the members of the Committee on Education and Reception as they meet this week with the candidates and ministers who have applied to be received into the PCC.

Friday, May 1 We pray for all the Presbyterian camps as they prepare for campers this summer - however that will happen.

Saturday, May 2 (Asian Heritage Month) We give thanks for the gifts and accomplishments of Asian people in Canada. May we come together to celebrate Asian cultures and seek out parts of our history that often go untold.

Easter
256

Now the green blade rises

FRENCH CAROL 11 11 10 11

1. Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
2. In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
3. Forth he came at Eas - ter, like the ris - en grain,
4. When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing or in pain,

wheat that in the dark earth man - y days has lain;
sure that he would nev - er, wake a - gain,
he that for these three days in the grave had lain;
then your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been:
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen:
raised from the dead my liv - ing Lord is seen:
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been:

love is come a - gain like wheat new - spring - ing green.

Come to us, beloved Stranger

BEACH SPRING 8 7 8 7 D

Unison

F Gm7F F Gm7F F/E Bb/D Bbmaj7 C

1. Come to us, be - lov - ed Stran - ger, as you came that
 2. Stay with us and give us bless - ing, that our hopes a -
 3. We would nev - er fail to see you as you walk with

Bb Gm7 F C7/E F /A Bb6 Dmsus4-3

East - er day. Walk with us to our Em - ma - us,
 gain may rise. Of - fer us your bro - ken bo - dy;
 us each day. As a friend and not a stran - ger

Gm7 Am7 Bb6 F (Dm) C7 F/C Bb C

for we need you still to - day. Come to us when we are
 o - pen our un - see - ing eyes. Come to us, God's love em -
 you would join us on our way. Help us trust that through your

F /E Dm Am 7 Dm Gm7 Bb/C Gm6

bro - ken, when our dear - est hopes are lost, speak to
 bod - ied; touch our hearts with burn - ing flame. Ris - en
 mer - cy we can doubt and fear tran - scend, and to

F /E Dm 7 Gm Dm7F Gm7 Am Bb Gm7 F

us the pro - phets' mes - sage you ful - filled up - on the cross.
 Christ, once dead, now liv - ing, come to us through joy, through pain.
 oth - ers be a bless - ing. Keep us faith - ful till life's end!

Words: Edith Sinclair Downing (1922-) Music: attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800-1879) from Sacred Harp 1844; harmony, James H. Wood

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