



Kensington Presbyterian Church

In Good Company

May 10, 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

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@Kensingtonchurch.ca

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

Free Workshops: available from Fuller Theological Seminary
<http://formation.fuller.edu/>

Mental Health: If you are experiencing anxiety, please contact us. You may also be interested the mental health 1st Aid Kit on our [COVID opportunities](#) web-page. It was written by a registered counsellor who has a Christian perspective.

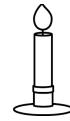
Please continue to check out the website <https://kensingtonchurch.ca/> or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>

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

Approaching God

Prelude: Cello Suite No. 1, Prélude.....Bach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1prweT95Mo0>



lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

Like wind swaying through the trees on the Mount Royal
or surging through the corner of Benny & Sherbrooke

God's presence is with us.

We rejoice in your presence

Creator Spirit, Life-giving Spirit, Nurturing Spirit.

Let us worship God.



Prayer²

Blessed Spirit,
we thank you for bringing us
to this time;
for helping us carve out
space for you in our lives;
for helping us get to
know you.

Jesus,

we celebrate that you came for us,
to show us the best way to live
so that we might know the Truth
of the world, ourselves, and you.




² painting: The Annunciation - Marcia Carole


Creator,
what you have done is a marvel;
especially that you have created a 'work in progress',
and one that invites us to share in your creation.

As we come before you, we recognize that there are times we have
messed up. We know it is important to recognize that, and to
ask for forgiveness from you and those we have hurt.

...

Jesus, may your Spirit help us to do that,
to try and restore broken relationships
with others, ourselves, and creation.
Amen.

 Assurance of Pardon³
The God who challenges us
is also the God who encourages us.
The God who confronts us
is also the God who accepts us.
Be assured that God is with us even now,
accepting, guiding, and forgiving.
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
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and forever.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: We are marching in the light of God.....at end
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BHbqXIGqPfo>

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

- The First Letter of Peter was encouraging early Christians in what is now Turkey in balancing their exciting call to new life, and not annoying their neighbours. I quite like the image of Living Stones, and that we should "let ourselves be shaped"
- The passage from the Gospel According to John is the start of Jesus' last talk with his disciples before his arrest.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[1 Peter 2: 2-14](#)

[John 14: 1-14](#)

Sermonette

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

We've been encouraged to live in physically isolation for 9 weeks now I think. For me it's a bit of a blur. How about you?

In our home it's been up and down emotionally. Sometimes we're not bothered and everybody is peaceful... and sometimes the uncertainty about the future overwhelms. Will we be able to get caught up with work? Will the contractors ever finish our back entrance? Will we ever have a chance to do something that isn't work or kids? Will we be able to help move Ines' father this summer - in Germany? Will anybody we know die from COVID? Will we catch it?

These are times when our hearts are troubled by the uncertainty, the helplessness, and even fear. How about you?

Of course, this isn't the first time we've felt this way, or you. There's been uncertainty before, even helplessness and fear. And those feelings aren't new with us either.



⁴ 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

This week somebody was telling me about walking through London after the war and not being able to get down the street because there was a bomb crater so deep you couldn't see the bottom. I imagine you could get lost in that pit.

For an older example, take the disciples. They've left their lives behind and have been following Jesus. And now Jesus is talking about leaving them. It sounds like he might even be talking about dying!

They have (to use a Biblical phrase) troubled hearts.

and Jesus recognizes this, and offers some comfort & hope.

I'm not sure how well it worked with those hearing it for the first time, but the start of this passage is often used at funerals to provide comfort and hope to those of us left behind - but we've got the advantage of Easter. We know that Jesus isn't defeated by death and rises again. They didn't... yet.

For me there are several things that I find encouraging in this passage.

The first is that the disciples, those being trained by Jesus in person, don't get it - at least not completely.

I'm also encouraged because Jesus offers a way forward. The simplistic version is 'God is the Way to life'. But, as we talked about last week, God is a lot to know. However, Jesus points out that we can know God through him. "If you know me, you will know my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him."⁵

Jesus tells his followers that he is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

Thomas asks, "How do we know the way?"

⁵ John 14: 7

How do we know Jesus?

How so we know the Way? or the Truth? or the Life?

Well, if Jesus presents a true way to live, then how would you describe that way? . . .

I would say

- it's a way in which we come along-side people, listen to them, and help them - even if they don't recognize us.
- it's a way in which we tell others about God - teaching them as well as showing them God's love.
- it's a way in which we may have to challenge 'the system' or 'the authorities' so that people are treated with True justice/fairness.⁶
- it's a way that puts complete trust in where God is leading - whether that's to a wedding banquet, solitude in a desert, or to death.

I would also say it's something that takes practice and discipline.⁷

A fairly common example that shows a trust in God was given to me by one of you. This practice (or discipline, or habit) is to give thanks to God every night. The idea is that if this is your way of going to bed, then you will do it when you feel like giving thanks - and when you don't. The upshot is that even when living through difficulties, you are reminded before going to sleep of how God has blessed you. It helps you trust God in the easy and hard times - which was a part of the Life of Jesus.

And there are a host of other ways of *practising our faith*. I've got a book called that edited by Dorothy Bass. In it they look at ways to live the Way such as: prayer, reading, serving others... and other aspects like your body, economics, hospitality, etc.

I became aware of the book 20 years ago, but the idea of practices of faith are still around. This week I came across a workshop on 'Rules of Life'.⁸ The idea is that you establish some rules for your life that help you to follow The Way. Members of the Iona Community have developed a shared rule. They promise to daily prayer, communal worship and Bible reading, working towards justice & peace, and supporting each other - including holding each other accountable.⁹

What patterns would help you follow the Way to truth and life? . . .

A gift of this time of physical isolation is that the patterns of our lives have been interrupted. Apparently it takes 21 days to form a new habit; could you form one or two before life goes back?

The advice is not to add to many at once. Remember how God created you, and add things that will not only help you, but that are realistic for you to do (at this time).

For me, that won't be jogging. I can't stand it - not to mention the time away for kids and work isn't something I can do at the moment. But I could do a better job of looking after the body God gave me... and perhaps I can find a way to help others look after their bodies by supporting the Depot.¹⁰

And I could add a more direct way of getting to know Jesus. Aside from my reading of the Bible, I can intentionally read the Bible with the Boys every day. For a reason I can't think of, it hasn't become a habit - but with some discipline (and 21 days) it

⁶ Did you know the Winnipeg General Strike started on May 15, 1919?

⁷ I wonder about the relationship between discipline and disciple.

⁸ <http://formation.fuller.edu/>

⁹ <https://iona.org.uk/movement/the-rule/>

¹⁰ <https://depotmtl.org/en/>

could be.

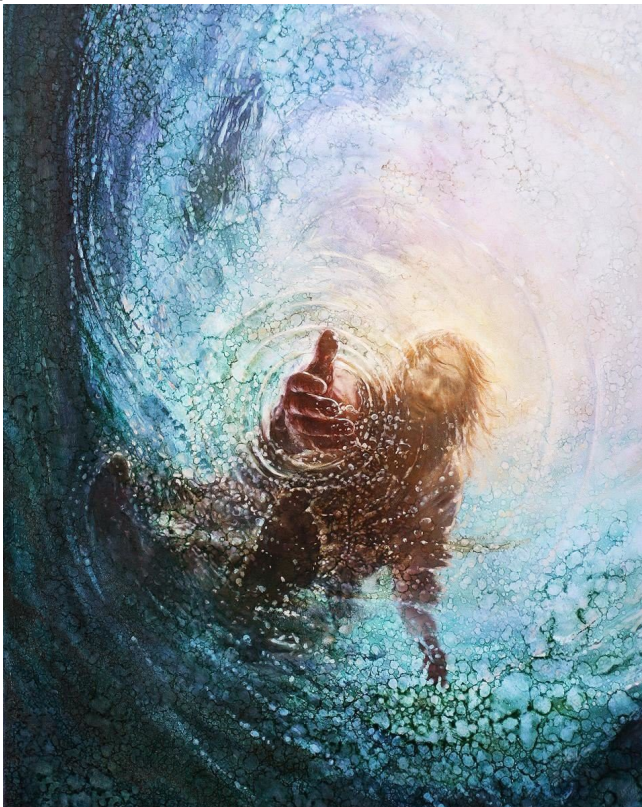
These ways are steps I could take along The Way to help me know The Truth and experience The Life. And part of the goodness is that it's not all about me. The Way is life for all.

What patterns could you do that would help?

From this passage I'm encouraged that the expert disciples struggled, and that Jesus is the Way - a way we can do something about following.

But I'm even more encouraged that it's not all up to us.

Jesus reaches out to us.¹¹



11 Yongsung Kim - The Hand of God

Jesus starts this discussion reaching out to his troubled disciples. They are encouraged and ask questions. Jesus was willing to spend time with them, and is willing to spend time with us - helping us to know God - leading us in The Way, The Truth and The Life.

So if it feels like you've come across a crater in the road, and you can't see the bottom, we've been here before. It's not the end of the story. The story I was told this week was that even when faced with that crater she could see God - in the flowers growing on the exposed earth.

*In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*



♪ musical moment: Album für die Jugend: Melodie..... Schumann
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4IWncWEnDQ&list=PL2EFC7561E2AF1DAC&index=1>

Responding to God

Activities

Try adding something(s) to your routine (day/week).

- praying the prayers Paul includes in his letters in the Bible
- trying out a free workshop from formation.fuller.edu
- Call somebody every day... or write a letter
- team up with somebody for a Bible reading plan - and then see what each other thought of the reading that day/week.
- engage your neighbours in conversations about hopes
- engage in creativity: painting, cooking, gardening, sidewalk chalk, shower singing, science/math,
- share the FaithTalk questions with somebody...

FaithTalk

These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.

Memories: What was one of your earliest awareness of God?

Etching: Delve into your life to find a story of seeing hope in a crater (or borrow from somebody else's life)? Share it.

Wonder: How does the relationship work between Jesus reaching out to us and us reaching out to Jesus? How this happen on a daily basis? How could your friend help you?

Actions: see 'Activities' above

Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our website. Just click the '[Donate Now](#)' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also options.

♪ Anthem: Beautiful City 2020.....Ashley Daniel Foot
<https://soundcloud.com/ashleyfoot/beautiful-city-2020>



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

We come to you Jesus,
not at the cross - although you were there,
not at the tomb - although you were there,
but in our homes - because this is where you are.

We come to you because you first came to us.

We must tell you that our hearts are troubled.
Help us to be living stones - to adapt to our new situations,
but also to allow ourselves to be built with you are our foundation.

Lord, we believe,

and we ask you to be with those in need.

People unsure about paying for rent or food;
unsure about if they have a job, or if it is safe;
unsure about their health,
or that of their loved ones.

May your presence be known,
and may we all feel your peace.

Thank you for preparing a way for us
to travel to a better world.

Thank you for being the Truth,
and a truth that can set us all free,
free to live in a way that is better than we can ask or imagine.
Lord, help us to get to know you better
so that we can help your Kingdom come.

In the name of Jesus,
Amen

♪ Hymn: We are God's people

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZd6ypvfmrk>

Sending & Benediction

An idea I heard this week to improve the courage and language of our prayers is to pray the prayers of Paul from the letters. I'm sorting through a list if you'd like a copy. This one is from Ephesians 3: 16-21.

¹⁶I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, ¹⁷and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love. ¹⁸I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, ¹⁹and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

²⁰Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

Postlude: Spring: Allegro.....Vivaldi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CcrrXHnN5uU>

Recomposed.....Max Richter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WaCib0B8T24>



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, May 10 Pray for strength for mothers in Afghanistan, Malawi, Haiti, India and Nepal who travel by foot to visit Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) partners' maternal and child health clinics.

Monday, May 11 We pray for the ministry and mission of the students who graduate this month from our three theological colleges and prepare to seek calls to congregations.

Tuesday, May 12 (International Day of Families) We pray God's blessing on families. May they be places where all members experience a reflection of God's unconditional love.

Wednesday, May 13 We pray for safe travels for those shipping and trucking food to our grocery stores.

Thursday, May 14 We pray for our new Women's Missionary Society president, Cathy Reid, as she takes on her responsibilities, and give thanks for outgoing president, Janet Brewer.

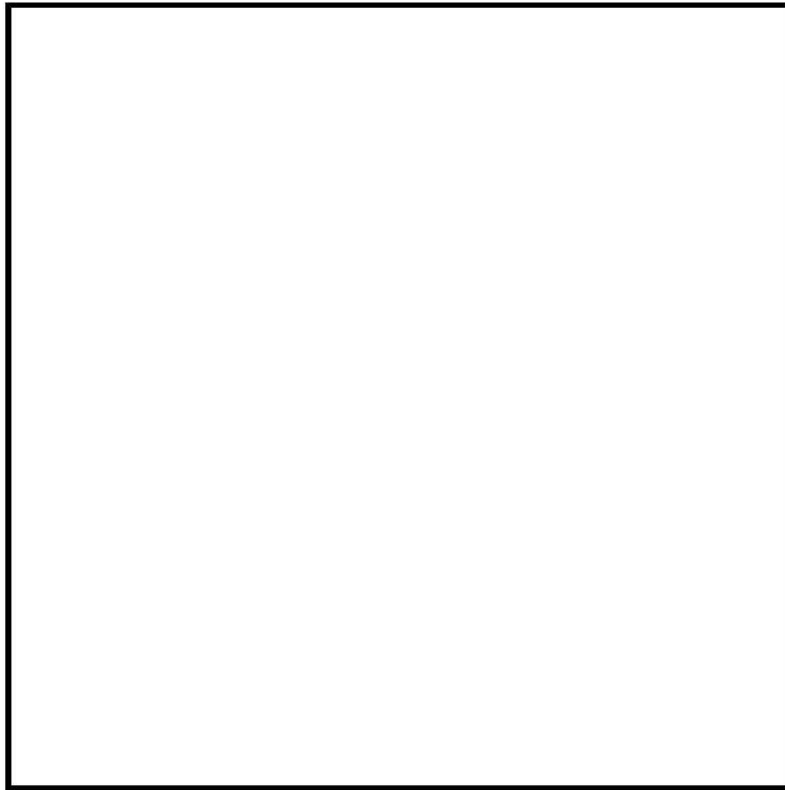
Friday, May 15 On this day in 1919, the Winnipeg General Strike began. We pray for fair and just working conditions for all workers.

Saturday, May 16 We pray for small-scale farmers around the world who are learning new agricultural techniques to increase crop yields and improve nutrition with the support of PWS&D.

Sunday, May 17 We pray for Dr. Priya John, the first Indian woman to serve as General Secretary of the Christian Medical Association of India.

DRAW IT

Do you like to build things? 1 Peter 2 describes Jesus as the first building block toward a good life, and how we become the next blocks, building off of Jesus. Draw what that looks like to you.



Suggested for use on May 10, 2020 based on the RCL.
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Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church
kensingtonchurch.ca

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP • BULLETIN

Activities based on Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16, 1 Peter 2:2-10, John 14:1-14.



We are marching / Siyahamba

SIYAHAMBA Irregular

G D7 G C/G G C D (C/D)

We are march-ing in the light of God; we are march-ing in the light of
Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen -
Nous mar - chons dans la lu - mière de Dieu, nous mar - chons dans la lu - mière de

Sop.

1. 2.
God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
Dieu. Nous mar - chons, mar - chons; oui, nous
G (C/G) G7 C

God. We are the light of God. We are march-ing, march-ing, we are
khos'. Si - ya - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya -
Dieu. Nous mar - lu - mière de Dieu. Oui, nous mar - chons, mar - chons; oui, nous

G oo, C D (C/D) G

march-ing, march-ing, we are march-ing in the light of God.
ham - ba, ham - ba, si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
mar - chons, mar - chons; nous mar - chons dans la lu - mière de Dieu.

Words: South African (Xhosa) traditional; English translation, Anders Nyberg (1955-); French, Andrew Donaldson (1951-) Music: South African traditional; arrangement, Anders Nyberg (1955-)

Words: English translation, copyright © Walton Music Corporation, 1984; French, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997
Music: arrangement, copyright © Walton Music Corporation, 1984



We are God's people

SYMPHONY 11 11 14 8 9

Unison F C /Bb F/A Bb F F C F C

1. We are God's peo - ple, the cho - sen of the Lord,
 2. We are God's loved ones, the bride of Christ our Lord,
 3. We are the bod - y of which the Lord is head,
 4. We are a tem - ple, the Spir - it's dwell - ing place,

F C /Bb F/A Bb F C F C

born of the Spir - it, es - tab - lished by the word; our
 for we have known it, the love of God out - poured; now
 called to o - bey him, now ris - en from the dead; he
 formed in great weak - ness, a cup to hold God's grace; a -

Cm Gm/Bb A7 /C# Dm /C Bb

cor - ner - stone is Christ a - lone, and strong in him we stand: oh
 let us learn how to re - turn the gift of love once given: oh
 wills us be a fam - i - ly, di - verse yet tru - ly one: oh
 lone, we die, for on its own each em - ber los - es fire: yet

Words: Bryan Jeffery Leech (1931-) Music: Johannes Brahms (1833-1897);
 arrangement, Fred Bock (1939-)

Words: copyright © Fred Bock Music Co., 1976 Music: arrangement, copyright © Fred Bock Music Co., 1976

C /Bb Gm C F G C Bb/C/Bb Gm F/A Bbmaj7 Gm F/C C F

let us live trans - par - ent - ly, and walk heart to heart and hand in hand.
 let us share each joy and care and live with a zeal that pleas - es heaven.
 let us free - ly give our gifts, and so shall God's work on earth be done.
 joined in one the flame burns on to give warmth and light, and to in - spire.

