



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *What's going on?*

May 24, 2020

**WELCOME**, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.<sup>1</sup> 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, or even in small groups outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter. [Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca)

### *Contacts*

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....[info@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:info@Kensingtonchurch.ca)  
 Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....[Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca)  
 Antoinette (families).....[Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca)  
 Kris Epps (music).....[Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca)

### *Announcements*

**Talk, Walk and Pray with the Moderator:** The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church in Canada is inviting you to join her for talks with people across the country, walking, and in prayer. See her invitation (and the first talk):<https://presbyterian.ca/gao/moderator/>

**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 in the mental health 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit on our [COVID opportunities](#) web-page. It was written by a registered counsellor who has a Christian perspective.

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

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

- **Prayer Time:** Tuesday 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](mailto:Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca)

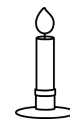
If you are interested, but these times don't work, please contact Peter

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



### *Approaching God*

Prelude: Climb.....Ennio Morricone  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zlk8-yFFSe8>



### lighting the candle

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



### Call to worship

Jesus descended from Heaven to Earth  
 and then to the dead

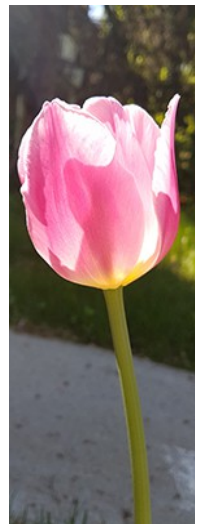
**Bringing hope and love to all who would listen.**

Jesus is ascended  
 and now God moves within us in the Spirit,  
 resurrected within each of us,

**Leading the world through the confusion  
 to a new life.**

Let us come to God with ears and voices,  
 hearts and mind.

**Let us worship God.**



## Prayer of approach<sup>2</sup>

Loving God,  
when our brains are too small to understand  
may they be big enough to hold a mystery.

When our science hasn't found the answer yet,  
may our faith enjoy the mystery.

When a story seems too difficult to grasp  
may our souls wait for mystery.

May we never be scared of what is mysterious  
and may we always be ready to explore  
what we do not understand.  
Amen

## Prayer of confession

God, you are so patient.  
Even though you came as Jesus,  
and your Spirit continues to be with us,  
we often do not listen.  
We fail to tell of your Good News,  
or fight for your truth and justice.  
Help us to recognize missed opportunities,  
and times when we have caused hurt. . .  
[pause and reflect]

Please help us to change our ways,  
so that we may help your Kingdom come.  
Amen.

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<sup>2</sup> from *Spill the Beans.org.uk*

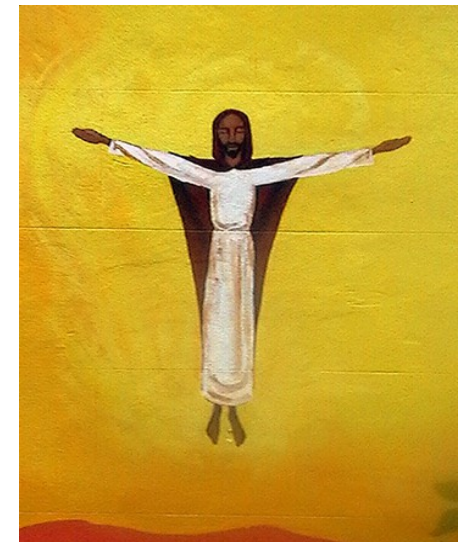
## Assurance of Pardon

Before you were betrayed you talked with your disciples,  
and you assured them that even in what was to follow, betrayal  
and death, you would not abandon them. These words are true  
for all those who believe. God's love is true, and we are forgiven.

## 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: Come down, O love  
divine<sup>3</sup> .....pg 8  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=flvKDgktutI>



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<sup>3</sup> Ascension - Graffiti in Bristol

## *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

- Psalm 66 talks about God testing and listening to us. Note that this testing is like making silver - something that is hard, but also makes removes the impurities to leave the beauty.
- The book of Acts is the sequel to Luke. They were written by the same person. Luke starts with Mary and the birth of Jesus, and goes through to Jesus ascending to Heaven. Acts starts where it leaves off.

It's good to remember that the full name of the book of Acts is 'The Acts of the Apostles'.<sup>4</sup>



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>5</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Acts 1: 1-14](#)

[Psalm 66:8-20](#)

<sup>4</sup> I wonder if Luke was ever known as 'The Acts of Jesus'.

<sup>5</sup> 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

### Sermonette

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

There's a lot of confusion about what's going on. Are stores and cafés reopening, or not? Do masks make us safe? (for how long?) If we have an outdoor party of only 3 families... where do we go to the bathroom?

I saw a press briefing with Dr. Falosi, of the White House coronavirus task-force. Well, not exactly. It was actually of Brad Pitt in a Saturday Night Live sketch. He played 'Dr. Falosi' helping clarify some statements made by the President - including a statement that there will be a vaccine relatively soon. Here's that clarification.

*"Relatively soon is an interesting phrase. Relative to the entire history of earth, sure, the vaccine is going to come real fast. But if you were to tell a friend that you were going to come over relatively soon, and then showed up a year and a half later. Well, you're friend may be relatively upset."*<sup>6</sup>

There's lots of different perspectives and confusion.

It's the same in the passage from Acts.

The disciples' world has changed and would never go back to the way it was. This is more than 'will we shake hands.' Jesus had died... and then was back from the dead. Jesus was definitely the Messiah. Expectations grew. What could stop them now? Not even death!

Surely, this is the time when Jesus will call down the heavenly armies to kick out the Romans and make Israel great again.

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGZNdc3QnJY>

‘Jesus,’ they ask, ‘are you going to do it now?’

and Jesus is patient. He doesn’t roll his eyes and berate them for not paying attention. The disciples are confused. They don’t have the right perspective.

They ask ‘is this the time’... but Jesus has told them that the Kingdom of God is already growing - not like an armed rebellion, but like yeast growing in the dough until the nature of everything has changed.<sup>7</sup>

Where is this change happening? Will *their* kingdom be great again? Not exactly. The first place the change will happen is inside you. The Holy Spirit will come. And then, yes, the Kingdom of God (not Israel) will come in Jerusalem, but also Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

They are also confused about how this will happen. They expect Jesus to do it. Jesus tells them that they will be the ones spreading the seeds of the Kingdom.

That’s a lot of confusion.

Is it about our idea or God’s?

Is it about God doing for us, or with us?

It actually reminds me of what I’ve been hearing from health officials. The leaders can’t make the coronavirus stop spreading, it’s the actions of the people - except we want to spread the Good News. I guess that would mean reversing the medical advice and making contact with others, walking with them, and talking to them face to face. Would it be too confusing to do both?

There’s more confusion caused by the Biblical text - not so

much for them, but sometimes for us. Jesus tells them that they’ll travel the world witnessing, but first, stay put - and then they see Jesus lifted up until a cloud took him from sight.<sup>8</sup>

Did Jesus just fly away?

Possibly not. What they were describing was Jesus going to be with God. Their perspective of the universe was that God lived in Heaven and that was up. Our description of the universe has changed. The Earth is round and in orbit around the sun, etc.

Does that mean Jesus is gone?

Definitely not. It means something far better and bigger. In the next chapter of Acts it talks about Jesus being at the right hand of God.<sup>9</sup> This means that Jesus has gone from teaching this group of 100 or so disciples to exercising authority and influence over all places and people.

This is a passage with exciting stuff in it - great plans and expectations. Jesus had risen from the dead, returning to the disciples. Now he had risen from them to greater glory. And the followers are to tell the whole world about it.

Exciting times,  
which can lead to confusion.

If you’d been there and heard the mission - go be witnesses -



<sup>7</sup> [Luke 13: 20-21](#) (written by the same person as Acts)

<sup>8</sup> painting: Ascension - von Kulmbach

<sup>9</sup> Acts 2: 33



would you have waited? Wouldn't it be great to be out there while the adrenaline's pumping and the memory's still fresh? Let's run and tell the world...

Except the don't. They return to Jerusalem where they "were constantly devoting themselves to prayer."

While they weren't told to pray, there were told to stay put - and what could be better than prayer at a time like that.

Which is also an excellent idea for now.

The Holy Spirit has come, and we can keep spreading the Good News that Christ is with us and leading us into forming a better Kingdom. We can keep living into that way of life, and helping the world to change with us.

and we can do what those early disciples did before they went out - while they waited to go out into the world. We can pray.

We can pray together and apart,  
we can pray with words, or silence,  
with images or movement,  
we can pray our joy and our anguish  
our concerns and our gratitude.

We can pray big prayers for the Holy Spirit to fill us with God's vision and courage to seize opportunities to change the world to be a better place.

Sometimes life is confusing. The disciples found this. We find this. What they found, and we find to, is that Jesus is not gone, but has ascended. That you and I have a part to play in the Kingdom of God recreating the world. That sometimes our role is sharing, and sometimes it is staying home and praying.

*To God be the glory.*

*Amen.*

♪ musical moment: Good News.....Kathleen Battle  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLcoBW9PiKY>

## *Responding to God*

### Activities

- add more pray into your daily routine in a way that respects who you are. This may involve reading prayers, being silent, having background noise<sup>10</sup>, being still or moving (rocking, walking, knitting, ...), journaling, .... Make sure it's long enough that you run out of things to say and have to listen - which is a balancing act between the Spirit nudging you and you distracting yourself.
- Next week is Pentecost. That when the Holy Spirit descends on the disciples like wind and fire ([Acts 2](#)). I'd like to invite you to come up with a way to show/celebrate this. It could be chalk art, painting, baking, dancing, lego, flowers, music, math, poetry, ... and then send me something picture or description by Saturday. [peter@kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:peter@kensingtonchurch.ca)



<sup>10</sup> here's a link to bird songs: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDLAhsC9oM>

## FaithTalk

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

Wonder: How do you think the disciples felt when they saw Jesus disappear to Heaven?

Wonder: What are you confused about?

Memories: Talk about times when you've had to sit and wait (yes, you can include now if you like). What is it like for you? What do you do?

Wonder: If the Kingdom of Heaven isn't like what the disciples thought, then what is it like? Together, how much detail can you give it?

## 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.

You can now donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is [info@kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

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

♪ Anthem: What We All Gotta Do (stay at home and pray)  
<https://youtu.be/jvTurA3ORgA> (look for Yuka in lower right)



## Prayers of the people<sup>11</sup>

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

Lord God,  
we pray for those whose bodies and minds are suffering,  
May they know the presence of your Spirit. . .

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayers.**

We pray for those who are going through dark times - a time of trouble, a time when it is not clear what to do. . .

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayers.**

We thank you for those people whose courage and hope have lit up the dark places of this world. . .

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayers.**

We pray for those who are confused by you, unsure of what you mean or if you exist. Let us be witnesses to you. . .

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayers.**

We pray for ourselves, that you will give us the courage to see things clearly and compassionately tell the truth. . .

God, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayers.**

<sup>11</sup> adapted from *The Book of a Thousand Prayers* #392 (by Ruth Burgess)  
Painting: Universe by Lynne Sinclair Taylor

May your kingdom come  
In joy and generosity,  
In the small ways and large  
And to you be the glory,  
Now and always.  
Amen.

♪ Hymn: What a friend we have in Jesus.....pg 9  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QCV5t8wRBI8>

### Sending & Benediction

As you go through this week, know that Jesus is Lord of everything. Have confidence that the Kingdom is coming - just not as we would imagine it. And accept this blessing from the letter to the Ephesians:

<sup>20</sup>Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, <sup>21</sup>to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Ephesians 3: 20-21.

Postlude: The Garden Song.....John Denver  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D3FkaN0HQgs>



## 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 24 (Healing and Reconciliation Sunday) We pray that hearts and minds will be opened to continue learning about the harm of colonization. We pray that all Canadians will work for the healing and well-being of Indigenous communities.

Monday, May 25 Give thanks for church communities that are caring for creation and taking steps to reduce their impact. Pray that we will reflect God's love of creation every day.

Tuesday, May 26 (National Access/Ability Week) We pray for a more inclusive and accessible church community. Help us create a community that is free of barriers.

Wednesday, May 27 We pray for initiatives of the Moderator as she introduces ways of connecting us through conversation and prayer.

Thursday, May 28 We pray for grace, understanding and forgiveness in our relationships with one another.

Friday, May 29 Please pray that the Lord of the harvest would send forth labourers.

Saturday, May 30 We pray for the millions of Canadians on the margins of our society. May God open the hearts of those in the centre to create room for all.

Sunday, May 31 We thank God for the hope brought to people receiving education, skills training and small business opportunities through Presbyterian World Service & Development's livelihoods programs.



# Come down, O Love divine

DOWN AMPNEY 6 6 11 D

D A/C# D Asus4-3 G Em6 D 6 A/C# Bm A/C# E7sus4-3

1. Come down, O Love di - vine, seek now this soul of  
 2. Oh let it free - ly burn, till earth - ly pas - sions  
 3. Let ho - ly char - i - ty mine out - ward ves - ture  
 4. And so the yearn - ing strong, with which the soul will

A D G A G/B D Em/G D/F# G6 Em7 Asus4-3 7 D

mine, and vis - it it with your own ar - dour glow - ing;  
 turn to dust and ash - es in its heat con - sum - ing,  
 be, and low - li - ness be - come mine in - ner cloth - ing,  
 long, shall far out - pass the power of hu - man tell - ing,

Bm Dmaj7/F# G D F#m E7 A C/E (D7) G D Em 6 D /F# (G) A

O Com - fort - er, draw near, with - in my heart ap - pear,  
 and let your glo - rious light shine ev - er on my sight,  
 true low - li - ness of heart, which takes the hum - bler part,  
 for none can guess its grace, till we be - come the place

/G D/F# G A G/B D /F# G6 Em7 Asus4-3 7 D

and kin - dle it, your ho - ly flame be - stow - ing.  
 and clothe me round, the while my path il - lum - ing.  
 and pride in earth - ly glo - ry scorns with loath - ing.  
 where in the Ho - ly Spir - it makes a dwell - ing.



Words: Italian, Bianco da Siena (13??-1434); translation, R.F. Littledale (1833-1890), alt  
 Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words: public domain Music: copyright © Oxford University Press from The English Hymnal



## What a friend we have in Jesus

WHAT A FRIEND 8 7 8 7 D

F (Bb/F) Bb F C

1. What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear,  
 2. Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?  
 1. Quel a - mi fi - dèle et ten - dre nous a - vons en Jé - sus - Christ,  
 2. Quel a - mi fi - dèle et ten - dre nous a - vons en Jé - sus - Christ,

F (Bb/F) Bb F/C (C7) C F

what a priv-i-lege to car - ry eve - ry - thing to God in prayer.  
 We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged: take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 tou - jours prêt à nous en - ten - dre, à ré - pondre à no - tre cri!  
 tou - jours prêt à nous com - pren - dre quand nous som - mes en sou - ci!

C (Cdim) (F/C) F Bb F/A (F C7/E F)

Oh what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh what need - less pain we  
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful, who will all our sor - rows  
 Il con - naît nos dé - fail - lan - ces, nos chu - tes de cha - que  
 Di - sons - lui tou - tes nos crain - tes, ou - vrons - lui tout no - tre

Alternate tune: Blaenwern

Words: Joseph Scriven (1820-1886) Music: Charles Crozat Converse (1834-1918)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

C F/A (Bb F/C Dm F7) Bb

bear, all be - cause we do not car - ry  
 share? Je - sus knows our eve - ry weak - ness:  
 jour, sé - vère en ses ex - i - gen - ces,  
 coeur. Bien - tôt ses pa - ro - les sain - tes

F/C (C7) C F

eve - ry - thing to God in prayer.  
 it to the Lord in prayer.  
 il est riche en son a - mour.  
 nous ren - dront le vrai bon - heur.

3. Are we weak and heavy-laden,  
 cumbered with a load of care?  
 Precious Saviour, still our refuge:  
 take it to the Lord in prayer.  
 Do thy friends despise, forsake thee?  
 Take it to the Lord in prayer;  
 in his arms he'll take and shield thee;  
 thou wilt find a solace there.

3. Quel ami fidèle et tendre  
 nous avons en Jésus-Christ;  
 toujours prêt à nous défendre  
 quand nous presse l'ennemi!  
 Suivons donc l'étroite voie,  
 en comptant sur son secours;  
 bientôt nous aurons la joie  
 de vivre avec lui toujours!