



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *Being with us*

June 7, 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)



Trinity Window - St Joseph's RC New Arley

### *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)

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

### *Announcements*

**Re-opening the Church:** Session is working on our stages of re-opening, but one of the things we must wait for is the approval of the government. We look forward to seeing you.

In the mean time, if you would like to talk or have a physical distance visit (we can stand at the end of the sidewalk or outside your window), please contact Rev Peter or your elder.

**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 the talks, and prayer list here: <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/moderator/>

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

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

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.
- **Youth Class (12+):** Tuesday at 6:30 p.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]
- **Friday Fun:** with [Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca)

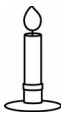
If you are interested, but these times don't work, please contact Peter

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

## Approaching God

Prelude: Peer Gynt Suite No.1, Op.46 - 1. Morning Mood.....Grieg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8fATAQtY9ag>



### lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

### Call to worship

Let us worship the eternal God,

**the source of love and life, who creates us.**

Let us worship Jesus Christ,

**the risen one, who lives among us.**

Let us worship the Spirit,

**the holy fire, who renews us.**

To the one true God be praise

**in all times and places,**

**through the grace of Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

### Prayer of approach & confession

Three in one

One in three

You formed us in the womb and gave birth to us in your  
wonderful creation.

with the tremendous variety of... everything.

And while sometimes we stop and appreciate the beauty of a  
flower

or wonder that a bubble bee can fly

much of the time we live in ways that damage your creation.

Mother, please forgive us.

**Lord, have mercy.**

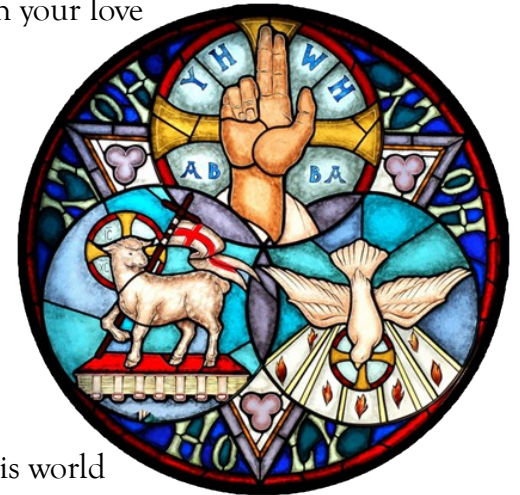
You came as one of us, taking the time to be with us,  
reaching down to help those who had fallen into hard  
situations.

Teaching us the depth of your love,  
and inviting us to be filled with your love  
and to share it.

But too often we ignore you  
as we run around trying to meet other goals

We run past those who need help,  
and don't spend time with your love  
or share it.

Jesus, please forgive us,  
**Lord, have mercy.**



You continue to come to us,  
flowing around us,  
and within us.

Supporting us  
as we are challenged in this world  
while trying to lead us  
to one more full of your love.

So often we don't trust your messages in ourselves or others  
or even that it's not all up to us,  
but you are there to help us towards the best path - your path.  
Holy Spirit, please forgive us,  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Father, Son and Holy Spirit  
be all honour and glory and praise.  
Forever and ever **Amen**

## Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news. God pours the Spirit upon us, even when we sin. The Spirit which helps us recognize our sin, which encourages us, and which transforms us through God's grace.

**Thanks be to God!**  
**Amen.**

## 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: God the Spirit, guide and guardian.....pg 9 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWYN0v1PsFA>


## *Listening to God*

### Prayer

Lord, open our hearts and minds  
by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that as the Scriptures are read  
and your Word is explored,  
we may hear with joy what you say to us today.  
Amen.

### Intro to the readings

- This passage is the end of the Gospel According to Matthew.

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>2</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).  
[Matthew 28: 16-20](#)

### Message: Being with us

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

For just 4 verses, there's a lot in that passage (22 pages worth in my commentary). Jesus' first teaching in Matthew is the *Sermon on the Mount*, and now the disciples are back on a mount with Jesus. They worship him, but some have doubts. They wonder what the future holds. Where will Jesus be?

Jesus tells them to go make disciples, to be teachers like him, and to baptize "in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" - which is why this passage shows up today.

This is the lectionary year for Matthew, but the year is far from over. Why do we have the last passage in the gospel? Because it is

<sup>2</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

Trinity Sunday - and this is a pretty clear statement of the Trinity.

There isn't much in the Bible directly about the Trinity. We're told of people's experiences with God - recognized and named in various ways. This continued in the Early Church - experiences of the Spirit, memories of Jesus, and an awareness of God the Creator/Father/Lord of all. Which is where the concept of the Trinity comes from; their experience of 'God with us.'

Which is all very nice for the disciples in this passage, having the resurrected Jesus standing with them and teaching them.

Lately, my boys have been asking, "where is God?" They are old enough to know that God is supposed to be around, "But why can't we see God? Why can't we hear God?" They are comparing their lives to the Bible stories and are wondering, 'where is God?' They're looking for wonders like the parting of the Red Sea taking the slaves to freedom, or simply Jesus hanging out and talking to us like a neighbour or teacher.

They're not the only ones. For several months people have been wondering why God could be letting the pandemic happen. Now, with the protest following yet another tragic death of a black person, people are wondering 'where is God?'

How would you answer?

I listened to an interview with the Rev. Dr. Dwight Radcliff,<sup>3</sup> a professor and pastor. He shared some of his experiences being black. Once, when his car stopped working on the way to church he put the blinkers on. A police car stopped. They approached with their guns pointed at the car.

And this doesn't just happen in the States. I was told this week about an incident in Montreal. The person, white, I was talking to was driving home with his foster brother-in-law, black. The car

stopped working. He put the blinkers on and a cop pulled up. The cop refused to help and issued him a ticket for blocking traffic. My friend responded by using some not very polite language. Later, his foster brother shared how scared he was. "Why?" "Because if I'd done that there would have been 5 cars and I'd be on the ground with guns at my head."

Back to Dr Radcliff. As well educated and successful black man living in a quiet neighbourhood. He does not assume there is safety. Even before Ahmaud Arbery was shot in February while jogging in his quiet neighbourhood for being black, they lived with a constant tension of fear. If he takes longer getting groceries than expected, his wife worries.

When there's talk of systemic racism, I think this is more what is meant. Not that it's intentional, but that it's so present in the lives of the victims.

I came across another example from a preacher reading the scripture before preaching and seeing his daughter sitting in the pew. The passage said, "I am dark but lovely."<sup>4</sup> They were both dark skinned and it hurt him to read that before his daughter. Was the Bible saying it's hard to be lovely if you're dark? Doing some research, it is just as valid for the passage to be translated as "I am dark and lovely." That is how the translation we usually use is, but others differ. Is the world view of the white male translators from times past influencing scripture and our view of the world.<sup>5</sup>

Where is God?

Can we turn to the Bible?

Yes, it's written and translated by people, but inspired by God... and shares experiences with where God is.

<sup>3</sup> <https://youtu.be/2cRY7DP5fT0>

<sup>4</sup> Song of Songs 1:5.

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.fourthchurch.org/community/racialequity/dark-and-lovely.html>

Here are some other passages that come to mind.

[Psalm 25: 16-22](#)

The Psalm affirms that the feelings of isolation and shame are not new, nor the violence. It helps us to realize that we don't need to be happy all the time. Sometimes the situation demands other feelings. It also suggests that God is who you can turn to - perhaps the only one you can turn to. ...and that there is hope.

and the victim is not the only one frustrated - angry.

Listen to this passage in which the prophet Amos is talking about those who have choices, ie. power. It comes from before they are led into exile. The gate mentioned was where justice cases were heard (like a court house).

[Amos 5: 10-15](#)

A little further down, God, through Amos, even says, Don't give me those offerings. I don't even want your songs. "But let justice roll down like waters, and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream."

And God doesn't just sit back giving speeches.

When I was putting together the Good Friday service, I found a script with numerous different views from people leading to the crucifixion - including Simon of Cyrene.<sup>6</sup> I'd never looked up where that was before this year. It's in North Africa, part of Libya. The script makes the point that he was black, and had probably been chosen from the crowd because of that. Then, like now,

would it be good for a black man to argue with a soldier or police officer?

[Mark 15: 15-24](#)

and where is God? God is present in Jesus, another person from an oppressed people suffering from injustice. Showing that God is not ignorant or afraid of injustice - even if it means defying authority and risking serious (fatal) responses.

And the story doesn't end here. It also shows that God is not defeated.

and in Matthew's Gospel, the story continues until the verse we started with. It continues with a statement about God the Father, God the Son and God the Spirit. And it ends with these words. "And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

Jesus reminds us, "I am with you."

In good times and bad,  
I am with you.

You... and you and you and you...

It's easy to take a passage in which Jesus is speaking to the gathered disciples and apply it to you. But remember it applies to anybody. To the people in your house, and your neighbours, and those who think, behave and look different. Even those who annoy you.

As I said, our boys are starting to ask "where is God?" It would be easy if we could say, 'in that house over there. That's God's

<sup>6</sup> <https://kckf.files.wordpress.com/2020/04/good-friday-april-10.pdf>



house.' - but that's not how it is. That's not how we experience God.

Instead we experience God as a leader, demanding justice for the vulnerable. We experience God as Jesus, who is not afraid to be with those who suffer. We experience God's Spirit, who works in and through us... and other people as well.

A last story. Somebody I knows was crossing the street here at Sherbrooke and Grande. As they were, a woman was struggling across with some bags. It looked like she would struggled walking even without the bags. She was black. He, a white man, offered to help. She politely turned him down. When the bus arrived he let her on first. When he got on he saw that the seat for seniors was taken by a couple of kids in private school uniforms. He asked them to move and pointed out the sign. They were bemused. He asked again. They told him where to go. He replied that if they didn't let her have the seat he'd get off at their stop and they wouldn't sit for a week. (I don't agree with that bit.) After taking a step closer, they moved. The woman couldn't believe someone had stood up for her. The rest of the bus applauded.

I don't think anybody in that story acted perfectly as God would want them to - but I do think God was there in the impulse to look after those in need - and in the people who recognized that was the right thing to do... even if they hadn't acted on it.

Where is God? God is experienced in many ways - and so we talk about the Trinity. With the boys we don't get into long explanations. We invite the boys to know that God gives instructions on how to live with others, that God is in the joys they see and feel, and with them when they are afraid or sad, and

that God's Spirit in them and the people around them.

*in the name of God the Father/Mother, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.  
Amen.*

♪ musical moment: Sarabande in D Minor.....Bach  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XbDedNsiVQk>

## *Responding to God*

### Activities

- Look for issues of injustice that you think should be changed. They could be issues liked to race, age, mental health, working conditions, community rules (official or not), environmental. Write to political, corporate, and community leaders to let them know. Refuse to support companies that don't fight injustice.
- Talk about these issues with your friends and neighbours.
- Pray about them, asking for intervention, and courage if God chooses to use you.

### FaithTalk

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

Memories: Share the memory of a time when you experienced or witnessed negative/hurtful treatment because of your race, gender, age, 'class', ...

Etching: Share about a time when you experienced or witnessed somebody standing up for another. How did that impact you? Have you done it?

Wonder: What would it be like if we recognized God in everyone? If everyone treated everyone with respect? If we were prepared for God to speak from anyone?

Actions: How could you help make the world a better place this week? (Hold each other accountable)

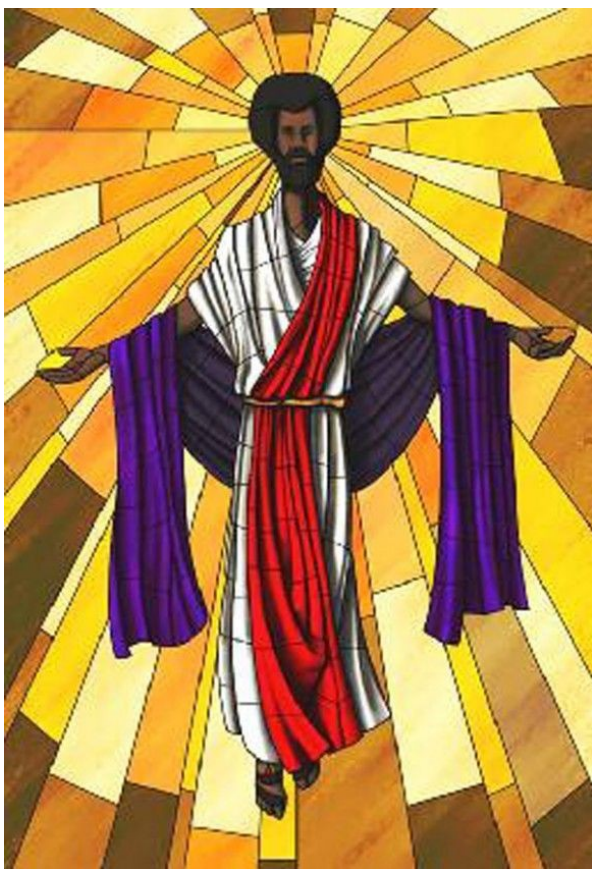
## Offering

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:** The Ground.....Gjeilo  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=09cqcwuCcNA>



## 🧎 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](mailto:prayer@Kensingtonchurch.ca)

God our Creator, Brother and Companion,  
we pray to you because you invite us to share our lives with you.  
We pray because you care for us,  
and because you remind us  
that there is more to your creation than just us.

We thank you for the health that we have,  
and we pray for those who are struggling with health.  
Struggling with sick bodies...  
with minds that struggle...  
and with their souls...  
We ask that you bring healing, comfort and peace  
to those who are sick.  
and we remember that nobody is in isolation,  
so we also pray for the family and friends of those who  
struggle...

Redeeming God,  
we come to you in a word that is more aware of violence.  
We acknowledge that our selfishness and prejudice  
are contrary to your embracing love and desire for justice;  
and that we allow patterns and ways to continue,  
that exclude and cause pain.  
We pray for forgiveness and change,  
in ourselves, our community, and the world...

Caring God,  
Jesus showed solidarity with the vulnerable and the oppressed.  
The horrible death of George Floyd has brought some of this

## Prayer Partnership



### **Sunday, June 7** – Enelesi’s Field

When Enelesi Daniel’s house collapsed because of Cyclone Idai, she and her four children were forced to seek shelter outside a school for three months. They lost their entire harvest and livestock.

At the camp, Enelesi was able to register for a Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) food assistance project. With the food assistance, the family could eat twice a day, enabling the children to go to school and Enelesi to work her fields. *“The project has made a difference because I could actually farm in my own field. I am so grateful because I could do my own farming,”* shared Enelesi.

**Monday, June 8** - We pray for the Rev. Dr. Blair and Vivian Bertrand, and their three children. May their transition to life back in Canada after serving three years in Malawi go well and be filled with many blessings.

**Tuesday, June 9** - We pray for those suffering because of isolation.

**Wednesday, June 10** - We pray for students in rural and remote summer placements. May this be a time of joy and learning.

**Thursday, June 11** - During National Indigenous History Month, we give thanks and pray for Indigenous leaders who are contributing to their communities, and to Canada.

**Friday, June 12** - We pray for stewardship committees working on plans for fall stewardship campaigns.

**Saturday, June 13** - We pray for Captain Steve Filyk, who serves as a reserve force military chaplain, and for his ministry of presence with the diverse communities that are part of the Canadian Armed Forces.

suffering to a greater awareness.

May your love touch all those who are victims of racism, ageism, classism, or other prejudice...

May your Holy Spirit bring them strength and liberation...

Reconciling God,

May your Spirit work in the hearts of those who oppress,  
opening an awareness of the pain they cause and giving them a desire to change the way things are...

and help us to increase our understanding,

and overcome our divisions.

To nurture a community that reflects all of your creations...

We pray all this in the name of our saviour Jesus,  
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Creator God, creating still.....pg 10  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ctz89xD-2qQ>

### Sending & Benediction

As you go from this time,  
know that God is always with us,  
leading us, standing by us, and working in and around us.

2 Corinthians 13:13

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.*

**Postlude:** Freedom is coming!

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUZpz\\_QSz48](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUZpz_QSz48)

(Bach’s church)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AuR8DVmQJQ>

(easier to understand words)



# God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian

BEETHYAN (SALARD) 8" 8" 11"

1. God the Spir - it, Guide and Guard - ian,  
2. Christ our Sav - iour, Sov - ereign, Shep - herd,  
3. Great Cre - a - tor, Life be - stow - er,  
4. Tri - une God, mys - ter - ious Be - ing,

wind - sped flame and hov - ering dove, breath of life and  
Word made flesh, Love cru - ci - fied, teach - er, heal - er,  
Truth be - yond all thought's re - call, fount of wis - dom,  
un - di - vid - ed and di - verse, deep - er than our

voice of proph - ets, sign of bless - ing,  
suf - fering Ser - vant, friend of sin - ners,  
womb of mer - cy, giv - ing and for -  
minds can fath - om, great - er than our

power of love: give to those who lead your peo - ple  
foe of pride: in your tend - ing may all pas - tors\*  
giv - ing all: as you know our strength and weak - ness,  
creeds re - hearse: help us in our var - ied call - ings

fresh a - noint - ing of your grace; send them forth as  
learn and live a Shep - herd's care: grant them cour - age  
so may those the Church ex - alts o - ver - see its  
your full im - age to pro - claim, that our min - is -


bold a - pos - tles to your Church in eve - ry place.  
and com - pas - sion shown through word and deed and prayer.  
life stead - fast - ly yet not o - ver - look its faults.  
tries u - nit - ing may give glo - ry to your Name.

\* Note: teachers, etc.

# Creator God, creating still

THIS ENDRY'S NIGHT 8 6 8 6 CM

D G/B A D G A /G D/F# Dmaj7 G Em Bm



1. Cre - a - tor God, cre - a - ting still by will and word and deed,  
 2. Re - deem - er God, re - deem - ing still with o - ver - flow - ing grace,  
 3. Sus - tain - er God, sus - tain - ing still with strength for eve - ry day,  
 4. Great Trin - i - ty, for this new day, we need your pres - ence still.

Bm G Em6 D/F# D6 Em 6 F# Bm D/F# Bm G A 7 D



cre - ate a new hu - man - i - ty to meet the pres - ent need.  
 pour out your love on us, through us; make this a ho - ly place.  
 em - power us now to do your will; cor - rect us when we stray.  
 Cre - ate, re - deem, sus - tain us now to do your work and will.



Trinity Window - Avondale PA