



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *That sounds Great*

June 28, 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*

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#### *Announcements*

**Re-opening the Church:** Our reopening committee has figured out a plan. We are now finding out if it's doable, and Session will be deciding soon.

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/>

**Free airconditioners** for seniors and those with pre-existing conditions  
[www.acforseniors.ca](http://www.acforseniors.ca) <http://ndgsc.ca/> or call: (514) 487-1311

<sup>1</sup> 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.
- **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]

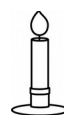
If you are interested, but these times don't work, please contact Peter

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



#### *Approaching God*

Prelude: Waldszenen, Op.82 - 1. Eintritt..... Schumann  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny8X7F\\_zjOI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ny8X7F_zjOI)



#### lighting the candle

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



Call to worship (based on Psalm 27; John 4:23)<sup>2</sup>

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

**The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.**

We desire to live in God's house

and to seek God in his holy temple.

**We have come with shouts of joy,  
to pray and to make music to the Lord.**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**Teach us your ways and make straight our paths  
in this time of worship and always.**

<sup>2</sup> Worship Sourcebook 1.2.5

### Prayer of approach<sup>3</sup>

Loving God,  
we come to you in worship and thanksgiving.  
You are greater than we can understand;  
sometimes it can be hard to tell which is the way.  
Open our eyes that we may see the wonderful truths  
you have shown to us in Jesus.  
You are more loving than our hearts can respond to;  
help us to give ourselves to you in worship  
so that we learn what you want us to be.  
You are wiser than we can know;  
still our minds as we worship you  
so that we can understand the things you are saying to us.  
Loving God, in Jesus  
you chose to come to the world in humility.  
You chose the path the world saw as foolish.  
You used what the world considered weak.  
**We worship and adore you.**

As we consider your ways,  
we recognize that sometimes we as a society, and individually,  
cause pain with our indecision;  
and sometimes we chose the wrong way.  
We support injustice, such as through our shopping,  
and allow injustice to go unchallenged in our larger society,  
and even in our neighbourhood.  
**Please forgive us for our association with these sins,  
and for our own participation in allowing hurt to go  
unhealed. . .**

We pray that your Spirit of forgiveness will wash away our sins,


<sup>3</sup> partially from Worship Sourcebook 1.4.42

and help us to change our collective and individual ways.  
**In Jesus name**  
**Amen.**

### Assurance of Pardon<sup>4</sup>

Here are words you may trust,  
words that merit full acceptance:  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life,  
he says, “Your sins are forgiven.”  
He also says, “Follow me.”  
Now to the one who rules all worlds,  
immortal, invisible, the only God,  
be honour and glory forever and ever.



 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.

<sup>4</sup> based on 1 Timothy 1:15, 17

🎵 Hymn: When voices are confusing.....pg 9  
<https://www.vapc.ca/podcasts/media/2018-01-01-hymn-636-when-voices-are-confusing>



## *Listening to God*

### 🧎 Prayer<sup>5</sup>

Lord God,  
help us to know your ways;  
teach us your paths.  
Lead us in your truth, and teach us,  
for you are the God of our salvation;  
for you we wait all day long.  
Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

<sup>5</sup> based on Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV

## Intro to the readings

There's a few things to just review before we get into the reading. This story is set in a different culture and is part of a larger story. Remembering these things will help appreciate what's going on.

The first thing is something their culture would see regularly and we don't: a yoke (y-o-k-e, not y-o-l-k). It's the way of connecting two animals, usually oxen, together to pull a plow... or something else heavy. It puts a big load on their shoulders - and the animal usually doesn't have any choice. They must do the work, or they aren't pulling their own weight anymore. There's a yoke in this passage.

There's also some history leading up to this passage.

The Babylonians had recently conquered Jerusalem. They dragged the king and various officials off (along with the Temple treasures), and set up a new king to look after their interests. King Zedekiah's reign starts a bit before our reading. Some people think of Zedekiah as a puppet and dream of the previous king's return. This isn't entirely true. The new king still has diplomatic connections with the neighbours, who are also serving the Babylonians. And they all hear the news... such as how a part of the Babylonian army rebelled. Even though they lost, it's inspired King Zedekiah to host a summit of local governments... with the topic being rebellion.

Exciting choices.


Which is a big part of the passage we're about to hear - choices. We're going to hear about two prophets with different messages. Who's right?

Here's an example of choices and interpretation. After Hananiah gives his prophesy, Jeremiah responds. Is Jeremiah seriously hopeful, or is he being sarcastic? John is going to try and



read it neutrally. How would you read it?

Let's hear the passage...

 Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>6</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

Jeremiah 27: 1-22

28: 1-11

Message:

That sounds great!

What do you think?

Sincere or Sarcastic?

Hananiah gives a hopeful prophecy, and then Jeremiah steps up wearing his yoke (something that's been depressing people all year). Jeremiah has been delivering doom and gloom prophecies for years. He showed no mercy before when standing up against prophets who disagreed with his message. The crowd must have wondered what sort of fireworks there would be. However he doesn't tear into Hananiah.

"Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words that you have prophesied,"

Does Jeremiah have hope that Hananiah is right? Is this a sincere response?

Then again, he is so confident he is right that he'd stand up to anything. How could he be having doubts now? Maybe it's sarcastic confidence?

"Amen! May the Lord do so; may the Lord fulfill the words



that you have prophesied, and bring back to this place from Babylon the vessels of the house of the Lord, and all the exiles."

How do we choose?

Of course, that's not the biggest debate in this passage. We've got two prophets competing before a live audience at the High Temple in Jerusalem. I wonder if the crowds were hoping this showdown would happen. Did the word spread through the streets? How much was it like two politicians on a debating stage? or a TV competition show? or street performers? I'm sure the crowd was excited to see it.

and it's not just the show, there's the question.

Who's right?

Because it's a question that's probably occupying the whole city. Should they resist the Babylonians or give in? Does God want them to show what they're made of, or accept what's happened? Is trusting God listening to Hananiah or Jeremiah?

How do we choose?

Jeremiah mentions past prophets. Hananiah's message is very similar to prophecies the great Isaiah made when the Assyrians were attacking the century before. Jerusalem resisted and God supported them. Is fighting back what God wants?

Or do we listen to so many other prophecies of judgment in which God highlights the faults of society, or a person, and tells of unpleasant consequences. Is this the consequences of their not living as God wants them to? Is acceptance what God wants?

Assuming they want to be faithful, how do they do that? Who's right? How do we choose?

<sup>6</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

Which is a question that is still asked.

- A big question in our congregation at the moment is when can we worship in person again. Do we come together and trust God to keep us safe (with wise precautions), or is God leading us in these new ways for a while longer?
- People are seeing the world differently. There's been less pollution (at the expense of many jobs). Is this good? There's been the convenience and hardship of working from home. Is God in this? Are we being led to a figuring out a new normal or should we try to go back to the way things were?
- There's people asking (demanding) defunding of the police. Minneapolis' city council will be asking their citizens to vote on disbanding the police. What will take their place? Where is God leading in this?

When do we fight for change and when do we accept the situation we're given?

How do we choose?

As Jeremiah suggests, look to God's work in the past. Since there are examples of both fighting for change and accepting, what's the bigger picture?

An advantage we have as Christians is that we see God in Jesus. Like a prophet, he tells us of the consequences of putting God first - and the consequences of not putting God first. Jesus also shows us.

We see Jesus fighting (flipping tables even) to remove barriers between people and God. He accepts the attention of the excluded, proactively inviting himself into their homes, and so breaks down barriers between people. He stops and heals those with broken bodies or spirits, removing their barriers to realizing

their potential. Breaking all these barriers upsets a lot of people.

We also see Jesus accepting the way things are going. He could have summoned an army of angels against the guards that came to arrest him. He could have quietly slipped away. He did neither. He accepted the hard situations as a part of where God was leading him.

We see Jesus fighting ways people are oppressed, and accepting the circumstances. Why? So that people could/can become closer to God and what God dreams they can be.

How would this have helped us if we had been back in Jerusalem trying to decide if Hananiah or Jeremiah were speaking God's message? I'm not sure. A victory could draw people back to God's way... although that hadn't lasted in Isaiah's time. Perhaps some forced humility and not being able to trust in ourselves would be better, like in the exodus from Egypt... which also didn't last.

Sometimes I'm amazed that God stays faithful to us - which I do believe.

So, how does this showdown of prophets help us?

It shows that it can be hard to figure out what is the right things to do. It shows that there are different examples to draw on. And if we look to how the story continues, we learn that sometimes God wants us to take some time out: to reflect on who we are and what our society has become.

When the time of occupation and exile finally end, they have a chance to reshape their society - as we do with isolation lifting. Do we take the opportunity to accept this 'time out' and reflect on our lives and the values they show? Can we learn how to follow God's way first? Do we try to change anything? Can we listen to

Jesus' example of when to resist and when to accept what's going on so that relationships between people, within people, with nature, and with God will be better?

How do you choose?

To God be all the glory  
Amen.

♪ musical moment: Humoresque..... Dvorak  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uB8mzdO3MnI>



<https://edwardsri.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/prizyv-900x675.jpg>

## Responding to God

### FaithTalk

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

Wonder: If you had been listening to Hananiah and Jeremiah, who would you have believed? If you can't make up your mind, what would you need to help?

Values: How much do you value being able to make decisions?

Actions: Are you somebody who makes decisions quickly? How do you make a decision?

Is there a difference between a small or big decision for you?

Memories: Remember times when you could not decide which was the right choice. When did you chose the wrong one? When did you chose well?

Etching: What advice have you been given about making decisions that you value?

### 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 Seal Lullaby.....Eric Whitacre  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kxTghSZupv8>

### 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)

Jesus,  
 You walked the earth and had to make decisions.  
 We pray for your help is deciding when to accept what is going on  
 and reflect on our relationships in it,  
 and when to fight.  
 Help to follow your way. . .  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Gracious God,  
 we pray for the faithful all over the world,  
 that all who love you may be united in your service.  
 We pray for the church here in Kensington and around the world . . .  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the peoples and leaders of the nations,  
 that they may be reconciled one to another  
 in pursuit of your justice and peace.  
 We pray for the world . . .  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer from prejudice, greed, or violence,  
 that the heart of humanity may warm with your tenderness.  
 We pray especially for those who suffer because of the way you  
 created them.  
 We pray for all who are oppressed . . .  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for the land, the sea, the sky—  
 for your whole creation, which longs for its redemption.  
 We pray that we may live with respect for your creation  
 and use your gifts with reverence.  
 We pray for the creation . . .  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

We pray for all who suffer the pain  
 of sickness, loneliness, fear, or loss,  
 that those whose names are in our hearts,  
 in the hearts of others,  
 or known to you alone,  
 may receive strength and courage.  
 We pray for those in need . . .  
 Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

God of compassion,  
 into your hands we commend all for whom we pray,  
 trusting in your mercy now and forever.  
 Amen.<sup>7</sup>

♪ Hymn: He leadeth me.....pg 8  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kW3IBZ2MBEw> (a capella)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UCQ4Mnd6xio> (trad)

## Sending & Benediction

Go from this time in faith,  
 remembering God's presence in the midst of life.

*Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV*

*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,  
 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus  
 to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.*



Postlude: Organ Symphony: Finale.....Saint-Saëns  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hopaQjQFUYw>



## Keeping Connected in Nepal

When Dr. Nicholas and Becky Bauman left Canada in 2017 for two years in Nepal, they were reviving direct connections with people after 20 years. The partnership between The Presbyterian Church in Canada and the United Mission to Nepal began in 1974, and the last mission internship was in 2000. God's mission in the world includes people who share their professional skills while learning about life and faith from co-workers and neighbours. The motto of Tansen Mission Hospital is "We Serve, God Heals." Nepal is very poor, and Becky soon became involved in Tansen's New Life Psychiatric Rehabilitation Centre, which cares for abandoned people with mental health issues. In January 2020, Becky and two of her children returned to Tansen to celebrate the Prayer Dedication of the new Centre, which receives support from Presbyterians Sharing. Although Becky lives in Canada, her deep commitment and partnership will continue. Praise God!



*Presbyterians Sharing supports international partnerships*

### DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, June 29** Merciful God, strengthen us by your Holy Spirit that today we may be witnesses to your great love for the whole world in Jesus Christ.

**Tuesday, June 30** In Christ we are all one family. We give thanks for the work of KAIROS that brings together many denominations to work together ecumenically for justice and peace.

## JULY 2020

**Wednesday, July 1 (Canada Day)** We pray that Canada will be a just and fair country, and we pray for politicians and public servants who form our laws and for judges, lawyers, law officers and others who help keep them.

**Thursday, July 2** We thank God for the diversity of age, gender, culture, experience and theological perspective that enriches the church. May our unity in Christ grow as we acknowledge our differences.

**Friday, July 3** We pray and give thanks to God for Jo Morris, organizer of Canada Youth 2021.

**Saturday, July 4** We celebrate in prayer as Presbyterian World Service & Development provides families in Malawi with the tools they need to start rebuilding their lives after Cyclone Idai.

## He leadeth me

HE LEADETH ME 8 8 8 8 LM with refrain

1. He lead-eth me: oh bless-ed thought! oh words with heaven-ly com-fort fraught!  
2. Some-times 'mid scenes of deep-est gloom, some-times where E-den's flow-ers bloom,  
3. Lord, I would clasp thy hand in mine, nor ev-er mur-mur nor re-pine,  
4. And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the vic-tory's won,

What-e'er I do, wher-e'er I be still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.  
by wa-ters still, o'er troub-led sea, still 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me!  
con-tent, what-ev-er lot I see, since 'tis my God that lead-eth me!  
e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God through Jor-dan lead-eth me.

Refrain He lead-eth me! He lead-eth me! By his own hand he lead-eth me!

A faith-ful fol-lower I would be, for 'tis God's hand that lead-eth me.



## When voices are confusing

WOLVERCOTE 7 6 7 6 D

Unison

1. When voic-es are con - fus - ing, when right and wrong are blurred,  
 2. When truth is hard to fol - low and fact is hard to find,  
 3. Our lives are yours: oh take us and shape our des - ti - ny;

A F#m Bm A/C# E7 F#m Bm7 E F#m A/C# Esus4-3 A (D/A/B)

we need your help in choos - ing the way to be pre-ferred;  
 when crowd - ap-peals are shal - low, re - shape, re - new our mind.  
 through will - ing serv - ice make us all you would have us be.

E/D A/C# Bm6 C# (B/D# C#/E#) F#m Bm7 E A E/G# A6 E/B B7 E(sus4-2-3)

our feet are prone to wan - der in paths un - true, un-tried:  
 Your ways we would be learn - ing: oh make our choic-es clear,  
 Con - firm this high en - deav - our a - gainst the reign of strife;

/D C Em F Am Gsus G/F C/E G6 Am /F#E/B B E

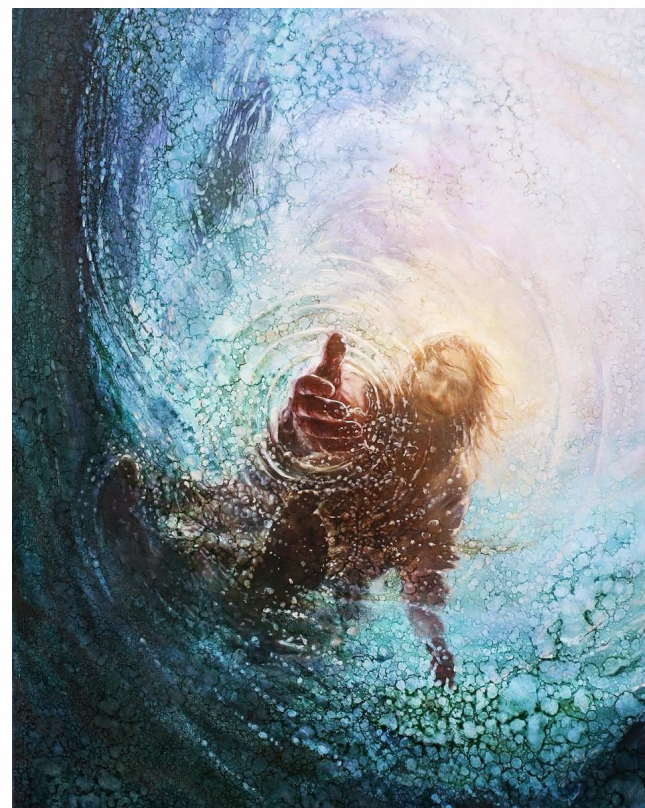
Alternate tune: Lancashire

Words: Miriam Drury (1900-) Music: William Harold Ferguson (1874-1950)

Words: copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1972 Music: copyright © Oxford University Press

O Christ, our strong com - mand - er, be - come our trust - ed guide.  
 that we, the more dis - cern - ing, the more may per - se - vere.  
 great Love, be ours for - ev - er, the Way, the Truth, the Life.

F#m Bm A/C# /D E 7 F#m Bm7 E F#m A/C# /D E 7 A



Yongsung Kim - The Hand of God