



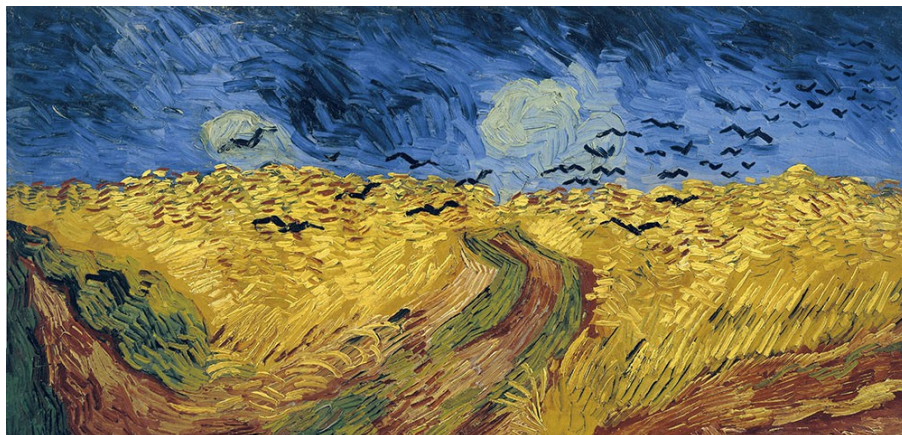
Kensington Presbyterian Church

## Encouraging Growing

July 19, 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)



Wheatfield with Crows - van Gogh

### 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:** After considering recommendations from the government and the Presbyterian national office, Session is looking forward to resuming worship in the building Sept 13<sup>th</sup> - with various precautions, such as cleaning of the building and physical distancing.

**Visiting:** In the mean time, if you would like to talk or have a physical distance visit (we can bring a chair and sit 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/>

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]

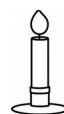
If you are interested, but these times don't work, please contact Peter

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



### Approaching God

Prelude: Down To The River To Pray.....Alison Krauss  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zSif77IVQdY>



#### 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.**

## Prayer of approach

God of light and truth,  
like these concepts, you can be difficult to grasp.  
there is so much we don't understand.

But you are there for us,  
we can come to you anytime, anywhere,  
and share with you anything.

This is amazing.

We try and compare you to a father or mother,  
but you are so much better,  
and so much more.

We come to you now and pray for your light to nourish us,  
and for your truth to sink into our roots  
so that we may grow well in the world.

We are grateful for the good seeds that you have planted  
and nourish inside of us,  
and we realize that there are weeds in us as well.  
Ideas and feelings that take root and grow,  
causing us to lose sight of your light and truth.

Causing us not to love you  
with our whole heart and mind and strength,  
and not to our neighbours as ourselves. . .

May your Spirit help us to grow in your way  
and to bear good fruit in your world.

In Jesus name.


Amen.

## Assurance of Pardon

Here are words from Psalm 25: 8-10

Good and upright is the Lord;  
therefore the Lord instructs sinners in the way.  
leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches them the way they should go.

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and decrees.

 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: Shine, Jesus, Shine.....pg 8  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAFcwns4uHc>



## *Listening to God*



### Prayer<sup>2</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.

### Intro to the readings

- chapter of parables about the Kingdom of Heaven
  - before this is the one about the good seed landing on different types of ground... or the different ways we respond to the word of God.
  - after this is the set about the small mustard seed that grows into a tree, and the yeast that grows the whole loaf.
  - and then the one about selling everything for the treasure in the field, or the precious pearl.



2 based on Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>3</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Psalm 25](#): 1-10

[Matthew 13](#): 24-30

### Message: Growing

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

Parables are great ways to teach. They are memorable (we're created for stories), and are vague enough to force us to think.

That said, a parable about farming 2000 years ago may not be quite the same for you and I as it was to the original listeners. What if we update it? How would you tell the parable now?

There was a really great pub in town. The food was good, but the atmosphere was magical. The afternoons were quiet and perfect for doing some writing, or reading a book. As the afternoon was ending it became a place where families came for a meal with the kids, which then shifted to the adults without kids... and then as the evening carried on the band would come in and the dancing started. *The Master's Pub* was a hub of the community.

And then COVID hit. The pub was closed. Everyone missed it. But numbers dropped and rules changed. The exciting news spread that it was reopening. Everybody wanted a turn, but caution was needed. Patrons were all asked the questions coming in. There was spacing of the tables, and no sitting at the bar. It was different, but still good. There was even music and dancing, for those who lived together.

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

And then the news hit. The Coronavirus had struck. How had this happened? Nobody had admitted to having symptoms or being at risk? Blame flew. It must have been the reckless youth. It must have been the kids from day camps. It must have been The Master not running a good operation.

Everyone was isolated. In the end those without were allowed to carry on, and those who had it... well, they had it.

It's not a perfect parallel, but it brings out some good points. Such as, there are people who aren't taking the virus seriously and are spreading it, usually unintentionally. This is making life harder for the rest of us. It's like the weeds in the parable making life harder for the wheat. To make matters worse, if you were to harvest the weed referred to in the parable, it usually contains a fungus that can make people so sick they die. If you were to judge based on what happens, well, it's not always good.

In both versions of the parable, the Master doesn't cause the problem. This isn't some plot to create herd immunity. What is different is that in the version Jesus tells it's clear that it is done intentionally by 'the enemy'.

Jesus has referred to 'the enemy' before this story. Back in chapter 5 Jesus tells us to love our enemies. To care for and want the best for our enemies. This is hard! In chapter 10 Jesus tells the disciples that the enemy will include members of their family. This is heartbreaking. Jesus also warns them to look out of the wolf in sheep's clothing. Dealing with 'the enemy' is hard and complicated.

One of the complications is that it's difficult to tell who is and who isn't, or in the case of COVID, who has it and who doesn't. We've all heard stories of people who had COVID, but didn't have all the symptoms, or any symptoms. There's also the other

side; it's possible to have a cough or a queasy stomach and not have COVID. Thinking of the original parable, there's trying to decide who's evil and should be cut out and burned. Did the person just cough, or was it a COVID cough?

For me, it's one of the reassuring aspects of this teaching. It's not up to us to decide somebody's final judgment. Just like leaving a COVID diagnosis to the experts, we leave the final judgment to the Master.

What do we do?

In the new version we all went into isolation until we could see who was good and who wasn't. In the original, the weeds were allowed to grow until the crop was ready - until the final fruit was ready to help or hurt.

and if we don't live in a parable? It looks like we try to love our enemies, while being wary that their roots may choke us if we're not careful. We also trust that in the end things will be sorted out, those with good fruit will go on and the bad will be burned.

What's the good fruit?

That's another story, but if you were to flip ahead to chapter 22 you'll hear Jesus' answer. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind" and "You shall love your neighbour as yourself."

Which, like a parable, is both vague and demanding at the same time. Exactly how do you do that? It'll vary depending on how God created you and what your situation is. It's also an excellent question.

And it leads into another aspect of the parable. Something that interpreters have talked about since the beginning is what the field represents. Is it the world in which there is good and evil done by the devil and people. This is the perspective we've taken



so far. Or is the field the church... which for me isn't much different except that we tend to expect the church and the people in it to be better than we usually are.

or is the field a person? Is it you? Are there good seeds in you planted by God trying to bear fruit, and bad seeds struggling for attention as well? Can you always tell the difference? Maybe others can help?

This is another part of what I find reassuring about this parable. God knows what's in my heart, mind and soul - better than I do. It is God who will judge. And something that is also obvious from Jesus taking the time later in the chapter to explain the parable to the disciples, and all the teaching that goes on in the Bible... and since... is that God not only judges, but also helps us to grow in healthy ways.

And growing is a part of this parable. A part that didn't translate well into my version. Jesus starts by saying, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like..." and goes on to describe a crop that is growing from it's seeds until it's harvest. The Kingdom of Heaven is a process that allows us all to develop into something better for all.

One last thing that I find reassuring, that I also don't think came across well. The final judgment is God's, and God cares for us and wants the best for us.

Can you create a parable that shows these things? That God doesn't cause the evil in the world or us. That we shouldn't judge others, but God will. and that God knows us and loves us.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*

♪ musical moment: July.....Tchaikovsky  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B8ayndIjc9A>



sunset wheat fields near Arles - van Gogh

## *Responding to God*

### FaithTalk

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

Wonder: Consider which parts of yourself are wheat and which parts are weeds.

Values: Share your frustrations and surprises at sharing a field/world with weeds.

Actions: How would you retell [the parable](#) with a new context?

Memories: What other parables do you remember? Which is your favourite? Why?

Wonder: If our actions have eternal consequences, how does this fit with our understanding of God's forgiveness?

## 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:** Just as I am.....Mahalia Jackson  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tw-g4-DTKfU>

## 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)

Alpha and Omega,  
you created the world and will be here at the end,  
and through it all, you love your creation.  
everything that is growing in it,  
even if it isn't good and will need to be destroyed.

**Help us to love the world as you do. . .**

Lord of lords,  
We pray for the leaders of this world,  
in countries where they look after the vulnerable,  
and in countries where they don't.  
We pray for corporate leaders,  
that they remember the human and environmental costs of  
business.  
and we pray for leaders in your church,  
especially those here in Kensington.

**Help the leaders to listen to your Spirit. . .**

Master Farmer,  
You have a vision of how we are to grow,  
and your Spirit is flowing through creation,  
Opening up new relationships,  
even as some wilt under Physical Distancing.  
Connecting us with others,  
even as our masks make barriers.  
Guiding us through this changing world.  
**Help us to help everyone to realize their potential.**

Jesus, you are the Great Physician.  
We are grateful for the health that we have;  
the ability to be with you in this worship and prayer.  
We also know there is so much that needs healing,  
from the environment to people.  
We pray for those who need healing  
in the bodies. . . minds . . . and souls . . .  
The week we especially remember Ken Harris as he grieves the  
unexpected death of his son Gordie.  
We thank you for all those who help with the healing,  
and pray for the strength and wisdom.  
**May your Spirit bring healing and strength to all in need,  
as only you can.**

Gracious God,  
we pray for your Kingdom to come,  
and your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
**In Jesus name,  
Amen.**



♪ Hymn: Amazing Grace.....pg 9  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tv6E9N7AQw>

## Sending & Benediction

*In your journeys to and fro  
God direct you;  
in your happiness and pleasure  
God bless you;  
in care, anxiety, or trouble  
God sustain you;  
in peril and in danger  
God protect you.*

*The amazing grace of God be with you all, now and always.*<sup>4</sup>

## Postlude: Amazing Grace

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=or93p4XFiwE> .....celebration  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pD31DS9dFqM> .....orch & choir



<sup>4</sup> Worship Sourcebook 9.2.18

Sunday, July 19

## MISSION MOMENT

### Meeting Milestones

In Haiti, more than half of the total population is chronically undernourished, the majority of whom are children. Drastic, unpredictable weather changes caused by climate change have left many families food insecure. Many are not able to produce enough nutritious food for their families to consume. Presbyterian

World Service & Development (PWS&D) works with local partners to bring nutrition to those who are suffering from malnourishment. Life-saving mobile clinics have been established to detect and treat malnutrition. Since the project began, 3,400 children have been treated, giving them the chance to regain their strength, meet developmental milestones and lead a healthy life.

***PWS&D supports healthy futures***



### DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, July 20** We give thanks for Louise Gamble as she returns to Owen Sound, Ont., after serving 13 years as a volunteer with the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan.

**Tuesday, July 21** We pray for ministers who are seeking to discern God's call to ministry. May they find friends and a comfortable sense of belonging as they adjust to their new environment.

**Wednesday, July 22** We pray for the work of the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network as it supports church communities working for racial justice across Canada.

**Thursday, July 23** We pray for the presbyteries as their moderators, clerks and members seek ways to support each other and to support congregations within their ministries with care and wisdom.

**Friday, July 24** We pray for ministers, elders and church workers who are taking much-needed vacations. May they be refreshed and re-energized.

**Saturday, July 25** We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Kootenay.

376

## Lord, the light of your love is shining

SHINE, JESUS, SHINE 9 9 10 10 6 with refrain (13 9 13 10)

Intro

Unison

1. Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing in the midst of the  
 2. Lord, I come to your awe - some pres - ence, from the sha - dows in -  
 3. As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness, so our fa - ces dis -

dark - ness, shin - ing; Je - sus, Light of the  
 to your ra - diance; by your blood I may  
 play your like - ness, ev - er chang - ing from

World, shine up - on us. Set us free by the  
 en - ter your bright - ness. Search me, try me, con -  
 glo - ry to glo - ry: mir - rored here may our

Words: Graham Kendrick (1950-) Music: Graham Kendrick (1950-)

Words: copyright © Make Way Music, 1987. Administered in North and South America by Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP. © Integrity Music, Inc. P.O. Box 851622, Mobile, AL 36685. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission  
 Music: copyright © Make Way Music, 1987. Administered in North and South America by Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

truth you now bring us.  
 sume all my dark-ness. Shine on me; shine on me.  
 lives tell your sto - ry.

Refrain

Shine, Je - sus shine; fill this land with the  
 Flow, riv - er, flow; flood the na - tions with

Fa - ther's glo - ry; blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our  
 grace and mer - cy; send forth your word, Lord, and

1. 2. Last time

hearts on fire. let there be light!

CCL No, 4440603



## Amazing Grace!



1. A - maz - ing grace!—how sweet the sound—that saved a wretch like me!
2. 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears re - lieved;
3. Thro' man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares, I have al - read - y come;
4. The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his Word my hope se - cures;



I once was lost, but now am found, was blind, but now I see.  
 how pre - cious did that grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 he will my shield and por - tion be, as long as life en - dures.



5. And when this flesh and heart shall fail,  
 and mortal life shall cease,  
 I shall possess within the veil  
 a life of joy and peace.

6. When we've been there ten thousand years,  
 bright shining as the sun,  
 we've no less days to sing God's praise  
 than when we've first begun.

St. 1-5, John Newton, 1779  
 St. 6, *A Collection of Sacred Ballads*, 1790

AMAZING GRACE C.M.  
 Traditional American melody  
 Adapted and harm. Edwin O. Excell, 1900



### Weeding

by Tom Gordon in *Welcoming each wonder*.

‘What’s a weed, Grampa?’ the little one asked.

There was weeding to be done,  
 and Grampa needed an apprentice  
 weeded.

And the enthusiastic helper wanted to get  
 it right,  
 and please her grampa.

‘What’s a weed, Grampa?’ the little one asked.

‘A weed’s a plant that’s growing in the  
 wrong place,  
 at the wrong time,  
 for the wrong purpose,’ Grampa replied.  
 And an apprentice weeder was none the  
 wiser ...