



Kensington Presbyterian Church

## *Forecasting hope*

*July 12, 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)



<https://i1.sndcdn.com/artworks-000248314145-u4ygmw-t500x500.jpg>.

<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.

**Funeral:** Gordon Harris, the son of Ken Harris, passed away in his sleep on Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>. A funeral will be held Tuesday, July 14 at 11 at Collins & Co, 5610 Rue Sherbrooke. There will be a limited number of people allowed and masks are strongly encouraged.

**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/>

## *Contacts*

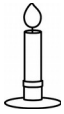
Church Office: 514-486-4559.....[info@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:info@Kensingtonchurch.ca)  
Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....[Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca)  
Antoinette (families).....[Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca)  
Kris Epps (music).....[Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Kris@Kensingtonchu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



## *Approaching God*

Prelude: For the beauty of the earth.....John Rutter

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTOfSKXkRa0>



lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

Let us worship God,

**for whom our souls thirst and our bodies long.**

God says, "Listen, listen to me,  
and your soul will delight in the richest of fare."

**We have come to hear the Word God has sent.**

God's Word will not return empty  
but will accomplish holy purposes, leading us to joy.

**Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.**



Prayer of approach

O God, we take this time to praise you,  
to recognize the great, and little, things you have done.

For you visit the earth and water it.

We celebrate that your word came into the world,  
and will accomplish all that you desire.

Lord Jesus,

we ask for your waters to refresh us when we are tired;

to soften us when our hearts are hard;

to clean the wounds that we have caused

and to wash us free from those ways we cling to that cause hurt

We come to you, grateful that your ways are not our ways,  
that you are more wise,  
more faithful,  
more forgiving,  
and more generous than us.

We come to you, the hope of all the ends of the earth.  
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Here are words from Isaiah chapter 55. (Isaiah 55:6-7)

Turn to the Lord and pray to him,  
now that he is near.

Let the wicked leave their way of life  
and change their way of thinking.

Let them turn to the Lord, our God;  
he is merciful and quick to forgive.



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: For the beauty of the earth.....pg. 8  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VUU6jkHh1n8>



Sower at Sunset -- Vincent van Gogh, Kroller-Muller Museum, Netherlands

## *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.

<sup>2</sup> 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 65](#)

[Isaiah 55](#)

### Message: Forecast of Hope

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

What a wonderful world.  
God pouring down blessings  
enriching the world  
causing it to grow with joy and peace...

It is possible that you are sitting in a comfortable spot with a deep sense of peace and joy. If so, please dose off for the next few minutes.

It's also possible that you aren't feeling that way right now. There's been the difficulty with the heat, and the isolation, and the fear of COVID, and the news that is always feeding us situations that are missing joy and peace, ...and then there's whatever else is going on in your life. Where are these blessings? How come the world isn't like the picture we just heard from the Bible? Who are these passages for anyway?

Which is always a good question. Isaiah was delivering a message from God to Israelites in exile - an exile that had already been going on for decades. As much as they might have tried to stay together, the reason the Assyrians had taken them into exile was to blend them into the great melting pot of the Empire. There are stories in the Bible, like Daniel and the Lion's den, of

<sup>3</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

the struggle to keep their ways. The story of Ester reveals violent antisemitism. The young adults who had been born in exile may have wondered who they were - whose they were. The local god or the God of their ancestors... who seems to have been defeated... or was it all part of the plan?

And they hear the words that God offers them food & drink, joy & peace. I wonder if they were confused. I wonder if they wished for this to be true. I wonder if this forecast gave them hope.

I've heard it said that giving somebody hope is to give them a new vision for the future. I believe that is what is going on here. The psalm and passage from Isaiah are not trying to describe the world we live in, they are trying to give us a vision for what God is recreating the world to be.

We are told in both passages about God's forgiveness, and about God coming to the world and watering it so that there will be abundant growth. The chapter in Isaiah starts with an invitation to everybody who is thirsty or hungry to have their fill - free of charge.

These sentiments are very different from other gods in the region. They only cared about their own pleasure. Their followers of these other gods might benefit, but most likely not.

Yaweh, the God of their ancestors, was different. The Lord of lords cared about them, promised to always be with them, and to lead them to a better way. Their God is like rain: refreshing, abundant & life-giving.

Did they wonder about these words? I imagine it was hard to see while living through the troubles.

This week Markus asked me why he can't see the plants growing. He knows they grow. He's leaned about it on the Magic School Bus, but when he sits down and looks closely, he doesn't

see any growth.

Is that what the Israelites wondered about God's word. We hear it, but how come we don't see the change or good times?

Of course, life had changed. They were learning some humility, among other things they may not have noticed. And God was at work. Like the rain and snow that comes down to nourish the crops. We don't see the water bringing life and hope, joy and peace, to the plants. Still, God is recreating the world to be better.

Which is all very nice, but it's still hard to remember this when surrounded by situations that bring frustration or pain. God recognizes this and had Isaiah gives the the reminder to look to nature. It's an example that works for me. I like being around people, but sitting by a river or lake, seeing the light dance on the water, hearing the waves and birds, feeling the caress of the breeze and warm sun; ...it fills me with peace. It reminds me of God's presence in the world, and what God is doing - even if some beer tins are dumped down the shoreline.

What about you?

Now, while I won't test you, but please try to think of specific examples to the next batch of questions.

Where do you feel God's presence?

Is it in nature? Perhaps for you it's in a place that is orderly - or in creating order, like cleaning or doing a puzzle. Perhaps it's in doing something creative, or active, or with others. . .

Who do you feel is experiencing the peace and joy of God? Whose life reflects the presence of the Spirit? It could be somebody you know in person, or through a book or blog or radio or podcast. For me, it includes some people I've never met, such as authors Madeline L'Engle and Eugene Peterson, as well as those I have, such as the senior members of this congregation. Who do you feel reflects the Holy Spirit? They would be good to



spend more time with, because this will provide the Spirit with another way to nourish you - more water for your soul.

Where can you see signs of God's work?  
In nature... In the community...  
Where is a seed spouting? Is this something that you can share with others?

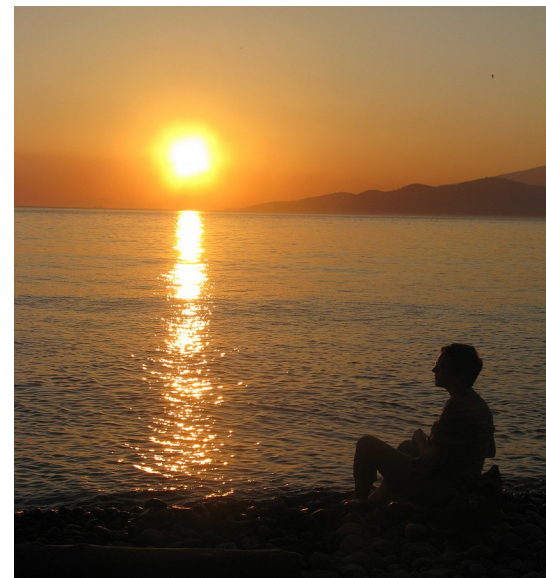
Are there signs of Life in your life? in you?  
Because some people may be so wrapped up in their pain that they may not see the signs of God's presence. God might invite you, like Isaiah, to share your witness of the Living God in your life.

Because while we can be like Markus, and not see the growth no matter how hard we look, God is changing the world for the better. As God says through Isaiah,

*My word that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and succeed in the thing for which I sent it.  
and you shall go out in joy,  
and be led back in peace;  
the mountains and the hills before you shall burst in song,  
and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands.*

To God be all the glory  
Amen.

♪ musical moment: Spanish Dance no. 4.....Granados  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFxnacQJF2o>



## *Responding to God*

### FaithTalk

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

- Wonder: What do you wonder about God and the world?
- Memories: Where do you experience God's peace or joy? Is it a place, situation, or activity?
- Memories: Within the last week, were have you seen signs of God at work? Where have you seen goodness or peace or joy or forgiveness?
- Etching: Who do you feel shows God's peace or joy (maybe not all the time)? How can you connect with them?
- Actions: Use these connections to reach out more to God?  
Pray and look for opportunities to share these thoughts with somebody else this week.

## 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 a wonderful world  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p-T6aaRV9HY>

## 🧑 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)

We praise you, God our creator, for your handiwork  
in shaping and sustaining your wondrous creation.

We especially thank you for

- the freedom we have to worship you...
- the miracle of life and the wonder of living . . .
- the rain that falls and brings seeds to spout and harvest.
- the resources of the earth . . .
- blessings coming to us in this day, both seen and unseen...
- the treasure stored in every human life. . . .

We pray for others, God our Savior,  
accepting your love in Jesus Christ for the whole world  
and committing ourselves to care for those around us in his  
name.

We especially pray for

- those who are not able to worship you freely. . .
  - those who live with other forms of oppression. . .
  - those living in the exile of refugee camps...  
may they have still have hope
  - those who work for the benefit of others . . .
  - those who have no work . . .
  - people who don't know your hope . . .
- and we pray for those who need your healing touch,  
bringing joy and peace to their bodies. . . minds. . . or souls. . .

God our creator,  
yours is the morning, and yours is the evening.  
Let Christ, the son of righteousness,  
shine forever in our hearts  
and draw us to the light of your radiant glory.  
Amen.

♪ **Hymn:** When the poor ones.....pg 8  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LKSF8M2TvSA>



## Sending & Benediction

As you go from this time,  
trust that the Holy Spirit is all around you and look for the signs.

*Romans 15:13, NRSV*

*May the God of hope*

*fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope  
by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

*Amen*

**Postlude:** three completely different versions of “you shall go out with joy” Isaiah 55: 12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ArpUACI3OXM>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5IZ1DaFvk>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fgk1r\\_0Psc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6fgk1r_0Psc)



## Sacred Spaces and Faith Formation

Camps and conference centres have been an important part of The Presbyterian Church in Canada for many years, providing vital ministry outreach to all ages. For adults, conference centres create “sacred spaces” for retreat, leadership development, education, missionary training, vocational discernment and so much more. For children and youth, a summer camp experience can help them to grow spiritually, socially and physically in a fun-filled and safe place of adventure and challenge. Camps play an important role in faith formation for children who would not otherwise have an opportunity to learn about Christ’s love. Please pray for PCC camps and conference centres so that they may continue to provide vital, life-giving outreach for many years to come.



*Presbyterians Sharing provides resources for camps*

## DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, July 13** We thank God who made the world, and all life, with incredible beauty and diversity. We pray for the wisdom and strength to honour these gifts and protect the world’s biodiversity.

**Tuesday, July 14** We give thanks for the pastoral ministry that our Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rev. Amanda Currie, is offering to our church. Remember her in prayer as she continues to serve in this office over the coming year.

**Wednesday, July 15** We pray for Major Kenneth MacRae, who serves as a regular force military chaplain in Edmonton, Alta., and for his ministry of presence with the diverse communities that are part of the Canadian Armed Forces.

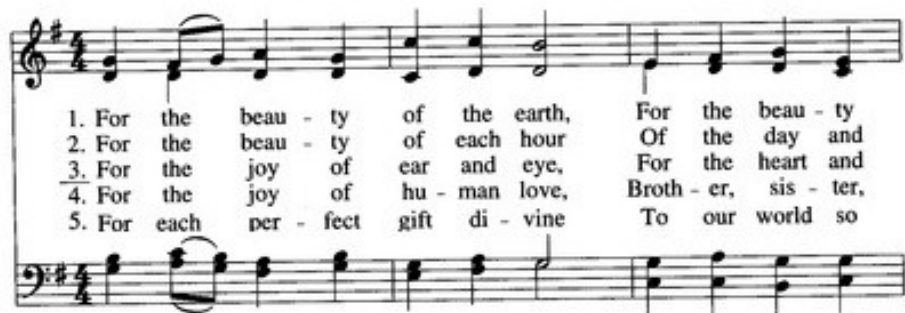
**Thursday, July 16** We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton.

**Friday, July 17** During the summer heat, we pray for our fragile environment and consider using air conditioning sparingly.

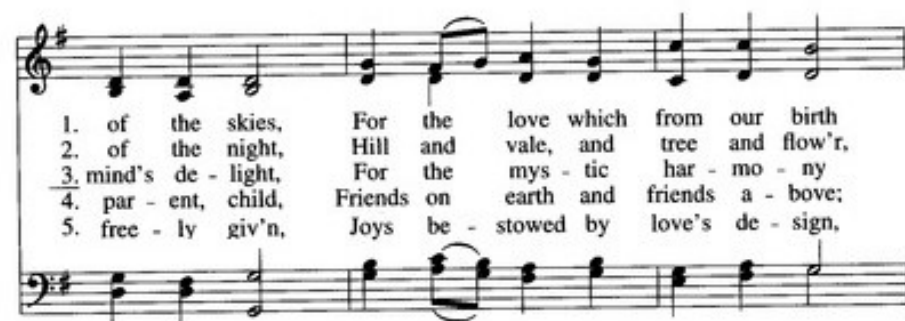
**Saturday, July 18** We give thanks for the creative ways that children’s ministry leaders are engaging with families this summer.



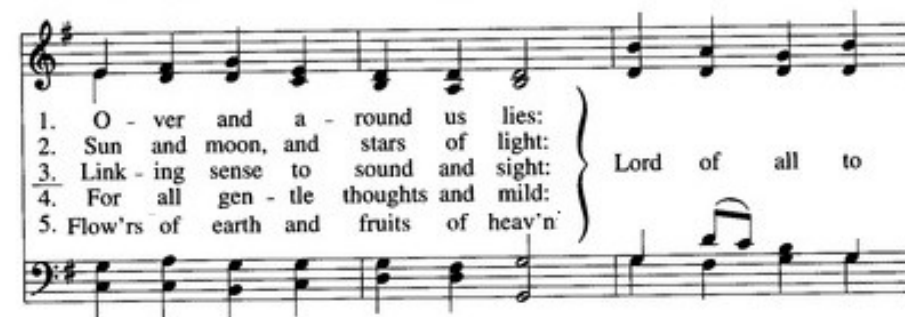
## FOR THE BEAUTY OF THE EARTH



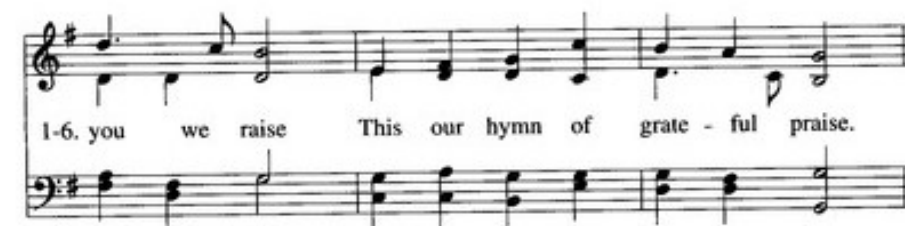
1. For the beau - ty of the earth, For the beau - ty  
 2. For the beau - ty of each hour Of the day and  
 3. For the joy of ear and eye, For the heart and  
 4. For the joy of hu - man love, Broth - er, sis - ter,  
 5. For each per - fect gift di - vine To our world so



1. of the skies, For the love which from our birth  
 2. of the night, Hill and vale, and tree and flow'r,  
 3. mind's de - light, For the mys - tic har - mo - ny  
 4. par - ent, child, Friends on earth and friends a - bove;  
 5. free - ly giv'n, Joys be - stowed by love's de - sign,



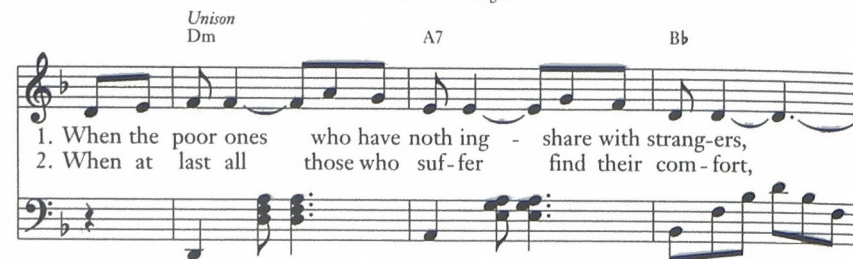
1. O - ver and a - round us lies;  
 2. Sun and moon, and stars of light:  
 3. Link - ing sense to sound and sight: } Lord of all to  
 4. For all gen - tle thoughts and mild:  
 5. Flow'rs of earth and fruits of heav'n



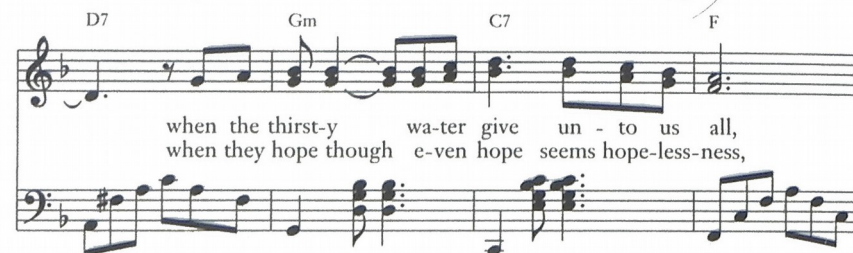
1-6. you we raise This our hymn of grate - ful praise.

## When the poor ones

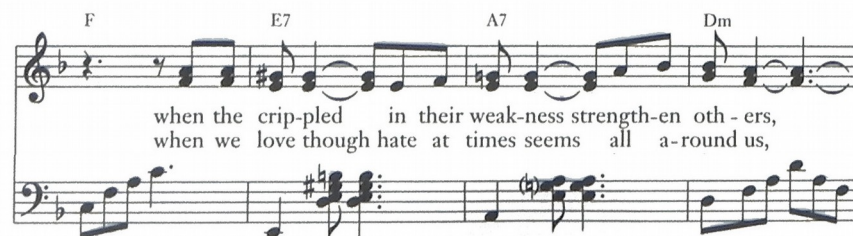
EL CAMINO Irregular



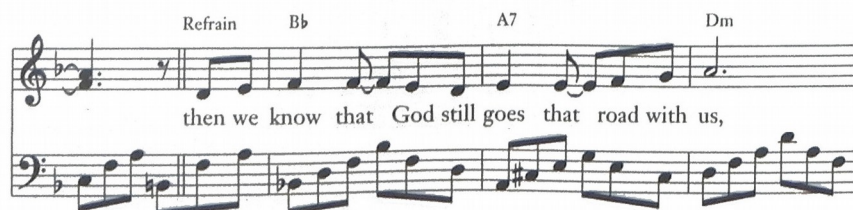
1. When the poor ones who have noth - ing - share with strang - ers,  
 2. When at last all those who suf - fer find their com - fort,



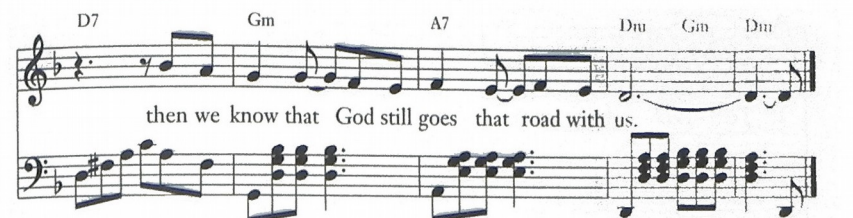
when the thirst - y wa - ter give un - to us all,  
 when they hope though e - ven hope seems hope - less - ness,



when the crip - pled in their weak - ness strength - en oth - ers,  
 when we love though hate at times seems all a - round us,



Refrain then we know that God still goes that road with us,



then we know that God still goes that road with us.

3. When our joy fills up our cup to overflowing, when our lips can speak no words other than true,  
 when we know that love for simple things is better,  
 Refrain:
4. When our homes are filled with goodness in abundance  
 when we learn how to make peace instead of war,  
 when each stranger that we meet is called a neighbour,  
 Refrain:

Words: Miguel Manzano, J.A. Olivar, English translation, George Lockwood (1946-) Music: