



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *Seeing the obvious*

July 5, 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)



Gáspár, Péter. Memorial to the Persecuted - Bearing a Heavy Weight Together, from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=55479> [retrieved July 4, 2020]. Original source: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kom%C3%A1rom554.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.

**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

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*

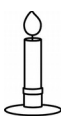
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Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....[Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca)  
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Kris Epps (music).....[Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca)



## Approaching God

Prelude: O Canada

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pUeLTZp-Dig>



lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

Hear this invitation from Jesus

*Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened,  
and I will give you rest*

*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;  
for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls.*

Let us spend time with God.



Prayer of approach

Wondrous God,

we come now looking for you,

with ideas and questions and yearnings.

May your Spirit help us to recognize you in all the various ways  
that you are working in this world - in your world.

Faithful One,

Paul wrote that sometimes he doesn't understand his own actions  
because he does things he doesn't want to do; things he knows  
are wrong.<sup>2</sup>

Merciful God, we too are involved with things that we know hurt  
others and creation. Please help us to escape the trap of these

sins. . .

We ask your Spirit to help us live the prayer Jesus teaches 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.**

Assurance of Pardon

Here are words you may trust. (based on Psalm 130)

Put your hope in the Lord,

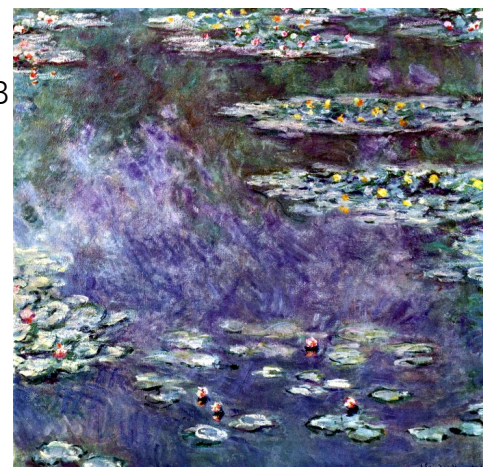
for with the Lord is unfailing love

and with Jesus is full redemption.

Jesus will redeem us from all our sins.



Hymn: This is my Father's  
world.....pg 8  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63r2UzN4VMc>



Waterlilies - C Monet





## *Listening to God*



### Prayer<sup>3</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

- The chapter before this focused on Jesus telling the disciples about the hard things that would happen when they go out to spread the word. In this chapter he is responding to questions about John the Baptist and the state of society.
- There's a line about not telling the wise. Jesus seems to talk to those considered wise, like the Pharisees, but they don't understand. I suspect that is the interpretation for that.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>4</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Matthew 11](#): 16-30

John the Baptist (Jesus MAFA)



<sup>3</sup> based on Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV

<sup>4</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

## Message: Seeing the obvious

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

If you had to guess how God would come into the world, what would you do? How would you describe the event? What would God look like?

Would God be an old white man with a beard down to his knees? Would God be grumpy, yelling at people to change their ways? Maybe dressed in an odd collection of uncomfortable cloths and living on the edge between civilization and social wilderness?



or would God be hip and fun? Going to parties and connecting with people - maybe even sneaking in some more refreshments if there's a danger of running out?

Which way would God come?

Those two descriptions are how people apparently saw John & Jesus. Which was closer to your vision?

There's the aloof or elite approach of John. He demands a lot... going out to the edge of civilization; hearing about how bad you and the world are; not getting a nice meal. In a weird way it's like buying a Ferrari. You can't just walk in and buy one; you have to apply. You don't just bump into John and ask a question, you've got to go through a lot to get there.

And then there's Jesus. You don't have to go looking, Jesus goes looking for you at parties, up trees and even in the gutter.

I'm also reminded of trying to get pets or children to do what I want - whether that's to leave something alone or to go for it. There can be the John approach, "If you don't eat your dinner you will be sent down to \_\_\_\_ (bed)!" And there's the Jesus

approach, “Hey, let’s pretend this spoon is an airplane and it’s coming in to land.”

Is that the way God works?

No, but God does recognize that we are all created different. We learn and respond to things differently, and so we need to be approached differently as well.<sup>5</sup>

Not that it seemed to be working for the group Jesus is talking about today. They seem much more interested in talking about the life style of John and Jesus than their message. Have you ever read a music review where they focus on the performers wardrobe? It’s like that. They’re missing the point.

And the individuals aren’t the only ones.

Jesus delivers a message the crowd would have expected from John, but is actually a part of Jesus’ message as well. He declares “Woe to you” and names a number of cities where he has been working. These are places that should have clued in about Jesus with what they’d experienced and be trying to change their ways... but they weren’t. They appreciated the show, and then got back to their lives.

Which is not what God is trying to do. God is trying to get their attention, and then change how they live so that the world will be a better place.



It’s not a new plan. They were given a set of rules way back. Ten Commandments to guide their relationships with God and each other. Rules that would create a just society for insiders and outsiders, ensuring that

everybody is looked after. And neither John nor Jesus are trying to change that. Instead Jesus came to ‘complete the law’ (Matthew 5:17), to refocus it, to summarize it: *love God and each other*.

And God is still trying to get us to change the world. (Personally, I think God is more patient than I can imagine... or more loving.) Now, like then, there is a lot going on in our lives. Our cities and societies have a flow to them - like a big ship moving at speed. It would take a lot to change course. And like that ship, it needs individuals to act or nothing will change. Individuals working together. Thankfully, there were people following John and Jesus back then who did change their ways - and they told others... who told others, all the way down the line to me and you. Individuals in community have spread the love of Christ all over the world - ideas on a good way to live in relationship with God and each other. Sometimes they’re even called rules.

Have you ever felt rules to be a burden? Has the system ever got you down? I suspect so. I also suspect that’s one reason why the end of today’s passage is so famous.

<sup>28</sup>*Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.* <sup>29</sup>*Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.* <sup>30</sup>*For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*”

Jesus is inviting us to learn from him and receive rest... by taking on the yoke Jesus puts on us. This isn’t the absence of work. God isn’t about not working. (Think of our example from the first story in the Bible. God works for six days, and only the rested on the seventh.) Jesus isn’t saying there won’t be work, but that we will find rest. That the burden will feel light.

Why is that? I suspect it is because when you embrace the work

<sup>5</sup> Which is an important aspect of us all being made in God’s image... there’s a lot to God.

Jesus gives you, you realize that it is given with respect and love. That your work is part of a larger work that will steer the world onto a better course.

And who is invited? “All you that are weary...” Everyone. Even those cities that might be “brought down to Hades” on the day of judgment - because that day hasn’t come yet. There is still time.

This is one of the reasons I think that God is more loving than I can imagine.

This reminds me of the experience somebody had in a small company they work at. Several years ago it went through a tough time as several talented people left. These people were frustrated because they didn’t feel respected and working just for money wasn’t motivation enough. They left. That has changed now and people feel cared for. They still aren’t paid lots, but working there now feels ‘lighter’.

And what’s this have to do with our opening questions? What will it be like when God comes? ...or even better, what is it like now as God comes?

God could be in any type of person or anyplace in society, but wherever that is, God will be trying to reconcile relationships. In doing so, everyone is invited to discover that doing the Lord’s work is lighter (not easy, but lighter) because we do it with God.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*

♪ musical moment: Little Prelude in C Major BWV 939.....J.S. Bach  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c3N8dxdPdEU>



## *Responding to God*

### FaithTalk

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

Wonder: What will it be like when Jesus comes again?

Values: What issue(s) is important to you that you believe is also important to God? How does ‘your’ issue impact others?

Memories: Share a memory of when you did something that in hindsight or the perspective of others should have felt hard, but wasn’t.

Actions: Prayer for help in accepting the yoke Jesus has for you. Look around for others who have been given a similar ‘burden’.

Pray for our city and nation that we will become the loving society God dreams for us.

### Activity: **Helping Hands**<sup>6</sup>

materials: coloured paper, pens/pencils, scissors, tape

- trace and cut out your hands
- Draw pictures of or write the name of somebody who helps us on each hand. (*You can include people whose name you don’t know.*)
- Share a bit about the people you have chosen.
  - celebrate what they do and how they are different (like John the Baptist and Jesus in Matthew 11: 18-19... but don’t complain like the people in the Bible.
- Say a prayer thanking God for them.
- post your collection on your front window or a wall. Perhaps you have enough colours to make a rainbow?

<sup>6</sup> based on an idea from ‘spill the beans’  
[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/66991/5-July-5-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/66991/5-July-5-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf)

You could also make something inspired by this...



## 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:** Freedom Trilogy.....P Halley and T Thomason  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5aBDSKbEao>

## 🧑 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 pray, O Lord, for the great variety in the way you work,  
and the way you invite everyone to join in  
with their own yoke to bear.  
a yoke that connects each of us to you  
and the coming Kingdom.

We pray for the artists (visual, musical, physical) who inspire us  
with visions that challenge us and visions that bring hope. . .  
We pray for the wise and knowledgeable who help us to live in  
better relationships with each other, the world, and ourselves. . .  
We pray for the children who remind us how to trust simply and  
completely as we should trust you...  
and the passion they have for important issues. . .

We pray for those who are on the edge of civilization. Those who  
don't look or act like people we want to listen to. Those who  
say things that challenge our way of living. May your Spirit give  
them strength and help, and us too. . .

We pray for those who fit into society, that they may extend your  
blessing on those they meet. . .

We pray for our leaders (political, church and corporate), that  
they may listen to your Spirit as they decide how we live. . .

and Lord, you are the great healer.

We pray that you bring healing to those who are suffering  
physically, mentally, or spiritually. . .

We pray for their families and care teams. . .

We pray for the sickness that is in our city...  
and polluting waters that give us life...

Jesus, bring your healing and life.

Lord, our God, we pray all these things with the confidence that  
you are loving and faithful. Amen.



♪ Hymn: I heard the voice of Jesus say.....pg 9  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUVCpF8-VuE>

## Sending & Benediction

As you go from this time,  
know that the Holy Spirit is all around you. Practice leaning into  
this - sharing your burden with God, and accepting the burdens  
God asks you to work on.

*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: The Rose.....King's Singers  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j9hXeBXAs9Y>



## Sunday, July 5 — MISSION MOMENT

### Sharing in Mission and Ministry Together

Presbyterians across Canada share in the mission and ministry of The Presbyterian Church in Canada through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. These gifts equip congregations, ministries and presbyteries; create and support new faith communities; embrace local, national and international mission; engage in healing and reconciliation, live out God's call to justice; support biblical and theological reflection and dialogue; encourage and empower children and youth—and so much more! All of this is made possible by generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. When we work together, we can accomplish far more than we ever could individually. Together, we are making a difference.



*Presbyterians Sharing puts faith into action,  
in Canada and around the world*

## DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, July 6** We give thanks for Annemarie Klassen and Anne Saunders who faithfully served on the Cutting Edge of Mission (E.H. Johnson) Committee for the past six years.

**Tuesday, July 7** We pray for the Rev. James Pott who serves as the convener of the Committee on Ministry and Pastoral Care for the Presbytery of Ottawa.

**Wednesday, July 8** We give thanks for those who have supported our theological colleges with the financial resources needed to educate and equip ministers and leaders for the church and the world.

**Thursday, July 9** We pray for families in Haiti who are learning how to combat malnutrition with support from Presbyterian World Service & Development partners.

**Friday, July 10** We give thanks for new ministries and congregations starting across the denomination.

**Saturday, July 11** We pray for interchurch families in which couples are married across denominational divides and participate together in two Christian communities.

# This is my Father's world

TERRA BEATA 6 6 8 6 D SMD Irregular

Chords: Eb /G Bb6 7 Eb (Fm/Ab C7/G) Fm Bb/D Eb

1. This is my Fath-er's world, and to my lis-tening  
 2. This is my Mak-er's world; the birds their car-ols  
 3. This is my Sav-iour's world; oh let me not for-

Chords: Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb Bb6 Cm G 7 Cm Bb/D

ears all na-ture sings, and round me rings the  
 raise; the morn-ing light, the li-ly white, de-  
 get that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God

Chords: Eb Cm Eb/G Bb7 Eb Bb/Ab Eb/G Ab Cm Eb/G

mu-sic of the spheres. This is my Fath-er's world: I  
 clare their Mak-er's praise. This is my Mak-er's world; God  
 is the Rul-er yet. This is my Sav-iour's world; the

Chords: Ab Eb/G Bb/F F7 Bb /Ab Eb/G Eb Bb6 Cm

rest me in the thought; of rocks and trees, of  
 shines in all that's fair; in the rus-ling grass, God's  
 bat-tle is not done; Je-sus, who died, shall be

Chords: G 7 Cm Bb/D Eb Cm Eb/G Bb7 Eb

skies and seas God's hands the won-ders wrought.  
 foot-steps pass; God speaks to me eve-ry-where.  
 sat-is-fied, and earth and heaven be one.

Words: Maltbie D. Babcock (1858–1901); alt arrangement anonymous Music: English traditional melody;



# I heard the voice of Jesus say

KINGSFOLD 8 6 8 6 D CMD

Em (D) C D/C G/B Em D (G/B D7/A) G Am C

1. I heard the voice of Je - sus say; "Come un - to me and  
 2. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly  
 3. I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's

Dsus4-3 G/B Csus2-1 (/B) Am7 D G/B A7/E D (/C G/B D7/A)

rest; lay down, thou wea - ry one, lay down thy  
 give the liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, stoop  
 light; look un - to me, thy morn shall rise, and

G /B C6 Am6 Em Bm Em (D7/F#) G C6 D G

head up - on my breast!" I came to Je - sus as I was,  
 down, and drink and live!" I came to Je - sus, and I drank  
 all thy day be bright." I looked to Je - sus, and I found

G Am G/B C Dsus4-3 G/B Csus2 /B Am

wea - ry and worn and sad; I found in him a  
 of that life - giv - ing stream; my thirst was quenched, my  
 in him my star, my sun, and in that light of

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808-1889) Music: English traditional; arrangement, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Words: public domain Music: Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church  
 kensingtonchurch.ca

G Em7-6 D (/C G/B D7/A) G /B C6 Am6 Em

rest - ing place, and he has made me glad,  
 soul re - vived and now I live in are him.  
 life I'll walk till trav - eling days done.

## Too Heavy by Tom Gordon in Welcoming Each Wonder

I once helped carrying a piano ...  
 I don't know if you've ever tried to lift a  
 piano,  
 but, if you have, you'll know how heavy  
 it is.

Well, I put my back out.  
 Not too clever, eh?

But the, I was lifting in the wrong way,  
 wasn't I?  
 And anyway, me and my buddy were too  
 stubborn to ask for help,  
 and too impatient to wait for it,  
 even if it had been available.  
 So we tried to move the piano ourselves.  
 Bad decision!

So, while I was nursing my bad back,  
 and not being allowed to lift anything  
 at all,  
 far less an awkward piano,

I got to thinking -  
 the obvious really -  
 that when there's something heavy to  
 carry,  
 it's better to get things organized,  
 and not be too proud to ask for help.  
 That way, the piano gets moved properly,  
 and everyone's happy;  
 and I don't have a bad back;  
 and I can try to help carry  
 someone else's piano,

some other time,  
 when they need my help with the  
 lifting.