



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Feeding Time

August 2, 2020

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ 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 the office info@Kensingtonchurch.ca (as Rev Peter is away from Aug 4-24).

Announcements

Worship Live: You can join us live over the internet - Sunday's at 10:30.

If you would like to join us, please contact the office for details.
info@Kensingtonchurch.ca

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 13th - 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 your elder 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/>

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

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

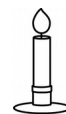
Contacts

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



Approaching God

Prelude: Prelude and Fugue in B flat, BWV 866.....Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0MdizeVzYPQ>



lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship

We have gathered here

to meet Jesus.

We have come seeking

the one who can heal us.

We are hungry

for the word of God

that satisfies and gives us life.²



Prayer of approach

Lord God, this coming to worship is serious business.

The world is out of joint,

and our lives are out of joint.

Generally we do our best,

² found in 'Spill the Beans' https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68525/02-August-9-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf

but You see what we are really like.
Sometimes we know very well we have gone wrong,
sometimes we just know that Your holiness is beyond us.
And yet Your compassion is over all You have made.

Have mercy on us.
Forgive what is wrong,
strengthen what is right,
and guide us in the right way,
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour.


Lord God, this coming to worship is glorious business.
All creation is made for Your glory,
and we voice that now.
Your Spirit plants hints of glory in our hearts,
and we delight to offer You our praise and worship.
Help us in our song to give You honour,
in our silence to wait for You to speak,
through Jesus Christ, Your living word.

Lord God, this coming to worship is hopeful business.
We come with our concerns and our fears,
with people on our hearts,
stalked by troubles and worries.
Open Your generous hand,
to satisfy our desire,
to renew our faith that You are kind,
and close to all who call upon You,
as we do,
trusting in Jesus
who bears our burdens, and carries our sorrows.

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now and ever shall be,
world without end,
Amen³

Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words from Isaiah: 49: 15, 66:13
*Can a woman forget her nursing child.
or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
As a mother comforts her child,
so will I comfort you, says the Lord.*
Know that God forgives all those who repent.

 **Lord's Prayer** (feel free to use another version/translation)
As we turn towards God, 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.**

³ by Rev Jock Stein https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/68525/02-August-9-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf



Swanson, John August. Loaves and Fishes⁴

♪ Hymn: All who hunger, gather gladly⁵pg 9
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXrB8x6-jbU>



Listening to God



Prayer⁶

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.

⁴ from Art in the Christian Tradition, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN.
<http://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=56553> [retrieved August 1, 2020].

⁵ interesting talk about the hymn <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c-YwwfAmY90>

⁶ based on Psalm 25:4-5, NRSV

Intro to the readings

- Today we have a story of two kings, two prophets, and two cousins... and about 10 000 others.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁷ or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Matthew 14](#): 3-21

Message: Feeding Time

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

Today we've got one of the classic Jesus stories - one that actually shows up in all four Gospels!⁸ Jesus is followed by a huge amount of people. He heals those in need and then feeds them. This is wonderful... but I wonder, if Jesus can do this, why do we still have people who need healing and feeding?

What's the point?

One way to explore this is to imagine the scene.

Let's start with the geography. Jesus arrives by boat, so it's near the lake.⁹ The land slopes upwards to the hills. There are some valleys that open up to the water, but this is between them and their cities.

People have come, 5000 men plus women and children. Most would have walked along the shore, but there's probably a good collection of boats as well.

These people heard and came. Have you ever been to an event with lots and lots of people? Especially one not constrained by

⁷ 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

⁸ Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14

⁹ less than half the length of Montreal Island and a few km less than our width

streets? Around the centre of attention there's usually some security creating a bit of space. Perhaps the disciples were doing that - or perhaps the crowd knew not to accidentally trample Jesus trying to hear better. Thankfully the slope up from the water would have helped with both their view and the hearing. Those closest to the star are densely crowded together. Others are trying to push through to get the attention of Jesus. As you get further away and up the hill the crowds get less and less dense. People are sitting on the ground (I'm not sure they had folding chairs yet). There's kids running around between them. I imagine there are trees around, maybe an olive orchard with jagged branches. Up in those branches are people trying to get a better vision.

Where would you be?

Who do you imagine would have been there?

(Perhaps you can relate to one of them?)

The rich and powerful were missing - they would have been mentioned. And anyways, the vast majority of people at that time were poor labourers: fishermen, farmers, carpenters, etc. It makes sense that they would make up the crowd. Imagine them in homemade clothes with simple colours from local plants. There were also traders in the area. They would have had access to more and probably wanted to look successful - it's good marketing for their business. Most of the crowd would have been Jews, but this was near the border, so there may have been other curious people.

Based on discussions recorded in the Bible, there were often religious people asking Jesus questions. People who take following God seriously - those who wonder how God wants them to live or what God wants them to do. Those who want to do the right thing. People like this had sought out John in the wilderness, recognizing their faults and wanting to change. I imagine this group would have included men and women. Would parents have

brought their children to hear about right and wrong? Where do you think they would be in the crowd?

I imagine some would want to just listen and consider what they experience. Others would have questions they want answers to. And, of course, there's a few who want to show off their knowledge. They need to be right on top of Jesus to get some of the spotlight.

We are told that Jesus cured the sick - so there were sick people there. These people would have been brought by their families and friends. Possibly carried on stretchers. They would have included physical and mental demons. Were they moaning in pain from the journey? Their families would have wanted to get them close to Jesus to be healed. Having carried them this far searching for hope, do you think they formed a nice line or was it more everybody clamouring for attention?

Many of the people were looking for a new kingdom to live in. They lived under kings appointed by Rome. As long as you paid your taxes and kept your head down you were probably left alone. Some of the crowd probably just wanted enough freedom to pay less taxes and get ahead for their family. Where would they be in the crowd? Perhaps in the shade of the trees?

Others felt the yoke of Rome chafe on their necks. They were supposed to be God's people. How come another ruled them? They were looking for a leader to bring about a new world order. Were they quiet spectators, or did they sing protest songs? We don't hear of Jesus teaching on this occasion, so they may not have had anything to respond to. Were they disappointed?

So we have a crowd of people eager to be healed in spirit, body and mind, others wanting to learn, and those wanting the Roman Kingdom to give way to the Kingdom of God. They brought their hopes, worries, fears and needs.

They also brought grief.

Herod killed John. Jesus hears this and goes to the wilderness. The crowds hear this and go too.

It seems that the killing of John is headline news. Herod has killed a prophet. The people reach out for another connection to God - Jesus.

When you are feeling grief or loss, worry or fears, where do you turn? Where do you place your hope?

In imagining this scene of Jesus with the multitude there is one person we haven't included yet... Jesus.

In our art he is usually wearing white. I can't imagine that staying clean. I'm not even sure the poor, which included Jesus, had access to white clothes. I wonder if they ran the boat up on shore, or did he jump out and get his feet wet.

In those days a teacher would sit to teach, but Jesus was healing here, so perhaps he was standing and doing the rounds.

The bigger aspect about Jesus being here, I think, is that Jesus was there.

He had heard the news of John locked up for speaking the word of God about Herod. Then he heard John had been killed. This wasn't just another prophet killed by the Israelites. This was John, his cousin and possibly his mentor being a prophet.

On hearing the news, Jesus needs some time to himself and sets off for the wilderness. He would have brought grief with him. Seeing this crowd, one that's bigger than most cities in the region, he should have been afraid that the officials would notice and he'd be next to lose his head. At the start of his ministry Jesus went into the wilderness and was tempted; I wonder if he was

tempted here?

But the wilderness isn't just a place where it's hard to live, it a place where you are shaped, like the slaves walking to the promised land. It's where you meet God, and God provides.

I'm not sure what Jesus found, except the importance of meeting people's needs before trying to get a break.

The crowds found Jesus, and while sickness and hunger weren't eradicated, they were met on that day.

They also found other things.

I don't know if they considered where Jesus was at, but in his grief (and possibly fear and doubt) he was compassionate. This wasn't just a feeling, but while still in the depths of the valley Jesus helped those who were also suffering.

Which might be the point of this story. It's not that God can feed people, it's that Jesus helps even when he wants to get away and deal with his pain.

And there's another point.

It is, and isn't, Jesus that does the feeding. When the disciples ask Jesus to send the crowds away to find food Jesus says, "you give them something to eat." As you know, they don't think they have enough.

Have you ever felt like that? Seen a need, wished you could help, but known that you don't have enough food or training or time or energy?

In this instance, they give it all over to God. Jesus blesses it and it is used. In the end there is not only enough, but so much that it can feed even those who aren't there.

Have you ever felt that overflowing abundance?

One of the nice things about working in churches is meeting all the other people who use the building. People like those in AA. People who have given themselves over to the higher power and have become a blessing for so many others. Even if they having a tough day, they will take the time to help somebody else in their suffering.

The feeding of the multitude. It doesn't end sickness or world hunger, but it's a great story.

It shows us a different sort of King and a different sort of kingdom. This isn't King Herod getting drunk in his palace and killing people. This is King Jesus, dressed in common cloths in the space between here and there. Jesus, showing us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.

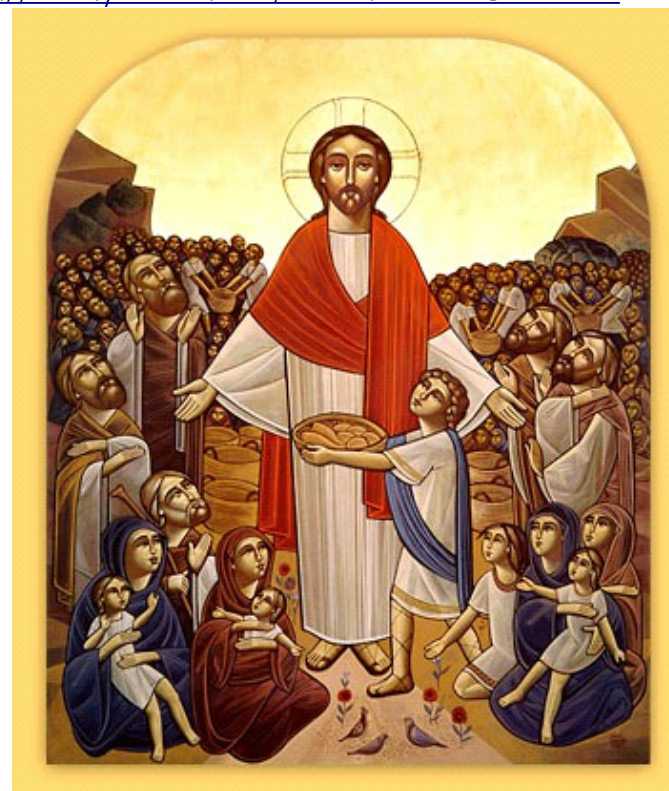
It reminds is that God is in the wilderness and the tough times. That God always acts compassionately for those in need. In this case it's even when Jesus himself is in need, God helps our needs.

It reminds us that we have resources, given by God. And if we offer it all to God's work, and we ask for God blessing, there will be more than enough everyone's health.

Which is great - because we live in a world like the crowd in the story. A world that contain sickness & hunger, worry and fear. The point of this story is that there is hope.

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.
Amen.*

♪ musical moment: La Cathédrale Engloutie..... Claude Debussy
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVMGwPDP-Yk>



Christ Feeding the Multitude , Coptic Icon Center

Responding to God

FaithTalk

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

Wonder: Imagine how the disciples felt when Jesus told them to feed the crowd. How did they feel afterwards? How did it feel to the crowd to be offered free food with no questions asked in a remote place in a time when food was not abundant?¹⁰

¹⁰ these questions come from Carolyn Brown on
<http://worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2020/07/worshiping-at-home-on-august-2-2020.html>

Wonder: Where would you be in the crowd?

Actions: When you are feeling grief or loss, worry or fears, where do you turn?

Etching: Share a time when you were surprised by generosity.
Share a time when you surprised yourself with your own generosity.

Values: What do you value? How has your experiences since the coronavirus influenced this?

Actions: What are your five loaves and 2 fishes?

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.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also good options.

♪ **Anthem:** Tabula Rasa

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

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

It is good for us, Lord, to spend this time with you.

Thank you for being here,

for being in a place that we can find you.

Open our hearts and minds to all that you have given us.

Thank you that we live in a place where we can worship you freely

We pray for those who are persecuted for following you...

Thank you that we have a church community,
We pray for Kensington,
the community you have brought together,
and those you want us to invite...

When also thank you for the community outside our congregation; for the gifts they bring.

While there are communities that face more challenges than ours, we recognize and pray for those in our community who are struggling with hunger, fear of evictions, loss of employment, and discrimination. . .

We thank you for those who have accepted your words to help with what we have, and we ask that you multiply these efforts so that all may have what they need.

Today, Jesus, we heard that you have compassion for those who come to in need. We heard how you healed.

We pray, LORD, for those who are sick or suffering.

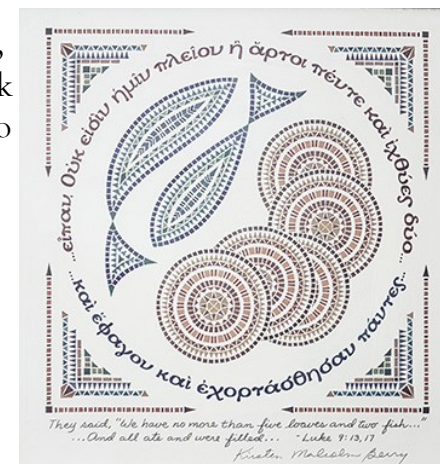
For those we know...

and for those only you know...

We leave these burdens with you,
and recognize that you may ask
us to give from our blessings to
help others.

Thank You God,
for the gift of Jesus,
the gift of the Spirit,
the gift of faith.

Amen



♪ Hymn: Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ.....pg 10
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPepGhMD3CQ>

Sending & Benediction

*May the grace of Christ, which daily renews us,
and the love of God, which enables us to love all,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, which unites us in one body,
all make us eager to give to the building of the Kingdom of Heave,
until we meet again,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord.¹¹*

postlude: Spiegel im Spiegel.....Arvo Pärt
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TJ6Mzvh3XCc>



The Potluck -- David Fichter, Cambridge, MA



11 adapted from Worship Sourcebook 9.2.4 - which is based on 2 Corinthians 13:13

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church
kensingtonchurch.ca

Sunday, August 2 — MISSION MOMENT

Making Space for a New Generation of Believers

The Well Church in Mississauga, Ont., started with a group of only 13 people. They were drawn together by their deep love of Jesus and a desire to share that love with others. Inspired by a vision to become a welcoming space for second-generation immigrants, they developed a style of evangelism and worship that spoke to those they desired to reach. Since the congregation started worshipping together three years ago, their community has grown and has become a home for many young people who had strayed from the church. Please pray for the Well Church and the many other churches in The Presbyterian Church in Canada that are making space for a new generation of believers.



Presbyterians Sharing supports new faith communities

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, August 3 We pray for new ministers in first pastoral charges.

Tuesday, August 4 We pray for congregational leaders who are taking vacation this month. May this be a time of rest and renewal.

Wednesday, August 5 We pray for the Assembly Council as it continues to give leadership to the denomination during these changing times. Give thanks for each member's leadership and commitment to serving our church, and especially for the convener, Ms. Sandra Cameron Evans.

Thursday, August 6 (Anniversary of the 1945 bombing of Hiroshima)

We remember the victims from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945 and pray to God for an end to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

Friday, August 7 We give thanks for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a guiding light on the path to justice and reconciliation.

Saturday, August 8 We pray for Indigenous women in Guatemala as Presbyterian World Service & Development works alongside them to improve empowerment and self-esteem.

Daily Prayer & Mission Moment Calendar • June – September 2020 • presbyterian.ca/worship

All who hunger, gather gladly

HOLY MANNA 8 7 8 7 D

Unison

F Dm Gm Dm Am Gm7

1. All who hung-er, gath-er glad-ly; ho-ly man-na
2. All who hung-er, nev-er strang-ers, seek-er, be a
3. All who hung-er, sing to-geth-er; Je-sus Christ is

Bbmaj7 Dm C/E Dm C Bbmaj7

is our bread. Come from wil-der-ness and wan-dering.
wel-come guest. Come from rest-less-ness and roam-ing.
liv-ing bread. Come from lone-li-ness and long-ing.

Am Bbmaj7 C6 F F /E Dm7 /C

Here, in truth, we will be fed. You that yearn for
Here, in joy, we keep the feast. We that once were
Here, in peace, we have been led. Blest are those who

See also: Holy Manna 305

Words: Sylvia G. Dunstan (1955–1993) Music: attributed to William Moore (fl.1825); harmony, Charles Anders (1929–)

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Bbmaj7 /A Gm7 Dm Bbmaj7 C6 Bbsus2 Am7 Bbmaj7 Gm7 Csus2 - 3

days of full-ness, all a-round us is our food.
lost and scat-tered in com-mun-ion's love have stood.
from this ta-ble live their days in grat-i-tude.

F Dm C Gm7 Am Bbmaj7 C6 C F

Taste and see the grace e-ter-nal. Taste and see that God is good.

Let us talents and tongues employ

Linstead 8 8 8 8 LM with refrain (5 5 5 3)

C Dm7/C F/G C G7

1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2. Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

C F/C C C Dm7/C F/G C

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

G7 C/G G C Refrain C

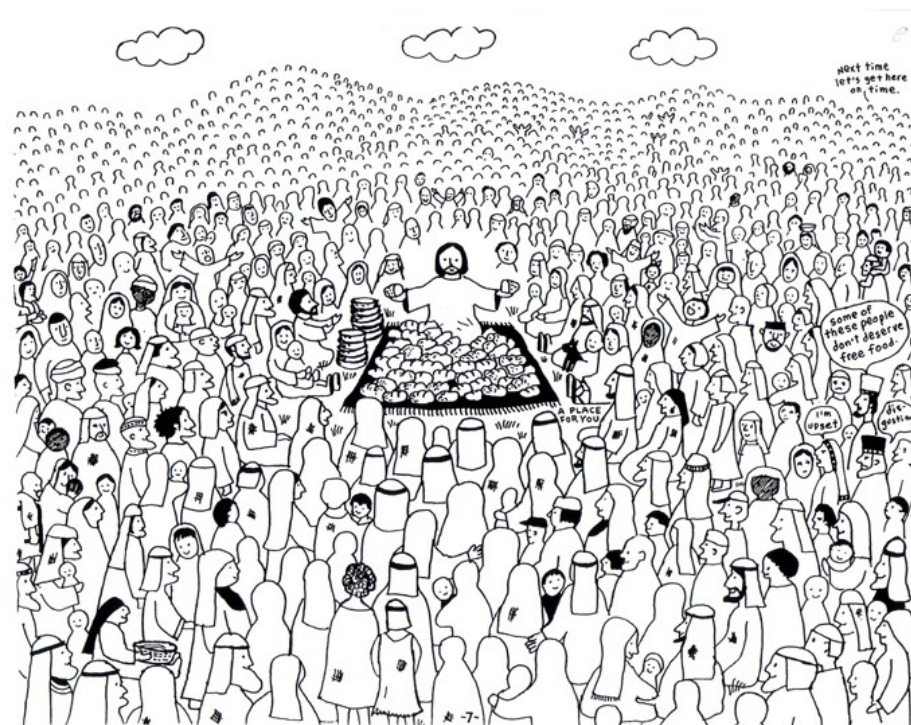
Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) eve - ry - where!

F (Dm7) G7 C F C

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-) Music: Jamaican folk song; adaptation, Doreen Potter (1925-1980);
 arrangement, Andrew Donaldson (1951-) CCLI #4440603

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MATTHEW 14:13-21

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