



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Holy _____

August 30, 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 Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca).

Announcements

Re-opening the Church: Session met, prayed & reflected this week on re-opening the building for worship. We decided that while not meeting physically is hard, we are concerned about expanding community interactions with schools reopening and the increase of cases in Europe (who's school return ahead of ours). We are continuing to monitor the situation and prepare for our return.

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.

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

Contacts

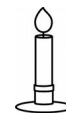
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¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Approaching God

Prelude: Concerto for violin and oboe, Adagio.....JS Bach
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vLCm9xZ9cL8>



lighting the candle

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



Call to worship

As we gather all over,
even at different times
Give thanks to the LORD, call on God's name,
make known God's deeds to everyone.
Sing to the Lord, sing praises,
tell of all God's wonderful works.
Let us worship God.



Prayer of adoration

Mighty Lord, you are holy,
set apart from us,
but also breaking all the barriers
between the throne and the world.
Coming to us in all sorts of ways,
so that your holiness shines in our lives.
We sing your praise...

♪ hymn: Holy holy holy (Argentina).....pg 7

Prayer of confession²

We confess to you that often our eyes are so downcast
that we fail to notice your presence all around.
We confess that, even when your presence is startling,
we can be so wrapped up in ourselves that we fail to notice.
We confess that we have missed opportunities to tell others
about your work in our lives and the lives of others.
We confess that we rarely live up to the identity of being
Christian because we hold on too tightly all that we have
and by excluding others from our circle.
Forgive us, O God. Lift up our eyes to see You everywhere. Draw
us out of ourselves to notice Your presence all around.
Give us boldness to proclaim Your works. Release us from the
limits we set ourselves,
freeing us to love and welcome others in Your name.
Commission us anew,
in the light of Your forgiveness
to draw attention to You in all of life.
Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

In the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus,
we are assured that there is no sin so terrible
that God cannot forgive,
no hurt so terrible that God cannot heal.
God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.

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,

² adapted from a prayer by the Rev Liz Crumlish. https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/68533/30-August-13-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf

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: Holy Holy Holy.....pg 8
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bmUypfMUfAI>



Listening to God

Prayer

Dear God,
Help us to pay attention to your light,
so that it will be like a flashlight
lighting the best way to walk.
Through Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Intro to the readings

- Today's passage is very familiar, so in the live version we're going to divide it up to help you pay attention.





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

[Exodus 3: 1-15](#)

[Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b](#)

Sermon: Holy _____

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

You've had some top 10 Bible passages recently. We started the month with the feeding of the 5000. Somebody was telling me that while I was on vacation you heard about Peter walking on water. Today we've got the burning bush.

There's a reason this is one of the most famous passages in the Bible. It's exciting and down to earth. It's intimate and big. It's got Moses being called by God to bring a better life to people - and Moses replying with, 'Could you send somebody else.' It's got a Burning Bush that isn't being burnt! Something packed with energy, mystery and light - and has become the most common logo for Presbyterians - including us. And there's the shoes.

The shoes are what struck me this week.

Moses is fascinated by this bush that is on fire but not being burnt. He goes over and hears the voice of God say, "Remove your sandals from your feet, for the place on which you stand is holy ground."

Who knew?

Moses was just watching over some sheep out in the wilderness. There's wasn't any Temple, no priest at the entrance, no sign.

How are you supposed to know if you're on holy ground?

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

Something that is Holy is considered to be blessed, and set apart from the common or ordinary. It's special and powerful; it's something that touches your soul.

And it does that because God makes it so. It's not because it's a high mountain or because special words were said. Something, or someone, or some-when is Holy because God is there and makes it not common. It is extra-ordinary.

It could be a place - such as a church. There's a long history of building places to meet God, and it works. They help us to focus and provide reminders of God's presence (and presents).

An example for me is the outdoor chapel at Gracefield, a Presbyterian camp north of Ottawa. It's along a path connecting the main building to the campfire hill. If you're in a hurry you can miss it, but if you stop there is a beautiful peace that rests there. It is a place apart from the busy path of life in which I find God more noticeable. It's a holy place.

Another place I've experienced this is on the island of Iona. Perhaps it's different during the tourist season, but when I was there I could feel that this had been a place people had worshipped God for over a thousand years. I felt closer to God. It's a holy place.

Where have you felt close to God?

How did you acknowledge this?

Time can also be holy. Every week we are challenged to have a Sabbath - a time apart from the regular week to focus on God. Like what you are doing right now. We also have special festivals that are set aside from ordinary days, such as Easter and Christmas. They are Holy days. Tomorrow is Labour Day. While I don't think this holiday has Christian roots, I wonder if we can

combine thinking about work, workers, and how God wants us to relate with each other.

Are there times or events when you feel closer to God?
How did you acknowledge this?

And there are holy people - people who are sometimes really connected with God. The church word to describe them is righteous, but that word's often connected with arrogance now. However, in my experience these are people who are humble and honest about who they are. I've met some professional holy people - monks and nuns who set themselves apart from regular people to encounter God. Peace seems to radiate from the ones I've met. Have you met people who seem extra-ordinarily connected with God? How did you acknowledge this?

I hope you've encountered the holy in one of situations I just described. But dedicated places, times, and even people, are not the only options that God makes holy.

Take Moses for example. He's a failed prince and a failed justice fighter who's now tending sheep out in nowhereville. He doesn't seem to have any connection with God. It's just a regular day. Moses is just walking along, going about the daily grind, when he notices something unusual - something different from the norm - something that has been touched by God - something holy.

And this is part of the wonder and difficulty with God.
Anyplace, anytime, anyone can be holy.

Because God can be anywhere, anytime. The Holy Spirit can

be working through anyone. You could be walking down the street in a cloud when the sunlight catches a bush - reminding you of this story and God. Is that a holy moment?

For me, I find moments in which I feel closer to God more often in nature settings - such as paddling down a quiet river seeing the light dance on the water. God also finds me in the city. Sometimes when I walk about in cities I am amazed at what people can build together, and remember that God made us to create and build.

More often in cities I marvel at people. The glimpses I see of God in them - people who are doing extraordinary things. Is this holy work? Sometimes I meet people I would describe as holy. People who have curiosity about things, and allow time to wonder, and are willing to share what they have in skills and time and possessions with those in need. People who channel the Holy Spirit's work in making the world a better place. They might be even be like Moses: incompetent at first, then unwilling, then faithful and blessing others - holy people.

One person like this I've only met through interviews, articles he wrote, and songs. Rich Mullins wrote many songs - the most famous of which is *Awesome God* (sadly the verses are rarely sung). He was very open about his weaknesses and struggles and lived a very humble life. Who have you met or encountered that has been a blessing?

Because blessing is a sign that something or someone is holy. This is not to be confused with easy, just ask the Israelites as they followed Moses through the desert, but it is better.

Another aspect of holy is that it's real. Sometimes that's easy to see, like the person making meals for a shelter. Sometimes it's harder, like sunlight hitting a bush at the right time to remind you of the burning bush. Nobody else may see it, but it's real. I

wonder if this is a reason why Moses had to take off his shoes - so that he would feel the ground on the souls of his feet - so that his soul would know that this encounter was real. God is in the common things... and makes them holy.

That was a new thought for me about the Moses taking his shoes off. I'd always thought it was a sign of respect, but if you read how Moses responds to God, it's not exactly respectful. My next thought was about acknowledging the space as holy. It reminds me of my orthodox colleagues when I was a student chaplain in a hospital. They would always make the sign of the cross when passing through the chapel. It's an idea that appeals to me. It helped turn the room from just a room into someplace that was different from other rooms. It helped remind me that this was where people gather to be with God - even if at the moment we're just walking through. I think that acknowledging the holy is part of what's going on.

This week I came across another thought. Karla Suomala wrote about travelling in Japan and having to take her shoes off when entering buildings. She was curious and did some research. She found a survey that showed for most people taking off their shoes was both keeping the inside clean and being able to relax and be themselves. She wonders if God was inviting Moses to get comfortable, to relax and be himself. What do you think?

Whether you take your shoes off or not, God creates holy places, holy times, ...and even holy people. They can be anywhere, anywhen and anyone. If we learn from Moses, we will always be looking and be curious, we will listen and acknowledge our holy encounter, and we will be real with our God who is really there.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.

♪ musical moment: At the fireside.....R Schumann
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7ui1e82aVM>



Responding to God

FaithTalk

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

Etching: What are your top 10 favourite Bible stories?

Memories: Tell about a place, or an occasion, or a person in whom you felt closer to God. You can have multiple answers.

Wonder: Wonder how Moses felt when he saw the burning bush - and then when God spoke.

Action: How would you show (draw?) the burning bush?

Action: Create a place in your home to be a holy place - set apart from distractions for you to spend time with God reading your Bible and praying. Create a space in your week to use it.

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: Ola Gjeilo - The Lake Isle.....Tenebrae
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ao11wqXm2d4>

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

○ Holy God, the time is come when school begins. As your children return to school, we ask that you keep them safe, keep them excited, keep them wanting to learn more and to develop their gifts. We pray that through their study, they may gain the tools to grow in love and faith and service, all their days.

○ Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, ○ God, the teachers in the coming days and months. Keep them safe. Give them the wisdom to find inspiration for each student. Give them the energy and creativity and love that will make their allow holy moments for all.

○ Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Bless, ○ God, all school custodians, secretaries, and principals that they may create a welcoming and safe place for our students and teachers. Make them wise and patient.

○ Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

Help the students, teachers, ...and ourselves
to look for a burning bush,
to listen for your voice,
and help to take of our shoes in your presence.

○ Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

And God, there are other things going on
in our community as well.

We prayer for...

- those who are facing change in their lives,
and those who are trying to help them
- those who are physically sick
and those who have medical procedures this week to help
- those who are suffering from mental illness
that they may know your healing
-

○ Lord of Life and Love,

Hear our prayer.

We come to you, knowing that you are in all these situations
and more.

In Jesus name

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Take time to be holy.....pg 9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFApbg-wcmE> or

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

Sending & Benediction

*May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ
the love of God*

*and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you as you go from this holy time.*

postlude: Holy, Holy, Holy!.....sung by Mahalia Jackson

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



Sharing the Good News with Each Other

In only three years, the *Presbyterian Connection* newspaper has become a much-loved resource for the national denomination. The newspaper is distributed four times a year to churches and individuals across Canada. The mission of *Presbyterian Connection* is to equip leaders, connect congregations and missions, facilitate communication, and highlight denominational work. Sharing our successes and celebrating our ministries through stories, reflections, interviews and articles not only keeps congregations and Presbyterians continually informed and connected, but also strengthens our denominational ties across the country. Support from Presbyterians Sharing helps to ensure this important ministry continues.

Presbyterians Sharing shares the good news



DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, August 31 We pray for the Atlantic Mission Society executive as it meets to prepare for the AMS Annual Meeting to be held in September.

SEPTEMBER 2020

Tuesday, September 1 (Labour Day) We pray for the Leading with Care Committees in congregations, camps, colleges and other ministries.

Wednesday, September 2 We pray for congregations that are encountering struggles to support all the areas of ministry they would like to do in Christ's name.

Thursday, September 3 We pray for children who are starting school this week. May this year be a time of growth and learning.

Friday, September 4 We pray for a smooth transition as the Graduate School of Nurses in Indore, India, partners with the Christian Hospital in Indore to start a four-year degree program in Nursing.

Saturday, September 5 We pray that the faculty of Knox College, The Presbyterian College of Montreal and the Vancouver School of Theology find joy and wisdom in and for the work of theological education.

Holy, holy, holy

SANCTUS (ARGENTINA) Irregular

C G 7 Am F G F/C C

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly. My heart, my heart a - dores you!
 San - to, san - to, san - to. ¡Mi cor - a - zón te a - do - ra!
 Dieu saint, Dieu saint, Dieu saint: mon coeur, mon coeur t'a - do - re!

F G7 C Am F G7 C

My heart is glad to say the words: you are ho - ly, Lord.
 Mi cor - a - zón te sa - be de - cir: ¡San-to-e-res Se - ñor!
 Mon coeur le sait, mon coeur te le dit: Tu est saint Seign - eur.

Words: Argentine traditional liturgical Music: anonymous; arrangement, Pablo Sosa (1933-), Iona Community (Scotland)

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Holy, holy, holy

NICAEA 11 12 12 10

D Bm A 7 D G (A9/G) (A9/G) D

1. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God al - might - y!
 2. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! all the saints a - dore thee,
 3. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly! though the dark-ness hide thee,
 4. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord God al - might - y!

A/C# D A/C# Bm E/B A/C# D A/E E7 A 7

ear - ly in the morn - ing our song shall rise to thee.
 cast - ing down their gold - en crowns a - round the glass - y sea,
 though our eyes in sin - ful - ness thy glo - ry may not see,
 all thy works shall praise thy name in earth and sky and sea.

French

- Gloire, gloire, gloire, honneur et puissance;
que ton nom soit exalté sur terre et dans les cieux!
Gloire, gloire, gloire, force, obéissance,
Pour ton amour, pour tes dons merveilleux!
- Gloire, gloire, gloire, redisent les anges,
joignant leurs sublimes voix au chœur mélodieux:
Gloire, gloire, gloire, des chants, des louanges,
partout frémit l'immensité des cieux.

Words: Reginald Heber (1783–1826), Hymns Written and Adapted, 1827, alt., French translation,
 H. Arnéra, revised R. Gerald Hobbs, 1996 Music: John Bacchus Dykes (1823–1876);

D Bm A 7 D G D

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y,
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim fall - ing down be - fore thee,
 on - ly thou art ho - ly; there is none be - side thee,
 Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, mer - ci - ful and might - y,

Bm D/F# D7/F# G D 7 G Em/G A7 D

God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!
 who wert and art and ev - er - more shalt be.
 per - fect in power, in love and pu - ri - ty.
 God in three Per - sons, bless - ed Trin - i - ty!

- Gloire, gloire, gloire, victoire, espérance,
les saints et les bienheureux proclament tous en chœur:
gloire, gloire, gloire, Dieu de toute grâce;
de nos péchés tu es libérateur.
- Gloire, gloire, gloire, honneur et puissance;
toute la création chante à notre Rédempteur:
Gloire, gloire, gloire, force, obéissance,
au Père, au Fils, au Saint Consolateur.

Take time to be holy

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY 11 11 11 11

1. Take time to be ho - ly; speak oft with thy Lord.
 2. Take time to be ho - ly; the world rush-es on;
 3. Take time to be ho - ly; let him be thy guide,
 4. Take time to be ho - ly; be calm in thy soul,

A - bide in him al - ways, and feed on his word.
 spend much time in se - cret with Je - sus a - lone.
 and run not be - fore him, what - ev - er be - tide.
 each thought and each mo - tive be - neath his con - trol.

Make friends of God's chil - dren; help those who are weak,
 By look-ing to Je - sus, like him thou shalt be;
 In joy or in sor - row, still fol - low thy Lord,
 Thus led by his Spir - it to foun-tains of love,

for - get-ting in noth - ing his bless-ing to seek.
 thy friends in thy con - duct his like-ness shall see.
 and, look-ing to Je - sus, still trust in his word.
 thou soon shalt be fit - ted for serv-ice a - bove.

Words: W. D. Longstaff (1822–1894) Music: George C. Stebbins (1846–1945)
 Words: public domain Music: public domain

brainstorm on Exodus 3 by Rev Liz Crumlish

https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/68533/30-August-13-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf

Holy ground
 Sacred space
 Inviting intimacy
 Facilitating vulnerability
 Cultivating call

For even when our awareness is
 of God who is the ground of our being
 inhabiting every moment
 present in every breath
 still we are compelled
 to turn aside
 to glimpse that which is beyond
 our familiar sightings.
 Compelled
 to turn aside
 to glimpse afresh
 the intriguing
 mischievous
 butt kicking
 playful
 God

who knows when we have settled for less
 when we have resigned ourselves
 to a life that brings peace

but not fulfillment or the abundance God desires for us
 God knows when we are riding the car ferry rather than the
 coracle because we fear we are not enough or even too much...
 God shakes up our complacency and offers new perspective
 but only when we risk
 stepping off the well worn and perhaps hard won track
 so that we might glimpse an unimaginable future
 that can only be forged in partnership
 with a pyromaniacal God.