



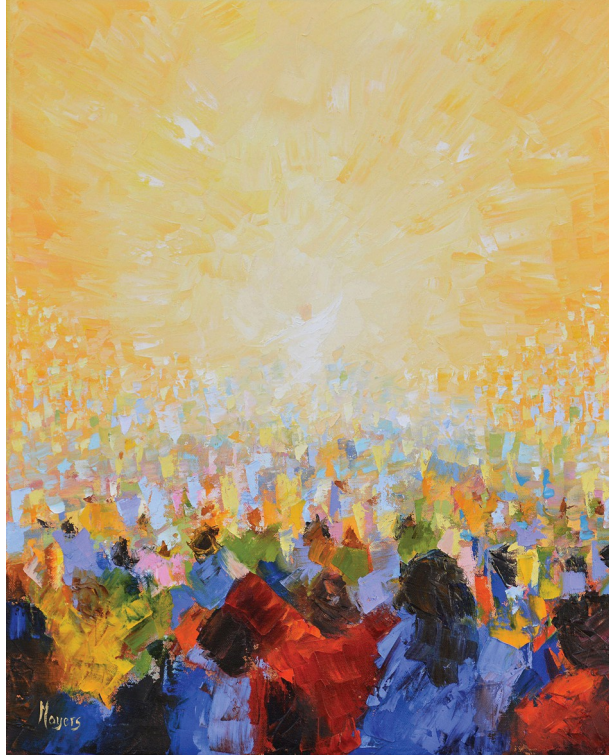
# Kensington Presbyterian Church

## Emotional Response

September 13, 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).



Hallelujah - M Moyers

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

## Announcements

**Miracle du 13 Sept:** will be collecting non-perishable food today at noon (or thereabouts) from your front steps. For more information: [miracle13septembre.org/en/home](http://miracle13septembre.org/en/home)

**Re-opening the Church:** Session met, prayed & reflected this week on re-opening the building for worship. We are pleased that there has not been a strong resurgence, but we are still cautious. We have plans to improve the ventilation in the building to reduce the risks, and improving the Audio/Visual equipment so that we can include people at home in our on site worship. Our current reopening date is November 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Prayer Group:** in nice weather, meeting in the courtyard of the Benny Farm. Tuesdays at 10 a.m. Please contact Rev. Peter for the time.

**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.

**Bible & Theology Classes:** The *Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality* is offering their Monday classes online for anybody who is interested. There are several to chose from, such as reading the Bible in a contemplative manner, exploring Jesus' life, death & resurrection, and JRR Tolkein: Good & Evil. If you're interested, visit [www.osts.ca](http://www.osts.ca)

**Youth Night:** 6pm on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and last Fridays of the month.

**Movie/Book night:** more details to come.

**Tech Help?** For those needing help using their computer or something, you can contact New Hope through [newhopetechaid@gmail.com](mailto:newhopetechaid@gmail.com) or 1-800-295-0428

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

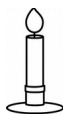
## Contacts

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: Goldberg Variations: Aria.....J.S. Bach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqZ6emhb0p4>



### lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



### Call to worship

Here we are, looking for you.

**Here you are, Jesus, looking for us.**

Come to you with all our good parts, and bad.

**Invited here by your Spirit.**

So let us worship the High King - our saviour and friend.



### Prayer of adoration<sup>2</sup>

Holy God,

You are the Word behind all words,  
the calm at the core of the storm,  
the energy that sustains creation.

You are present in the pain behind the tears,  
the laughter in the eyes,  
the yearning in the heart.

All these you share,  
yet your gifts to us is much more.

So, open us up, Lord,  
we whose lives are locked,  
whose thoughts are well rehearsed,  
whose prayer is predictable.

Open us up to depths we have not explored,  
truths we have avoided,  
paths we have not followed,  
beauty we have yet to admire.

And open us up to Jesus,  
in whom all things are held together for God  
and for our good.

Amen.



### Responsive prayer of confession

Loving God, we admit that we are not always loving and kind.

We know that we can be selfish and mean to other people,  
even to people we love.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Forgive us for the words we say and the things we do that hurt  
other people.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

But God you love and forgive not only us, but all people. Teach  
us to be like you. Show us how to love and forgive those who  
are not kind or loving to us. Give us your power to forgive  
them when they are as selfish and mean as we sometimes are.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Help us forgive them when they do things and say words that hurt  
us.

**Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Forgiving God, your son Jesus taught us this prayer and then died  
on the cross to prove to us that you do forgive us and everyone  
else in the world. Teach us how to pray this prayer. Make us  
deeply aware that we are forgiven. And, help us forgive those  
who sin against us. For we pray in Jesus name.

**Amen.**

<sup>2</sup> A Wee Worship Book 5<sup>th</sup> ed., 27.

Assurance of Pardon (with actions)

[palms up]

The Lord is merciful and loving,  
slow to become angry and full of constant love.

[horizontal slash with palm down]

He does not punish us as we deserve  
or repay us according to our sins and wrongs.

[point up hug selves]

As high as the sky is above the earth,  
so great is his love for those who honour him.

[push one hand to 'east' then other to west]


As far as the east is from the west,

[make wider]

so far does he remove our sins from us.

[fold hands together in prayer]

Amen.

 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.

♪ Hymn: Praise, my soul, the King of heaven.....pg

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx1eMwIDFb8>



Hear My Praise - R Blumenfeld



## *Listening to God*

### Prayer<sup>3</sup>

Dear God,  
help us turn our hearts to you  
and hear what you will speak,  
for you speak peace to your people  
through Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.

### Intro to the readings

- we're going to have three readings this morning. Two from the Bible and a children's story.
  - *Mama, do you love me?* by Barbara Jooisse. Apparently there are lots of errors in the illustrations, but there is still a good lesson for us.
  - The psalm is a love song written praising God, and reminding us of various things as well. What in it do you need reminding of?
  - The Matthew passage continues on (actually overlaps) from last week. Previously in this teaching section Jesus had reminded people about:
    - being humble,
    - being hard on themselves to stop their own sinning,
    - that the shepherd will leave the 99 to find the lost one... and celebrate their return
    - that we should hold each other accountable - pointing out somebody's sin to them
    - and... this section wraps up with today's passage
  - There are some sums of money referred to. You'll probably figure this out, but the first is huge (billions of dollars), and the other is more manageable (about a 100 days work)

<sup>3</sup> based on Psalm 85:8



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).

[Psalm 103: 1-13](#)

[Matthew 18: 21-35](#)

[Mama, do you love me?](#) by Barbara Jooisse<sup>5</sup>



### Sermon: An Emotional Response

Dear Lord, please bless these words  
and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>6</sup> Amen.

The story about little girl is cute, and reminds us about the love a parent has for a child - something that is also mentioned in our psalm today. The Bible often refers to God as a parent and to us as the children. What I like about both the story and today's psalm is that we are given some perspective from the parent's side.

<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

<sup>5</sup> available through the Montreal Public library

<sup>6</sup> Psalm 19:14

The psalm sings that the LORD is both slow to anger, and doesn't hold onto it forever. This reminds me that God gets angry. We don't talk about that much. We focus on God's love, but God does get angry with us.

I think it's important to remember the God feels emotions. It's not surprising, we have emotions and we are created in God's image. Do you ever get angry?

Of course you do, even if you avoid the word. How does it happen in you? Do you show it? I had a room-mate who would explode when she was angry... and then it was gone. When Alexander is angry he sometimes throws things. Imagine if God got angry like that? ...

The mother in the story admitted that she would be angry if her daughter did something bad, and that she would still love her. Can you remember feeling that way? ...

As a parent, I definitely feel it more than I used to, and I'm grateful it's not too often. It's usually when I'm tired or hungry and one of the boys is trying to be their own person... against what I want them to do... such as coming to dinner, or getting dressed so we can go. I know God has ideas for us that would be better than what we want as individuals - so I'm sure God can relate. I wonder if God also gets tired or hungry? Probably not anymore, but Jesus would have.

Still, God does get angry, but another emotion is referred to more in the psalm - God's love for us. And it's not a wishy-washy love, but a "steadfast love." Like the mother who will love her child even if she breaks something by accident, or does something bad, or changes into something scary.

This is an important point in our relationship with God. As Jesus taught in Matthew chapter 18, this is a love that will cause the shepherd to chase down the person that wanders away. A love

that will forgive a huge debt. It's something that we all need. If God were to "deal with us according to our sins" than we'd be in trouble.

We might be like a story Jesus told earlier and fail to realize we have a 'spec' in our eye - something that's causing us to see and act the wrong way... perhaps a bling spot to our own faults. We might even be like the person from last week's passage that refused to listen when others try to humbly point out what we do that hurts the community or ourselves.

or we might be like the privileged slave who realizes our mistakes, the ways we have hurt others or ourselves, and ask to make it right... and then not show the same mercy to others.

and 'others' is another important point.

The Psalm and the Gospel passage are not just about our relationship with God - they are about God's relationship with them, and our relationship with them. We describe these relationships as community - and that's what this collection of teachings by Jesus is about: living in healthy community, or healthy relationships.

Relationships take work. To keep any relationship going there needs to be commitment, safety, and trust. Part of the commitment is helping others know when they are hurting the community or themselves (ie. sinning), and also admitting when we do it ourselves and trying to stop (ie. repenting).

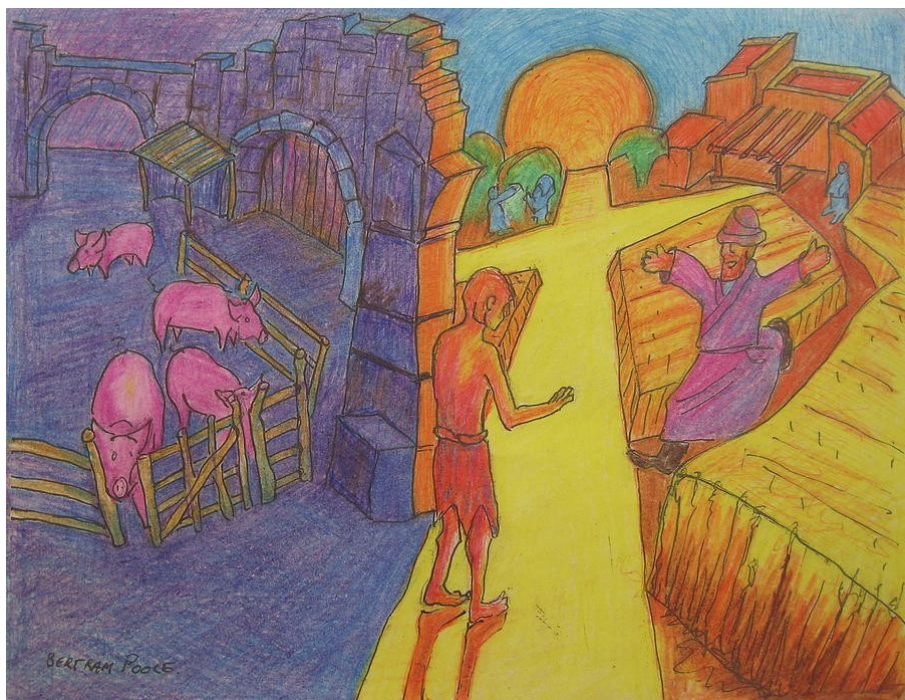
There's all sorts of things we do that hurt relationships.

Think of how tight pants have been popular for years, and how we now know that the elastics in them are breaking down in the wash and ending up in the rivers and on the crops and back into our bodies. We're still here, and so is the fashion, but it seems to be hurting many relationships.

How about your relationships with others in your community - your neighbours, family, or people here at Kensington? Do you help them see their faults (from the position that you also have faults), or do you talk about them behind their back?

Today's passage though continues on from this. The person with much to account for acknowledges the problem, and asks for time. The king is shockingly generous and actually forgives the debt. Then what?

God forgives... do you also forgive?



Prodigal Son - Bertram Poole

There has been much written on forgiveness. As I've mentioned before, it's now accepted medically as an important part of becoming healthy.

An example, from religion, is a story told by Rabbi Herold Kushner. He tells about a mother of three struggling to make ends

meet because her husband had run off with his girlfriend to another jurisdiction. Kushner advised she forgive him. She demanded why. He explained that he wasn't asking because what the husband did was acceptable, but because he didn't deserve the power to live in her head and turn her into a bitter angry woman. He wanted the husband out of her life emotionally as completely as he was physically. The resentment was only hurting her and the children.<sup>7</sup>

Which sounds like a selfish reason to forgive. Shouldn't we do it just because God asks. Yes... but perhaps this is why God asks.

Something Rabbi Kushner didn't say is to 'forgive and forget'. This is a popular phrase... and *not* a part of today's lesson. Notice that the King forgave, but when the privileged servant was brought back he remembered the past history. Jesus calls us to repeatedly forgive those who ask, allowing the people not to be trapped by their past sinful action. He also talks about change; about not returning to an hurtful situation.

Which is part of what makes this costly grace, rather than cheap grace. It demands change. Just because you know you'll be forgiven doesn't mean you can just go ahead and sin. Look what happened to the privileged servant.

So, if you find yourself angry, know that God feels that too, but remember that Jesus tells us to forgive those who ask because God's love is bigger than anger. Also, ask for forgiveness for thing you may have done to cause hurt. And let us join the Holy Spirit in making the world a better and safer place.

*In the name of God in Community, Holy in One,  
Amen.*

<sup>7</sup> Harold Kushner. 'Letting go of the role of victim' *Spirituality and Health*, winter 1999, 34. quoted in *Feasting on the Word* pg 72.

♪ musical moment: Lyric Pieces Book II, Op.38 - 1. Berceuse.....Grieg  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zORlkWq4JKg>



## *Responding to God*

### FaithTalk

**These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe with (and practice stretching a little).**

Wonder: Have you thought about God having emotions? Name different emotions and consider how God might experience them.

Wonder: Do you think (feel) God values emotions? Are some more valuable than others?

Memories: Share a time when you felt both anger and love for someone.

Memories: How do you express your anger?

Values: Wrestle with the practices of forgiveness and safety, or for something bigger: forgiveness and justice.

Actions: Identify something about yourself or your actions that you feel needs to change. Set a goal. Tell someone so they can hold you accountable. Pray.

### 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:** Exsultate Deo.....Palestrina

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nRmkj19i4Yk>

### Prayers of the people<sup>8</sup>

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)

O Lord our God,  
You are Love, living and dancing through creation;  
You are Light, challenging and purifying our hearts;  
You are Peace, deep and unfathomable, working through and beyond all pain and conflict.

We praise you for the gift of life itself;  
we praise you for our fragile and beautiful planet;  
we praise you for the richness and variety of different races and cultures;  
we praise you for human love and laughter;  
we praise you for sheer fun of celebration.

Use us now as channels of blessing for those in need:

- for victims of hunger and famine, including those here in Montreal due to job losses, and northern Nigeria...<sup>9</sup>
- for victims of war, including those in Syria and the drug war in Mexico...
- for victims of hatred, prejudice and injustice...
- for those who are ill or depressed: including Peter M. as he continues to recover
- for the lonely, and those longing to be alone;
- and for those who have lost all hope of finding a home, or finding work.

Lord, in your mercy,

<sup>8</sup> Angela Ashwin. The book of a Thousand Prayers

<sup>9</sup> <https://www.oxfam.org/en/hungry-world-plenty-millions-brink-famine>



hear our prayer.

Risen Christ,  
breaking the bonds of evil and death,  
shine on us, and on those for whom we pray,  
with your eyes of compassion and glory.  
Let your light flood the darkness in us and in our world,  
and make us bearers of  
your healing for people,  
your delight in this planet,  
and your outrageously generous forgiveness,  
on which we all depend,  
through Christ, our Lord, our Lover and our Saviour,  
Amen.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: God, how can we forgive? .....pg  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zuBTuh4CsyE>

## 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: Haydn Variations (Finale).....Brahms  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bYhqktxlz0>



## New Beginnings and Evangelism Coaches

The Apostle Paul, in his pursuit of sharing the gospel message, says that in doing so he is “forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead” (Philippians 3:13). Looking ahead is not always an easy thing to do, especially in the rapidly changing environment that we live in today. For congregations, it can be a struggle to know how to continue to reach out to their communities and share the gospel in meaningful ways. The PCC has developed a network of coaches to help congregations and ministries to discover where God is calling them. Through programs like New Beginnings and the Evangelism Network, congregations can be connected with a coach to guide them into an exciting new era of ministry. Please contact Canadian Ministries at [canadianministries@presbyterian.ca](mailto:canadianministries@presbyterian.ca) to learn more about the New Beginnings program and the Evangelism Network.



*Presbyterians Sharing shares the gospel message*

## DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, September 14** We pray for the faculties and staffs of our theological colleges as they work to provide academic programs to support the leadership needs of congregations across Canada.

**Tuesday, September 15** We pray for the Continuing Education Grants Committee which meets this month.

**Wednesday, September 16** We give thanks for those whose call has included the call to teach, research and write for the benefit of others.

**Thursday, September 17** We thank God for the gift of communion. May the Lord's Supper be celebrated as a sign of our unity in Christ and a means to grow together in love.

**Friday, September 18** We thank God for music, and the choir members and musicians who share their gifts at church on Sunday mornings.

**Saturday, September 19 (WCC Week of Prayer for Peace in Palestine and Israel)** We pray for a just peace in Palestine and Israel so that all children may grow up in a safe place with equal opportunities to thrive.



# Praise, My Soul, the King of Heaven 571

## PSALM 103

D A7/E D/F# G D G D Bm A

1 Praise, my soul, the King of heav - en; to his feet your trib-ute bring.  
 2 Praise him for his grace and fa - vor to his peo-ple in dis-tress.  
 3 Fa - ther-like he tends and spares us; well our fee-ble frame he knows.

F# Bm B7 Esus E#° F#m D E A

Ran - somed, healed, re - stored, for - giv - en, ev - er-more his prais-es sing.  
 Praise him, still the same as ev - er, slow to chide, and swift to bless.  
 In his hand he gent - ly bears us, res-cues us from all our foes.

D G Bm A Bm Em Asus A D

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise the ev - er - last-ing King!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo - rious in his faith-ful - ness!  
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly yet his mer - cy flows!

4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish,  
 blows the wind and it is gone;  
 but while mortals rise and perish  
 God endures unchanging on.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Praise the High, Eternal One.

5 Angels, help us to adore him;  
 you behold him face to face.  
 Sun and moon, bow down before him,  
 dwellers all in time and space.  
 Alleluia, alleluia!  
 Praise with us the God of grace!

# God, how can we forgive?

LEONI

God, how can we for - give when bonds of love are torn?  
 When we have missed the mark, and tears of an-guish flow,  
 Who dares to throw the stone to damn a - no - ther's sin,

How can we rise and start a - new, our trust re - born?  
 How can you still re - lease our guilt, the debt we owe?  
 When you, while know-ing all our past, for - give a - gain?

When hu-man lov-ing fails and eve - ry hope is gone,  
 The o-cean depth of grace sur - pass - es all our needs.  
 No more we play the judge, for by your grace we live.

Your love gives strength be-yond our own to face the dawn.  
 A priest who shares our hu - man pain, Christ in - ter - cedes.  
 As you, O God, for - give our sin, may we for - give.

6.6.8.4.D

WORDS: Ruth Duck. © 1996, The Pilgrim Press

MUSIC: Hebrew melody, 17th cent.; adapt. Meyer Lyon, c. 1770

For other settings of Ps. 103 see 516, 671, 672, 836

Words: Henry F. Lyte, 1834, alt., P.D.

R Music (LAUDA ANIMA 8.7.8.7.8.7): John Goss, 1869, P.D.

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