



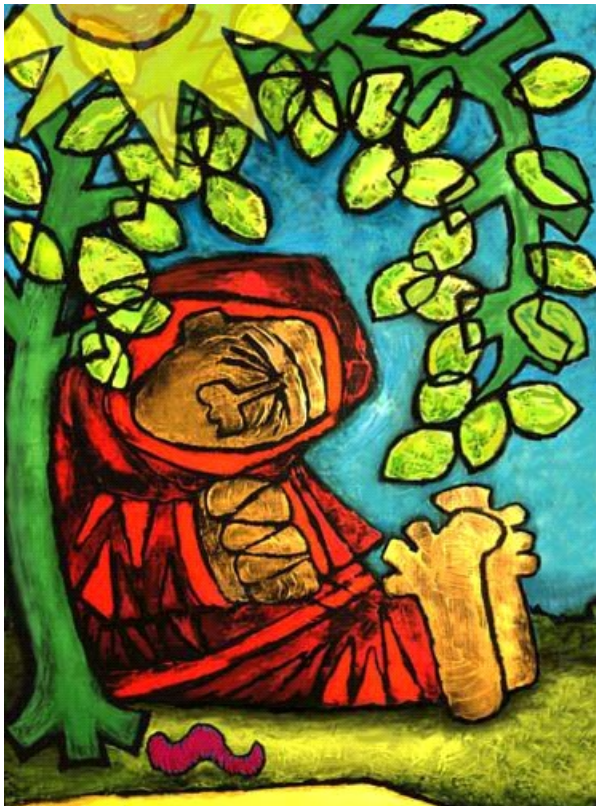
## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *We're entitled to...*

*September 20, 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).



### *Announcements*

**Communion:** We will be celebrating the Lord's Supper on **October 3<sup>rd</sup>** as a part of our zoom worship. This has been done by a number of congregations, and they find it meaningful. Everyone who longs to know our LORD better are invited to participate... *but* you'll have to provide your own bread and juice/wine.

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

**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:** meeting in the courtyard of the Benny Farm apartments. Wednesday at 11:30 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Rev. Peter.

**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 choose from, such as reading the Bible in a contemplative manner, exploring Jesus' life, death & resurrection, and JRR Tolkien: 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 or 1-800-295-0428

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

### *Contacts*

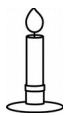
Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca  
Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca  
Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca  
Kris Epps (music).....Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca



## Approaching God

Prelude: Duetto No.3 G-dur BWV 804.....J.S. Bach

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Dc3en1ntpM>



### lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



### Call to worship<sup>2</sup>

God of transition and change  
throughout all history

**You have led Your people on challenging journeys**

God of transition and change  
across all times and cultures

**You have called Your people to discomforting tasks**

God of transition and change  
within all systems of human value

**You have asked Your people to look and question**

God of transition and change  
meet with us now

through word and music

**Challenge our thinking**

**and deepen our understanding**

**that we may be ready to follow You**

**into the challenges of this time.**

<sup>2</sup> Dr Pat Bennett at [https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/68744/20-September-Creation-Time-16-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/68744/20-September-Creation-Time-16-Sunday-after-Pentecost.pdf)



### Prayer of adoration<sup>3</sup>

by St. Clement of Alexandria in 2<sup>nd</sup> Century

O God, you are the unsearchable abyss of peace,  
the ineffable sea of love,  
and the fountain of blessings.

Water us with plenteous streams  
from the riches of your grace;

and from the most sweet springs of your kindness,  
make us children of quietness and heirs of peace.

Amen



Jonah and the cave of the earth: Jack Baumgartner



### Responsive prayer of confession

God of challenge and change  
the stories from Your word  
show us how great the gap can sometimes be  
between divine and human economies.

**Forgive us**

**when we have let attachment**

**to our own comfort and convenience**

**discourage us from committing to the costly transitions**

**necessary for the well-being of our planet**

**and the flourishing of all its inhabitants.**

Silence...

<sup>3</sup> 1000 prayers #90

God of compassion and concern  
the stories from Your word  
show us how great the gap can sometimes be  
between divine and human tenderness.

**Forgive us  
when we have let attachment  
to our own understandings of justice and righteousness  
discourage us from following the discomforting paths  
necessary for the well-being of our planet  
and the flourishing of all its inhabitants.**

*Silence...*

God of generosity and grace  
the stories of Your Word  
show us how great the gap can sometimes be  
between divine and human understanding.

**Forgive us  
when we have let attachment  
to our own sense of hierarchy and entitlement  
discourage us from making the difficult shifts  
necessary for the well-being of our planet  
and the flourishing of all its inhabitants.**

*Silence...*

God  
Your compassion for our weakness  
and concern for our well-being  
give us confidence  
in the generosity of Your forgiveness.

**Out of the freedom of Your grace  
help us, as we begin again,  
to grow into the courage, love, and understanding  
which are the signs of Your Kingdom,  
and to live in ways**

**which will help to make this world  
be a place where all life can flourish.**

**Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon<sup>4</sup>

Hear and embrace these words from scripture.  
Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.  
To all who confess their sins and resolve to lead a new life,  
he says, "Your sins are forgiven."  
He also says, "Follow me."  
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.**



<sup>4</sup> | Timothy 1:15, | Peter 2:24



♪ Hymn: Inspired by love and anger.....pg 9  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9pS7JS5Rqo>  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BeqVSecPsc> (guitar)



## *Listening to God*



### Prayer<sup>5</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

- For the Jonah passage, I do suggest you read the whole book, it's not very long.
- Do you like the parable Jesus tells? How do you feel about it?



5 based on Psalm 85:8



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>6</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).  
[Jonah 3:10 - 4:11](#)<sup>7</sup>  
[Matthew 20: 1-16](#)

### Sermon: We're entitled to...

Dear Lord, please bless these words  
and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>8</sup> Amen.

One of the great things about where I live is that there's an alley behind it. It's a 'green' alley with some planter boxes and no parking. People drive their cars down it when they have something to unload, but otherwise it's left for the kids to play in... except by a neighbour. At some-point in the summer they started parking their car in the alley on street cleaning days. Nobody's supposed to do that. The plan actually wouldn't work if other's did it - people would end up blocked in. It raises in me a sense of injustice that they feel entitled do things that others can't.

And that's not the only place a sense of entitlement gets under my skin. Often when taking Markus to school we go past the Lower Canada College. While I haven't personally seen any issues, I remember Ann complaining about parents parking their expensive cars in places reserved for the residents. The impression she had was they didn't care because they were rich. And then there's the CEGEP and University students who had parties a couple of weeks ago to celebrate returning to school... and spread the Coronavirus. And then there's the baseball team that felt entitled to celebrate their win by hugging everyone and sharing

6 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  
7 you could also read the whole the whole book of Jonah - it's not very long  
8 Psalm 19:14

the bottle of bubbly.

Does any of this frustrate you?

It reminds me of this week's Bible stories. Jonah knows that Ninevah is a wicked city - and they should suffer. They don't live God's way and should be destroyed. That would be just and fair. That's all their entitled to. Jonah, on the other hand, is part of The Chosen People. He has a special relationship with the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the dry land.<sup>9</sup> He is entitled to a peaceful life.

And there's the day workers hired by the farmer. At the start of the day they negotiate their fee: one denarii. It's the normal wage. It's not great, but they'll be able to cover their daily bread and have some left to save for a lamb or something. By all accounts, they work hard and deserve their wage, but they feel cheated. Throughout the day the farmer has brought others to join in, and at the end he pays them all one denarii. What's with that? Aren't they entitled to more?



late arriving workers - Jesus MAFA

and so they complain.

Jonah complains that God didn't destroy the Ninevites as promised. He complains to God that this is unfair. He's even more angry when the vine that was giving him shade as he sulked died. He's done as was asked, isn't he entitled to that?

The workers take it to the management. Shouldn't there be equal pay for equal work? They had worked harder than all the others; they'd been there longer than the others - didn't they deserve more? Wouldn't that be just?

and they are heard.

God listens to Jonah, and replies.

These are people and animals that I made - and I love them as much as I love you. I chased after them and they listened to me. They've realized their bad choices and have changed their ways. How can I not forgive them.

The farmer listens to the workers, and then points out they he did what was agreed to - which is justice. He then goes beyond that with the others... and why can't he be generous if he wants to.

Despite their feelings, neither Jonah nor the workers are entitled to more. That doesn't seem to be how God gives things out. It's not about a reward for doing well, it about accepting God's invitation to try for better - and it's an invitation that God keeps offering anybody and everybody.

It's a good thing for the undeserving Ninevites, all the workers (deserving or not), and even for Jonah. God, I notice, doesn't mention chasing after Jonah and how Jonah still didn't really listen... and the only destruction Jonah experienced so far for this behaviour was to his personal plans, and a little sun-burn.

Would you fall in with one of these groups? The bad Ninevites, the keen workers, or the reluctant Jonah?

God invites them all, and provides. God doesn't necessarily provide their desires, what they feel they are entitled to, but does provide 'their daily bread'.

Which is something Dorothy Day referred to from today's parable back in 1952. She suggests it provides a different model for living. That instead of encouraging competitiveness and inequality, Jesus tells of paying everyone a 'living wage'.<sup>10</sup> It's a notion that has come up several times in the last 20 years, most recently during the Democratic leadership debates and with the 'Black Lives Matter' movement.

The idea is that everyone gets paid enough to pay basic expenses for where you live, and enough to participate in your community. It's been tried before with mixed success. One of my violin teachers was from the Soviet Union and advised me never to by a Russian made hat. He said the workers had learned that they got paid the same if they tried hard, or not at all. Laziness won.

On the other hand, the Iona Community pays everyone the same thing, unless you have children and need more. There it seems to work. I suspect it's partially because everyone chooses to participate. Another is that while there isn't competition and rewards for doing better, they have all 'bought into' the vision - the desire to share the love of God in the world. They are competing against the suffering in the world - and they trust God to look after 'their daily bread'.

Which, of course, reminds me of the line from the Lord's prayer about bread. Do you remember the pronoun used? "Give

us today our daily bread." It's not 'give me my daily bread because I've done good today.'

Which brings me back to two thoughts arising from these passages. One is the idea that God has a different sense of justice that we do. That God is about including as many people who will come as possible. This may include people from a completely different way, but who decide to follow God. With some reflection, we might even find that they are doing better than we are.

The other is that sense of entitlement - and now I wonder about my own feelings. Where do I feel entitled? When does it become about 'my daily bread' and not 'our daily bread'.

I try not to feel like I should be able to buy cucumbers all year around. And while I don't feel entitled to buy anything I want, I do wonder about what I do spend my money on. Is it bread or cake? Is it at the expense of someone else?

What about other areas? I'm doing God's work, am I entitled not to get sick? I had a bit of a cold recently and had to stop visiting for a bit. How is that fair? Shouldn't good people be protected from that?

And what about Kensington, I think we're going good. Shouldn't we be getting lots of people joining us? Aren't we entitled to that?

Where do you feel like you deserve something? Where do you expect something?

But perhaps all that's looking in the wrong place. Perhaps we shouldn't be focused on what we get, but on doing what we're asked and sharing the God's invitation & resources. Instead of trying to get more, perhaps we try and give more?

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<sup>10</sup> *The Long Loneliness*, 1952.



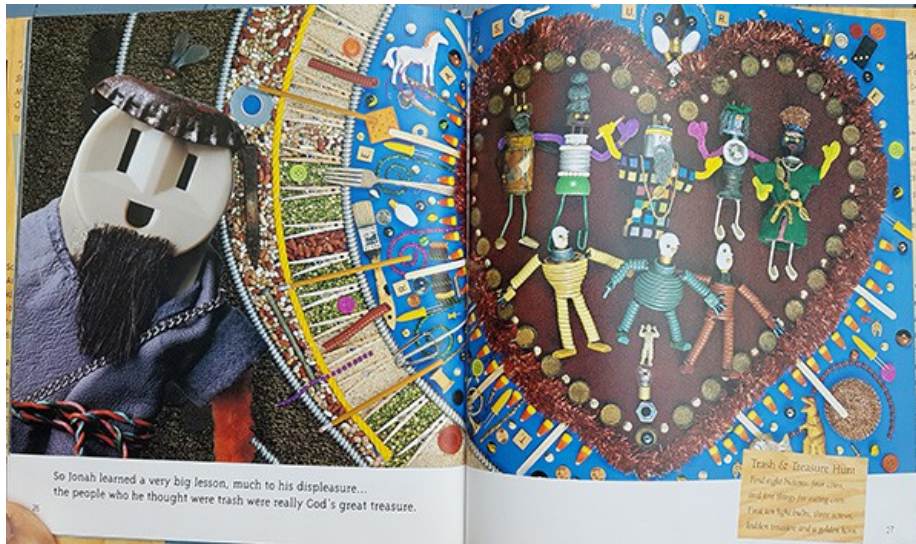
Thinking about some of my issues: it's good to consider how my money is spent. As for not getting sick, I remember hearing about a beloved Bishop who got a terminal illness. When people asked him why he got sick when he was so good, he replied, "why not." We're not promised a life free of trouble. And about Kensington growing, let's pray for opportunities... and see how God is inviting us to invite others.

and then there's my neighbours parking habit.

They're not hurting anyone. It just irritates my sense of fairness... which should be more focused on how people's needs are met - and everyone is finding a parking spot and the kids can still play in the alley.

Perhaps instead I should be thinking of how to invite them to God's party.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*



♪ musical moment: Kinderszenen: Der Dichter spricht.....Schumann  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vYRkXC-1OP4>



## *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).**

Memories: What stories of people feeling entitled or 'like they can do/have what they want' do you have?

Values: What rights do you have? What are you entitled to?

Wonder: Can you imagine a world in which everyone received a living wage? Can you imagine a different motivation than wealth?

Wonder: How do you think Jonah's story went after this?

Actions: What are you holding onto that you should let go?

Actions: How can you share God's invitation to a better life?

### 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:** we, nhliziyoyami.....ladysmith black mambazo  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iq\\_64vG2aI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-iq_64vG2aI)

## Prayers of the people

Living God,  
you invite us to live in you and enjoy the fruits of your labour.  
You give us gifts that we see, and those that we don't. We now  
thank you for our blessings:

...

Jesus,  
you came to heal us - body and soul. To help us to live beyond our  
desires and into your desires - to experience your mercy in the  
world.

As we look on the world with your eyes, we are concerned and  
even angry about some situations. We bring these to you now:

...

Spirit of God,  
we offer these prayers,  
in faith that you are in all things  
and are at work in the world  
to bring about your glorious kingdom.  
Amen.

🎵 Hymn: For the fruits of all creation.....pg 9  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe8llfPE6hc>

## Benediction

*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.<sup>11</sup>*

postlude: Stabat Mater - 10. Amen.....Rossini  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qw9B9FNZF3E>

<sup>11</sup> Ephesians 3:20-21, NRSV

## International Day of Prayer for Peace (September 21)

Today, there are millions of people around the world living in conflict-affected countries. Many have been displaced from their homes and have limited access to basic needs.

Children are unable to go to school. Families do not have enough food to eat. There is no telling when home might be safe again. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) continuously provides emergency relief in conflict-affected areas. By reaching out to the most vulnerable to address immediate needs such as food, shelter, and water and sanitation, as well as long-term needs, such as livelihood recovery, education and psychosocial support, we help to restore strength and hope for the future for the world's most vulnerable.

*PWS&D responds to conflict*

## DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, September 21 (International Day of Peace)** We pray for the safety and well-being of those living in conflict situations around the world and that hear the call to be peacemakers and to speak out against forces of violence.

**Tuesday, September 22** We pray for justice and safety of all the minority groups in India who are persecuted for their faith.

**Wednesday, September 23** We pray for Cyclical PCC participants who are gathering to prepare to learn about and work towards starting new worshipping communities.

**Thursday, September 24** We pray for peace for those affected by ongoing conflict around the world as Presbyterian World Service & Development provides emergency assistance.

**Friday, September 25** We pray for campus ministries' chaplains and volunteers and the congregations that support these ministries that show God's love and care to young adults facing many stresses and challenges.

**Saturday, September 26** We give thanks for the faithful generosity of congregations across Canada as we share in mission and ministry together through Presbyterians Sharing.





1. In - spired by love and an - ger, dis -  
 2. From those for - ev - er vic - tims of  
 3. From those for - ev - er shack - led to  
 5. God asks, 'Who will go for me? Who  
 6. A - mused in some - one's kit - chen, a -

turbed by need and pain, in - formed of God's own  
 heart - less hu - man greed, their cru - el plight com -  
 what their wealth can buy, the fear of lost ad -  
 will ex - tend my reach? And who, when few will  
 sleep in some - one's boat, at - tuned to what the

bi - as, we ask him once a - gain: 'How  
 pos - es a li - ta - ny of need: 'Where  
 van - tage pro - vokes the bit - ter cry, 'Don't  
 lis - ten, will pro - phe - sy and preach? And  
 an - cients ex - posed, pro - claimed and wrote, a

long must some folk suf - fer? How long can few folk  
 are the fruits of jus - tice? Where are the signs of  
 que - ry our po - si - tion! Don't cri - ti - cize our  
 who, when few bid wel - come, will of - fer all they  
 sav - iour with - out safe - ty, a trades - man with - out

mind? How long dare vain self  
 peace? When is the day when  
 wealth! Don't men - tion those ex -  
 know? And who, when few dare  
 tools has come to tip the

in - terest turn prayer and pi - ty blind?  
 pris - oners and dreams find their re - lease?  
 ploi - ted by po - li - tics and stealth!  
 fol - low, will walk the road I show?  
 bal - ance with fish - er - men - and fools.

802

# For the fruits of all creation

AR HYD Y NOS 12 12 8 8 12

F /A Bb F/A Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

1. For the fruits of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God;  
 for the gifts to eve - ry na - tion, thanks be to God;  
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bour, God's will is done;  
 in the help we give our neigh - bour, God's will is done;  
 3. For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God;  
 for the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God;

Bb/DF Bb/D F/A Bb Cm Bb/D Dm Gm F/A Bb6 Dm Gmsus9/Bb F/C C

for the plough - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
 in our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and des - pair - ing,  
 for the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,

F/A Bb F Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

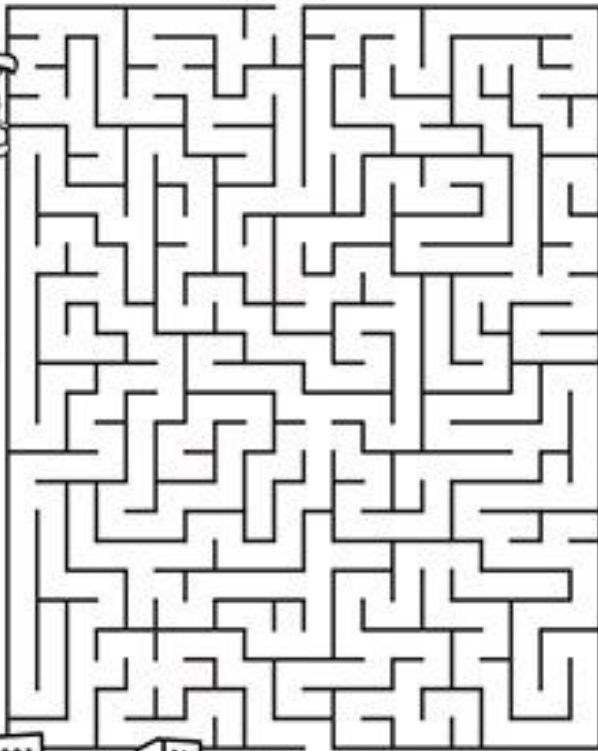
Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-), alt Music: Welsh traditional

Words: copyright © 1970 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: public domain

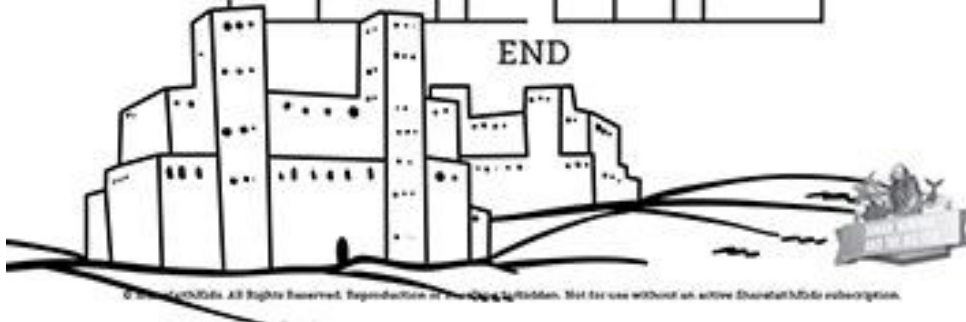
# JONAH, NINEVEH AND THE BIG FISH

Help Jonah on his way to Ninevah.

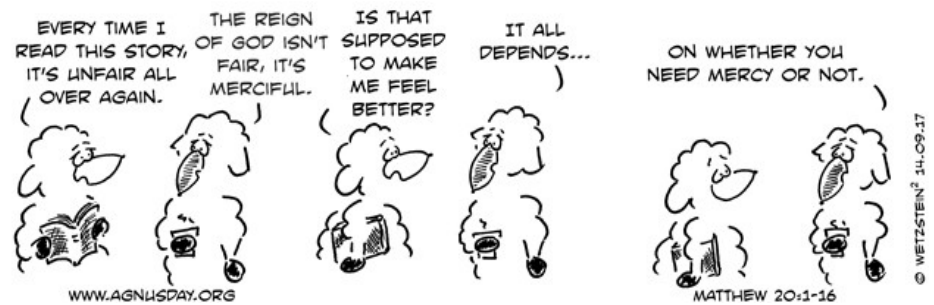
START



END



Agnus Day.org - based on Matthew 20: 1-16



<http://www.agnusday.org/comics/638/matthew-20-01-16-2014>