



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Nous nous souvenons

October 25, 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).



Contacts

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Kris Epps (music).....Kris@Kensingtonchurch.ca

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

Announcements

Re-opening the Church: 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. We are hoping to reopen in November, and continue what we do now.

Prayer Group: will be meeting through Zoom on Wed. at 11:30 a.m.
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMcklZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFFlUT09)
[pwd=dkhMcklZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFFlUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMcklZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFFlUT09)
or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Visiting: The government considers ministers to be essential workers. If you need a visit, please contact Rev. Peter.

Baking Activity: cupcakes & fun inspired by Thanksgiving and Halloween, Oct 31, 4:30. Contact Antoinette for the Zoom details.

Book Club: will start with an intro on Nov 4th, and then the discussion on Nov 25th at 5 p.m. The first book is *A Wrinkle in Time* by Madeline L'Engle. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Antoinette. It will be done over Zoom.

Inter-Church service: Sunday, Oct 25 at 4 p.m.

This service has been organized by several local congregations, and even has a part for Peter.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89430934166?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89430934166?pwd=dVRiTk9wSWVUU2k5MFc5N3lpL2hDUT09)
[pwd=dVRiTk9wSWVUU2k5MFc5N3lpL2hDUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89430934166?pwd=dVRiTk9wSWVUU2k5MFc5N3lpL2hDUT09)

or phone: 438-809-7799

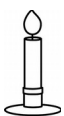
Meeting ID: 894 3093 4166

Password: 554433

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



Approaching God



lighting the candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship (Psalm 9:1-2)

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**We will be glad and exult in you;
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**



Prayer of Approach

Dear God,
you are The Alpha and Omega - The Beginning and the End...
and everything in between.

**Your Spirit blew over the waters at creation,
and continue to blow through everything.**

From the falling of the leaves,
to the way the make new soil,
to providing us with nourishment,
food for the body, mind & soul.

**Forgive us when we don't take the time to notice your
movement around us... and in us. . .**

It is refreshing to stand with you,
to move where you blow us.
Accepting that brings a level of peace in our lives.

**Forgive us when we struggle against you,
trying to be somebody you didn't create us to be,
and to do things you didn't create us to do. . .**

Thank you for your dedication to us.

**Help us live into who you want us to be now
so that we can help your Spirit bring hope.**

As we remember you, and try to line up our lives with you, we
come together to say the Lord's prayer:



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.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news.
To all who turn from sin in sorrow,
to all who turn to God in hope,
this is God's Word of grace:
We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.
This gift we have from God.
Thanks be to God.

♪ Hymn: O breath of life.....pg 9
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-r3xd9_P3k



Listening to God



Prayer²

Holy Spirit,
pour out upon us
wisdom and understanding,
that, being taught by you in Holy Scripture,
our hearts and minds may be opened
to receive all that leads to life and holiness.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Intro to the readings

- Last week we looked at the practice of reading the Bible - a place full of stories. This week we're building on that idea.
- If Jeremiah were a superhero, our passage today would be the start of his 'origin story'. He becomes a prophet, which is different from what we're going to be talking about, but the ideas here apply to all of us. Listen to what God says.
- The psalm is more directly relevant to today's theme.



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

[Jeremiah 1](#): 4-9

[Psalm 40](#)

² Worship Sourcebook 3.1.17

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



Grandfather tells a story - Albert Anker

Sermon: Nous nous souvenons

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁴ Amen.

What do you think the most common written phrase is in Québec?

My guess is "Je me souviens." After all, it's on all the licence plates. And it's not a bad phrase. It's important to remember. On the road, perhaps we'll remember to drive wisely and pay attention to what's going on.

I suspect the Parti Québécois, who put the current words on the licence plate, had something different in mind. They probably wanted people to remember the French roots - stories of subjugation, strength and pride. I'm not going to attempt to

⁴ Psalm 19:14

describe who experienced and felt what.

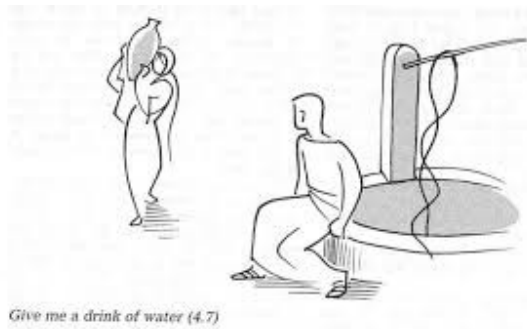
But I do agree that it is important to remember our stories.

For Christians, it's one of the great things about the Bible. It's full of stories about experiences with God. With the Holy Spirit moving through the text and ourselves we are brought hope and insight... sometimes even wisdom.

But that's not the only place we can hear stories of experiences with God. Since the Bible, numerous people have had experiences with God and shared them. If this were a court, they would be called witnesses offering a testimony. While the T-word tends to scare Presbyterians, it still the word that is used by Christians.

There are many passages in the Bible which back this up. The book of Acts and many of the letters have many examples of people being asked, and telling about their experience with Jesus. As it says in 1st Peter "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,"⁵

The Gospels can be seen this way, or stories within them. Last week Fran mentioned the *Woman at the Well*⁶ as a favourite Bible story - and this unnamed woman provides an example of someone who offers a testimony. She tell people in her village that she had this great experience... maybe with God. Perhaps they want to check it out too.



Often Testimony is thought to be somebody telling the story of how they were a sinner and then were saved by Jesus. Paul does this a lot in Acts⁷. This is a valid testimony, and one example of many.

The African American churches have great, and broader, tradition of testimony. They boil it down to thanking God by sharing what God has done in their lives.⁸ I read parts of a book this summer about a mainline church, like us, that started sharing testimonies in worship. They defined it as, "Your spoken story about how you had experienced God, offered in the context of our community worship."⁹

While the term is shared with the courts, this is not the testimony of an expert witness. They are not statements of '*just the facts please.*' When God touches our lives it through more than just events. As Annie Wilcox, back in the 1830s, starts to describe where she noticed God working in her life she wrote, "I shall now attempt to describe my feelings."¹⁰

I wonder if this is why Presbyterians have difficulty with sharing their testimonies. Our Scottish roots typically don't share much about feelings - which is part of our story, and, like all stories, it shapes us.

That said, it doesn't have to be all 'touchy feely'. What's important is the sharing.

Sharing is an important aspect of community. It builds relationships - whether that's in a family, a church, or between neighbours.

5 1 Peter 3:15

6 John 4

7 such as Acts 22

8 Thomas Hoyt Jr, found in *Practices of Faith* ed. by Dorothy Bass

9 *Tell it like it is* by Lillian Daniel

10 found in *Tell it like it is*

One example that comes to mind, that testifies to this, is from Ines. As an older child she had a friend from school over for dinner. At that dinner something happened that really amazed her friend. She was asked how her day was. She was invited to share events, and feelings about her experiences. This did not happen in her house, and it helped her consider everything differently. It strengthened the relationships between the two friends - one that continues today.

While that's an example that sharing is important, it's not really what we're talking about. It's got the community sharing, but is missing the blatant statement about God's involvement.

A common example in our society is in Alcoholics Anonymous, Narcotics Anonymous, and AlAnon. In these groups people share their stories, and acknowledge the help of a "higher power". For Christians that would be God working through the Holy Spirit. This not only helps the participants live a better life, but inspires others as well.

Another example I'd like to share is from Peggy Wegrich. She doesn't have a computer and so can't join us in person, but here is a testimony from her.

When she and her husband, Dan, had a young family they moved to a small town in Laval. Dan was raised Presbyterian and would not attend another church. Sadly there were no Presbyterian churches around. Peggy suggested the United Church as something close, but he refused. So she and the children went anyways.

They also had a dog, and it was Peggy's job to take the dog for his last walk of the day. She loved this. The stars and trees and calm were so peaceful. Every night she used this time to pray; and

every night she prayed that Dan would come to church with her.

It didn't happen, but still she felt that God was listening. She felt that God was working towards this. As Psalm 40 says, "I waited patiently for the LORD; who inclined to me and heard my cry." - except this isn't a piece of the Bible from thousands of years ago, this is Peggy telling you.

and it doesn't end with Peggy feeling that God was listening.

They moved to NDG. Peggy had a bit of a health scare, and Dan felt a desire to go to church. Peggy, ever gracious, let him choose - and he chose here.

Peggy is a witness that after years of patient prayer, God answered her prayers. She also tells us, testifies to us, that she always feels that God is listening.

If she could, she would be standing here living out more of Psalm 40, "I have not concealed your steadfast love and your faithfulness from the great congregation."

Peggy's story is fairly straight forward. Life isn't always like that. Sometimes the Holy Spirit works through others in your life. They help you to see what's going on.

Such as with Barbara Reich. Barbara has a serious hobby of painting. It's something she has done a lot of, and is good at. Often she paints animals. One day she felt like painting, and so she sat down and started. It wasn't a planned painting, it just flowed out of her: three gulls floating in the sky with hints of clouds - or mist. When a friend saw it she immediately recognized the three birds as Barbara's family: her, her daughter, and her husband... who had died recently and in the painting is fading up into the sky. And Barbara lived out a line from Psalm 40, "you have given me an open ear." She could have been closed, but she

received these words - this gift. This message, and the painting itself, were God-sent.

Barbara's experience with God in this instance was through her painting... and recognized through the witness of another.



Barbara Reich

Both these examples are out of the ordinary, and it's important to remember that we don't need to testify about extraordinary

occasions.

As I mentioned, sharing testimonies is a cherished tradition in the African American church. To quote somebody raised in this tradition, "One classic praise testimony, popular in the contemporary Black church, goes something like this: *'Thank you , God, for waking me up this morning; for putting shoes on my feet, clothes on my back, and food on my table. Thank you that I awoke this morning clothed in my right mind.'*"¹¹

Sharing about how the Holy Spirit is active in your life doesn't need to be about big events, it can be about simple things too. It is about recognizing God in your life, and sharing what you have witnessed with others - sharing your testimony that the Holy Spirit is present and active - sharing "the reason for the hope that you have"¹² so that nous nous souvenons - so we can all remember.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.



Responding to God

Testimony: Elizabeth Macdonnell

FaithTalk

These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).... are recognize that all the FaithTalk exercises are practices at sharing your testimony.

¹¹ Thomas Hoyt Jr, found in *Practices of Faith* ed. by Dorothy Bass

¹² 1 Peter 3:15

Memories: What is something that you are grateful for today? Thank God for this... and perhaps share it with someone.

Memories: Tell about somebody who you felt testified to God's presence through their actions?

Memories: How else have people testified to you? Is there visual art that has helped you be more aware of God? brought you closer to God? or dance? or cooking? or ...

Etching: How did you're parents show their beliefs? Can you remember them speaking about their relationship with God? What did they say?

Values: Can you relate to Jeremiah (1: 4-9) when he is unsure about speaking about God?

Memories: Can you share times when God has felt close? How about a time with the Holy Spirit influences your actions/decision... changing or affirming them.

Values: Thinking of 1 Peter 3:15... how would you describe "*the hope that you have*"?

Action: Pray for opportunities to share your hope, with gentleness and reverence (1 Peter 3: 16)

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.

Prayers of the people

Items I'm praying for this week

- gratitude that Peter M is doing well with the current round of chimo
- the increases in the Coronavirus

- as well as those suffering from lockdown stress, isolation,... and just the constant uncertainty
- and those who are unemployed due to all this
- the government of Canada, Quebec (and Ontario)
- the lobster fishery conflict
- the US election, Venezuela, Nigeria

We praise and thank you, O Lord,
that you have fed us with your Word.
Grateful for your gifts,
the way you move in the word,
and are mindful of the community you have created.
We offer to you our prayers for all people.

O Lord of providence,
we pray for our leaders.
Inspire the hearts and minds of our leaders
so that they may look after the weak and the vulnerable,
and bring peace into everyone's lives.
[Silence]

O God the Creator,
we pray for all nations and peoples.
Take away the mistrust and lack of understanding
that divide your creatures;
increase in us the recognition that we are all your children.
[Silence]

O Saviour God,
we pray for your church in its struggles.
Have mercy on its weakness,
and give it courage in your changing world.

We pray for the people of your church.

Increase our courage, strengthen our faith, and inspire us to be witnesses to your presence and hope.

[Silence]

God of compassion,

we pray for:

- those in need of a home and food,
- all who are lonely,
- those who are sick,
- victims of war, injustice, and inhumanity,
- and all others who suffer from whatever their sufferings may be called.

[Silence]

Author of grace and God of love,

thank you for sending your Holy Spirit's blessing to your children.

Keep our hearts and thoughts in Jesus Christ, your Son, our Saviour.

Amen.¹³



¹³ adapted from *Worship Sourcebook* 4.4.3

♪ Hymn: Sometimes a healing word is comfort.....pg 9

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MPbOAEqjB8c&list=PLnE4YKUW90Kmwf1Sp_MH6Ny6zyqhMylAJ&index=3

Sending & Benediction

This week, look for God in your life... and for a chance to share this good news.

*The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.¹⁴*

Amen.



¹⁴ 2 Corinthians 13:13

384 O Breath of life, come sweeping through us

SPIRITUS VITAE 9898

1. O Breath of life, come sweep - ing through us; re - vive your
 2. O Wind of God, come bend us, break us, till hum - bly
 3. O Breath of love, come breathe with - in us, re - new - ing
 4. O Tongues of fire, come rest up - on us, so we may

church with life and power. O Breath of life, come cleanse, re -
 we con - fess our need; then in your ten - der - ness re -
 thought and will and heart: come, Love of Christ, a - fresh to
 speak your word a - right; kin - dle the flame of love a -

new us, and fit your church to meet this hour.
 make us, re - vive, re - store, for this we plead.
 win us, re - vive your church in eve - ry part.
 mong us; e - quip your church to spread the light.

Words: Bessie Porter Head (1850–1936), alt; v.4, Iona Maclean (1954–)

Music: Mary J. Hammond (1878–1964)

Words: v.4, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: copyright © the estate of Mary J. Hammond

Sometimes a healing word is comfort

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT 989888

1. is com - fort: eas - ing the grieved or
 2. re - mem - bers: call - ing up days of
 3. is an - gry: giv - ing a name to
 4. takes chanc - es: go - ing where no one
 5. will lis - ten: hearing the voice - less

Some - times a heal - ing word

anx - ious heart, giv - ing as - sur - ance of our car - ing,
 joy or pain, let - ting the past re - new the pres - ent,
 dis - con - tent, shin - ing a light on sin or griev - ance,
 yet has been, fac - ing the dan - gers of the des - ert,
 in - to speech, let - ting the pat - tern of the sto - ry

treas - ur - ing each and eve - ry part.
 till hope can mend and move a - gain.
 call - ing a peo - ple to re - pent. Come, break the si - lence!
 hop - ing for shel - ter at the inn.
 move us to learn what it can teach.

Let us tell the Word that makes us free and well.

Words: Patrick Michaels (1954–) Music: George Neumark (1621–1681)

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Prayer We pray for the PWS&D-supported Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program, which continues to care for the needs of people who are suffering because of COVID-19.

Increasing Nutrition in Malawi

Due to fear of contracting COVID-19, people in Malawi who are already vulnerable because of the effects of HIV and AIDS have increased concerns about accessing medication and community support. Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Ekwendeni Hospital AIDS Program (EHAP) has been supporting those whose lives are impacted by HIV and AIDS for decades. Acknowledging these increased concerns, EHAP continues to provide community health support through physically distanced workshops to help families learn how to cook nutritiously with limited ingredients.



DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, October 26 We pray for the wisdom to learn and grow in God's love of all people, so that we may not exclude anyone from our circle of care.

Tuesday, October 27 We pray for the Assembly Council as they meet online today to help discern strategic directions for the church.

Wednesday, October 28 Where there is anger or violence in homes, we pray that peace, love and healing take hold instead.

Thursday, October 29 We pray for the members of stewardship and mission committees in congregations as they work to inspire others and generate enthusiasm.

Friday, October 30 We give thanks for the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and pray that the Calls for Justice will be answered.

Saturday, October 31 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development programs that equip farmers with tools to increase harvests and combat food insecurity.