



Kensington Presbyterian Church

With the Word

October 18, 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).



Resurrection Book - Bowden ms

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.

Movies: Join Antoinette Nov 14 at 6 pm for *Big Miracle* - based on a real rescue of whales in the arctic. It will be done over Zoom.

Please continue to check out the website <https://kensingtonchurch.ca/>

or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>

Contacts

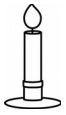
Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor).....Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca

Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca

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

Approaching God



lighting the candle

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



Call to worship (Revelation 15:3-4)

Great and marvellous are your deeds,
Lord God Almighty!

**Just and true are your ways,
King of the ages.**

Who will not fear you, O Lord,
and bring glory to your name?

For you alone are holy.

All nations will come and worship you!



Prayer of approach

Oh God, you were here before anything
and will be here after.

You live everywhere, everywhen, and in everything.

**We only live here and now,
though we see you in the good in our lives,
in stories we hear,
and in the great collection of experience that is the Bible.
Thank you that you are a God who values us
and invites us to join in your creation.**

**We are sorry when we don't value you,
when we don't check to see if our lives line up with your
will;
when we forget how you offered yourself for us,
and instead focus on ourselves,
our feelings and our perspectives.**

**Please forgive us,
and help us to grow in your generosity,
so that we may offer ourselves
with the confidence that you are there for us.**

**In the name of Jesus,
Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

Hear these words from the Bible

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God has not sent the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace.



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: Tell me the old, old story.....pg 9
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqSIMQaeAds>



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

- We're continuing our series on Christian Practices with something that isn't normally included. Normally the Christian Practices are considered a way of life, like last week's theme of Gratitude, or eating, making decisions, or telling about your day. This week we're looking at something that you have to go out of your way to do - but people have been doing it for centuries and find it helps them to have a more hope-filled perspective on life.



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

[Psalm 78: 1-8](#)

[Revelation 10: 8-11](#)

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

Sermon: A Thankful Response

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

Today I'd like to (re)introduce you to something amazing, funny, scary, ...even horrifying. Something so complex no one can grasp it. I invite you to experience... the Bible!!

The Bible is such a wild book it could have a circus caller or a street seller shouting out such extravagant promises.

There are exciting stories about

- great floods, giant boats & lots of animals (always a favourite with young children)⁵
- little David winning against the giant Goliath⁶
- the political intrigue of Ester⁷, or Daniel and the Lions⁸
- Paul hunting Christians, first to lock up and then to help
- the Angels coming to the Shepherds,⁹
- or the crowds on cheering on Palm Sunday... and then lynching by Friday... and then there's the resurrection!¹⁰
- -----

There's funny stories, like:

- the names of those three guys in the furnace: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Yourshack, Myshack & a Bungalow)¹¹

⁴ Psalm 119:14

⁵ Genesis chapters 6-9

⁶ 1 Samuel 17

⁷ Ester (yes, she gets a whole book to herself)

⁸ Daniel 6

⁹ Luke 2

¹⁰ last part of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John

¹¹ Daniel 3

- Balaam's talking donkey¹²
- Peter trying to build huts for Moses & Elijah after they drop by from Heaven.¹³
- and the time Paul preached so long that Eutychus fell asleep... and then fell out the window (he survived)¹⁴
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and there's passages that bring us comfort and hope:

- Psalm 23 is a classic "The Lord is my shepherd..."
- Psalm 139 - you know me and are always with me
- "those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles" Isaiah 40: 31
- John 3: 16-17 - "For God so loved the world..." and loves others John 10:16
- -----



Tree of Life - Jacques-Richard Chery

¹² Numbers 22

¹³ Mark 9:2-8, Matthew 17:1-8, Luke 9:28-36

¹⁴ Acts 20: 7-12

and there's horrible passages

- with some of our classic children's stories, we leave out the end. Like Noah getting drunk in the field, or that Goliath getting killed
- except for Jesus, everyone in the Bible has faults and sins: such as David arranging for Uriah to be killed so that he can marry his wife... after already getting her pregnant.¹⁵ Sadly, his sons are worse.¹⁶
- or that the Israelites getting the Promised Land meant them killing the people already there... although there are various exceptions... and other passages that tell them to look after foreigners... still, there's lots of bloody battles in the Bible.
- and then there's God doing things like asking Abraham to sacrifice Isaac,¹⁷ or letting all the Egyptian soldiers drown in the Red Sea¹⁸, or Jesus cursing the fig tree for not having ripe fruit out of season.¹⁹
- or the way people have used the Bible to support their own horrible actions: like slavery, or antisemitism, or subjugating women, or threatening others with hell instead of as love and grace.

and there's passages that are just hard

- "Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."²⁰

¹⁵ 2 Samuel 11

¹⁶ 2 Samuel 13

¹⁷ Genesis 22

¹⁸ Exodus 14

¹⁹ Mark, 11:12-25, Matthew, 21:18-22, Luke, 13:6-9

²⁰ Matthew 19:24

- “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.”²¹
- Jesus challenges us to go beyond actions to thoughts: murder & adultery are bad, but so is just thinking hateful or lustful thoughts²²
- “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.”²³
- -----

And that’s just a few of the stories in the Bible, but it doesn’t stop there. Part of what makes the Bible so complicated is that it was written by many many different people, usually after the stories had been told orally for generations. Take the Gospels for example. While we don’t know exactly when they were written, experts figure it was at least 30 years after Jesus died - and with expectancy back then, that’s quite a while.

There’s also different styles of writing, even in the same book. There’s fables and poetry and laws and parables and letters and songs and crazy dreams. The people telling and writing it down had also ideas they wanted to get across. One of Matthew’s themes is the cosmic scale of Jesus (star in the heavens), while Luke focuses on the marginalized poor and women. In the Older Testament there are areas that really push rules for the people (Ezra & Nehemiah), and others written around the same time that are much less rigid (Ester).

And it’s all by people who have a very different background than us. None of them had anything like instant communication, most of them walked everywhere, there were very few in the

middle class, and even fewer rich were very rich. More important than money was your honour or shame with others (a bit like high school). Death was very present.

All of the writers used languages that aren’t used anymore. Think of how English has changed in the last 100 years... and then multiply that. For my parents the use of ‘man’ in the Bible includes everyone. For people my age it usually only means those who identify as ‘male’ - excluding everyone else. For the men writing the Bible (or even those writing about the Bible before the 20th Century), women weren’t even legally people. How does that affect our reading of the Bible?



It’s actually miraculous that we get anything out of the Bible at all.

When it comes to trying to understand the Bible, *Living Faith*²⁴, gives us some guidance. It says,

The Bible is to be understood in the light of the revelation of God's work in Christ. The writing of the Bible was conditioned by the language, thought, and setting of its time.

21 Luke 3: 11

22 Matthew 5: 21-30

23 Matthew 22:35-40, Mark 12:28-34, Luke 10:27 and Leviticus 19:9-18 with Deuteronomy 6:4-5

24 a statement of belief written by the Presbyterian Church in Canada back in the 1980s

The Bible must be read in its historical context.
We interpret Scripture
as we compare passages,
seeing the two Testaments in light of each other,
and listening to commentators past and present.
Relying on the Holy Spirit,
we seek the application of God's word for our time.²⁵

and that last sentence is how the miracle happens. As *Living Faith* puts it earlier, "The Holy Spirit gives us inner testimony to the unique authority of the Bible and is the source of its power." People wrote the Bible. People who weren't perfect.²⁶ They write about experiences with God - there's and others who came before them - and thanks to the Holy Spirit these experiences relate to our lives today.

Now, as *Living Faith* points out, there's lots people who have thought and prayed lots about the Bible that help us understand it. There's millions of books, and they can very detailed. (The commentary on Matthew I use is 1700 pages long... Matthew, in my Bible, is only 40 pages, and their half the size.) These commentaries can be fascinating, helpful, and help prevent the abuses of the Bible.

That said, the whole thing can be intimidating.

However, there's some good reminders in the hymn we sang. "Tell me the story simply... Tell me the story slowly".

In the middle of studying to be a minister I got overwhelmed by all the details of reading the Bible. You could say I got lost in

the trees, and forgot about the forest... or perhaps I got lost in all the tourist guides and forgot to visit the city. That summer I picked up Eugene Peterson's version of the Bible called *The Message*. It reads like an ordinary book, and that was great. The adventures, the songs, the romance, the letters - without the distance of other translations. Now I usually use a translation that's more accurate to the original language, but simplicity also has it's place.



Feeding the 5000 - Annie Vallotton

There's also simple ways to approach the Bible. One I mentioned a year or two ago is called *Lectio Divina*. In this technique you find a place you can focus. The you chose a short passage. If you don't know where to start, pick Mark or Luke and start at the beginning. Then you read it. Sit with the Word for a bit, the read it again. What attracted your attention? Ponder that. Read it again. Ponder/think/meditate... and pray a fairly open prayer. The prayer may be more like a conversation. You might ask

²⁵ Living Faith 5.4

²⁶ there's even spelling and grammer mistakes in the Bible - lots of them. There's usually 'fixed' in the translations.

questions, or give thanks. You could chose to memorize a verse to say during the day.

and when you want to dig in, a good preliminary step is a study Bible. I recommend the NRSV 'Life with God' Bible. It has good notes before and in each of the books. For a more academic version, there's the NRSV *New Oxford Annotated Bible*.

But why bother?

Because this collection of books is special. Yes, it has caused pain and suffering, but it's about stopping that. Christians through the centuries have found it to be "the rule of faith and life."²⁷ This isn't rule as in laws, but as in a ruler - like you used in school. The Bible is a way to measure how straight your life is with God; it's a way to remind us of our creator and guide; it is full of experiences in which people struggle and find hope with God.

But mostly it's about revealing hope, healing & life in a broken world - and in these COVID times, who doesn't need that.

So, come one, come all, and experience something amazing, funny, scary, ...even horrifying. Something that can be both complex and simple. With the guidance of the Holy Spirit, I invite you to experience... the Bible!!

To God be all the glory. Amen.



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).

Etching: Share an early encounters with the Bible.

Memories: What are some of the earliest stories you remember from the Bible?

How has your understanding of them changed?

Values: What passages are meaningful for you now?

This may be different, but what passages would you recommend to others (imagine appropriate situations)?

Wonder: What would you like to ask God about the Bible?

Wonder: Who in the Bible would you like to meet? What would you like to ask them?

Actions: Try reading the Bible for enjoyment, or insight, or adventure, or hope.

Actions: Check out Eugene Peterson's book '*Eat this Book*'

Actions: If you don't already read the Bible regularly, adopt a plan to do so. Perhaps read through the Psalms, one of the Gospels, or a more intensive plan from the Bible Society: biblesociety.ca/resources/for-you/daily-bible-reading/

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.

Athem: Sing them over again www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IBHtBkuVMA

Prayers of the people

The Bible starts with all of creation, and we start by celebrating that you made it, and us, good.

Please help us to remember that.

We remember that the Bible tells us we are responsible for creation.

Please help us to look after it all...

We celebrate with disciples at Pentecost
that your Spirit is present in us.

We see all the leaders in the Bible who sometimes are good
examples, and sometimes are not.

We pray that we, and our leaders, will listen to your Spirit so we
make healthy decisions for all.

We see the cycle of violence and wars in the Bible, and that Jesus
came with healing - not a sword.

May people learn to live in your peaceful kingdom.

We celebrate with the Ninevites who turned from their harmful
ways, and pray for those like Jonah who are reluctant to follow
your ways.

We pray for those, like so many in the Bible, that are sick...
may you bring wholeness and healing to their lives.

We pray for those who are grieving like the disciples at the cross...
may you bring them the hope of a better life to come.

Just like those who wrote the psalms,
we leave all things to you,
confident that you will do what is best.

In Jesus name

Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Sing them over again to me.....pg 10
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYOLzNy1SI0>

Sending & Benediction

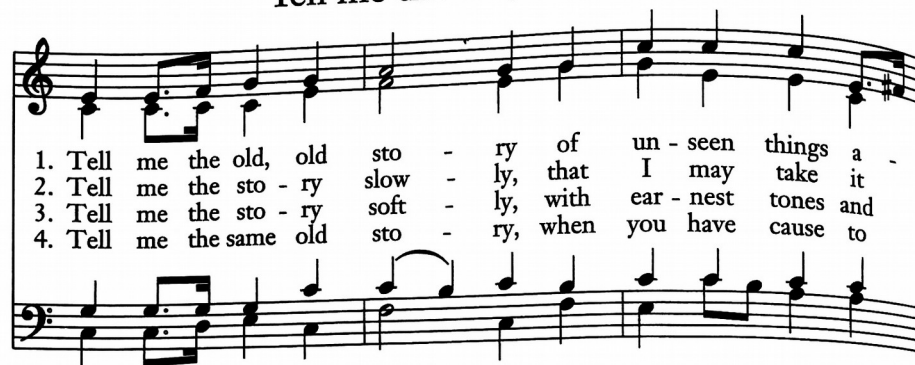
If you find yourself wondering how to grapple with an aspect of
the world, turn to your Bible & pray. It is full of experience that
the Holy Spirit can add to your life.

*The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
remain with you always.*

*Amen.*²⁸



Tell me the old, old story



1. Tell me the old, old sto - ry of un - seen things a
 2. Tell me the sto - ry slow - ly, that I may take it
 3. Tell me the sto - ry soft - ly, with ear - nest tones and
 4. Tell me the same old sto - ry, when you have cause to



bove, of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of
 in, that won - der - ful re - demp - tion, God's
 grave; re - mem - ber I'm the sin - ner whom
 fear that this world's emp - ty glo - ry is



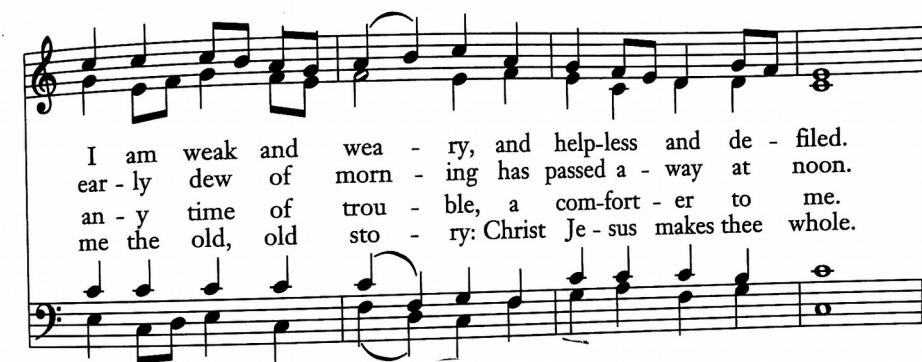
Je - sus and his love. Tell me the sto - ry
 rem - e - dy for sin. Tell me the sto - ry
 Je - sus came to save. Tell me the sto - ry
 cost - ing me too dear. Yes, and when that world's

Words: Katherine Hankey (1834-1911) Music: William H. Doane (1832-1916)

Words: public domain Music: public domain



sim - ply, as to a lit - tle child, for
 of - ten, for I for - get so soon; the
 al - ways, if you would real - ly be, in
 glo - ry is dawn - ing on my soul, tell



I am weak and wea - ry, and help-less and de - filed.
 ear - ly dew of morn - ing has passed a - way at noon.
 an - y time of trou - ble, a com-fort - er to me.
 me the old, old sto - ry: Christ Je - sus makes thee whole.

Refrain



Tell me the old, old sto - ry; tell me the old, old sto - ry;



tell me the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Sing them over again to me

G G/D D7 G

1. Sing them o-ver a-gain to me, won-der-ful words of life;
 2. Christ, the bless-ed one, gives to all, won-der-ful words of life;
 3. Sweet-ly ech-o the gos-pel call, won-der-ful words of life;

G G/D D7 G

let me more of their beau-ty see, won-der-ful words of life;
 sin-ner, list to the lov-ing call, won-der-ful words of life;
 of-fer par-don and peace to all, won-der-ful words of life;

G C/G G C/G G

words of life and beau-ty, teach me faith and du-ty.
 all so free-ly giv-en, woo-ing us to heav-en.
 Je-sus, on-ly Sav-iour, sanc-ti-fy for-ev-er.

Words: Philip Bliss (1838–1876) Music: Philip Bliss (1838–1876)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Refrain D/F# G D 7 G

Beau-ti-ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life,

D/F# G D7 G

beau-ti-ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life.

Prayer (Students and Colleges Sunday) We pray for college and university students who are taking classes online, that they will have a rich learning experience and find the support they need.



Investing in the Future of the Church

Presbyterians Sharing supports the Near East School of Theology (NEST) in Beirut, Lebanon. For over a century, NEST has been a powerful witness in the Middle East, training nearly 90% of the Protestant ministers in the region. Students come from some of the most difficult places in the world to be Christian: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Palestine. NEST's President, Dr. George Sabra, shared, "The main concern of the church in the Middle East is how to remain here... We are preparing people to minister in situations where it is becoming very difficult for Christians to live." In faithfully partnering with NEST, we are investing in leadership development for the future of the church in the Middle East. Please pray for NEST as it repairs its badly damaged building and navigates the political unrest following the August explosion in Beirut.

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, October 19 We pray for courage and insight to recognize racism and discrimination in society and in the church so that we may grow to become communities of justice for all.

Tuesday, October 20 We give thanks for God's beautiful creation and the changing seasons.

Wednesday, October 21 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Montreal in Que.

Thursday, October 22 We praise God and give thanks for Alwan Masih, General Secretary of the Synod of the Church of North India, who retired after serving faithfully for 10 years.

Friday, October 23 We remember Chanie Wenjack, who died of hunger and exposure on this day in 1966, after running away from the Cecilia Jeffrey Indian Residential School. We pray for all those who still carry deep pain and trauma from residential schools.

Saturday, October 24 Merciful God, we pray that you bless families with the wisdom that is from above—wisdom that is pure, peaceful and full of mercy.