



Kensington Presbyterian Church

The Right Stuff

November 15, 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).



<https://encrypted-tbn0.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn%3AANd9GcQ0IzyHmGT-ou6L-MtacJ9Fpf2LoqcCcZTwAA&usqp=CAU>

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

Announcements

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

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=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)
[pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09)
or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Funeral: Margaret Finlayson passed away in her sleep on Nov 2nd. There will be a funeral on Nov 25th, 3 pm, at Collins Clarke Macgillivray White on Sherbrooke. 23 people may come in person. You can also join online.

Book Club: Our 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 on will on Nov 25th at 5 p.m.

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.

Please continue to check out the website

<https://kensingtonchurch.ca/>

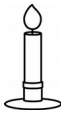
or facebook <https://www.facebook.com/KensingtonChurchNDG/>

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 (based on Isaiah 40 & 43)

Creator God, who made the sea and sky,

who measured the waters in the hollow of your hand,

You are a God of justice.

Righteous God, who accounts the power of nations as like dust,

and brings corrupt leaders to nothing,

You are a God of justice.

Loving God, in whose sight all people are precious and valued,

honoured and redeemed,

You are a God of justice.

God, who calls each by name,

come among us, give us understanding.

Teach us the way of justice.



Prayer of Approach

Lord, our God,

we come to you as the head of our household.

**You lead us into ways that help everyone to experience
good health, joy and love.**

When we are able to follow you.

We confess that sometimes we make choices

**that save money at the expense of our neighbour,
or the environment.**

We confess that there affects that we did not see,

and still don't know.

and sometimes, Jesus, we don't see another way.

...

Please forgive us,

and help us to do better.

**Together, we embrace the guide you left us in the Lord's
Prayer:**



Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

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.

God the Creator brings you new life,

forgives and redeems you.

Take hold of this forgiveness,

and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.

Thanks be to God.

♪ Hymn: A Mighty Fortress.....pg 8



Listening to God



Prayer²

Our Lord and our God,
 now as we hear your Word, fill us with your Spirit.
 Soften our hearts that we may delight in your presence.
 Sharpen our minds that we may discern your truth.
 Shape our wills that we may desire your ways.
 Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Intro to the readings

- Malachi - last book before the New Testament starts with Matthew and the birth of Jesus. This passage will show you why it's a good set-up for what's to come. That said, I'll be focusing on another part of the passage.
- Is Jesus being at all subtle in this parable?
- What do you take from this psalm?

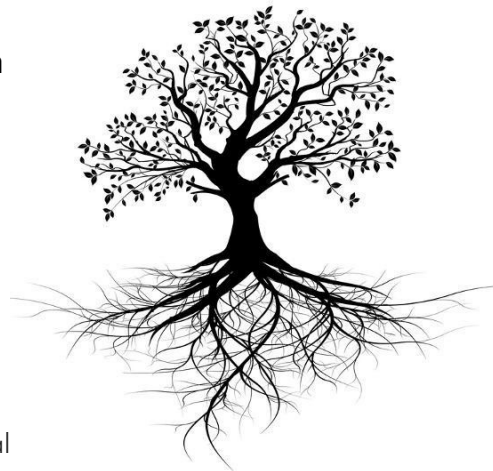


Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible, or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Malachi 3: 1-7](#)

[Luke 12: 13-21](#)

[Psalm 62: 5-12](#)



tree with roots - Le Moal

Sermon: The Right Stuff

Dear Lord, please bless these words
 and the meditations of our hearts.³ Amen.

I was reminded of an interesting challenge I heard about when I was doing youth ministry. It's good for middle or upper class families. The youth are challenged for each of the 40 days of lent to give something away. Not something that is junk, but something that they don't need anymore that somebody else would appreciate.

An example I came across is a youth who decided to start with his keyboard. His parents had given it to him because they wished they'd learned piano when they were kids. It was nice, but he wasn't interested and it had been taking up space in his closet for a few years now - so he brought it to school and to give away. Everybody was suspicious. They thought it was broken, or he was out to get a favour, or angry with his parents, or it was stolen. Nobody accepted it. In the end he collected the 40 things he wanted to give away and brought them to a thrift store.

If I'd been there, my instinct would have been to take it. The part I need to work on is the questions he was asking through this experience, 'do I need this?', and 'would this be better with somebody else?'

This idea of giving stuff away can seem like it's against having stuff - which it's not. Like last week's idea that how you approach what you do is as important than what you do, here it's not having stuff that's the issue as much is whether this is good stuff.

How do you tell?

Some coffee aficionados it might think Starbucks is good stuff.

For a tennis player it might mean the latest carbon fibre racquet... and responsive shoes. But what about Christians? What's good stuff?

For Christians, we ask whether the stuff helps build the Kingdom of God, or not. Does it promote what God is trying to do in the world? Does it help increase health (physical, mental, spiritual)? bring love or joy or peace or hope? Does it nurture healthy relationships between people, or with other parts of creation? If it does, then it's good stuff - appropriate stuff.

Take buying a cucumber at the grocery store. This helps you be healthy - that's good. It provides jobs for the grocery store, their suppliers, the farmers, etc. This is good.

Although, it is a little more complicated. Through Malachi God reminds us that those who oppress workers because of their wages will be judged. Is the farmer able to make a living? What about the workers in the grocery store? And then there's other passages that tell us to look after the environment. How was the cucumber grown? How was it transported?⁴

Asking these questions can be costly. You've probably noticed that Fair Trade products cost more. If you live on a low income you probably can't afford Fair Trade products - maybe not any of the cucumbers. For those that can, how costly is it to our neighbours in the global village not to pay a fair wage?

We can expand this idea out to the quality of the product. Switching from cucumbers to computers, I know somebody who was quite pleased with themselves because they bought the no hassle guarantee from the computer store. If something went wrong in the first two (3?) years and they couldn't fix it, he got a new computer. He was so pleased because this was his second

new computer for free. This was nice for him. His life was structured around having his own computer for school and other activities. He did good things with his computer... but I was left wondering about the cost to the environment. That's two computers that became garbage. There are various rare minerals only found in areas of civil war. Most new computers (and cell phones) have links to these conflict miners. Is this good stuff? Is there another way?



shadowvue.files.wordpress.com/2016/02/music-1980-walkman_2960497k.jpg?w=620

There's also many items that can be good or bad depending on how they are used. I read about someone remembering the school bus back in the 80s. When he started high school everyone talked with each other. They even sang songs. Part way through the Walkman arrived. It was exciting. You could listen to your own tapes. Soon (almost) everyone had one. The bus became quiet. People found joy in listening to their music. That's nice. Those without a Walkman sank into their seats with embarrassment. With the breakdown in community, the writer now thinks the Walkman was not a good thing.

It reminds me of cell phones... which are an even more complicated a tool.

⁴ I heard an environmental scientist say that the environment cost of shipping an apple from New Zealand was less than growing a tomato locally in a greenhouse.

All these things fall under the concept of economics. The word has greek origins. Back in Jesus' day it had to do with how a household was managed. A modern definition would be the production, distribution and consumption of stuff. The newer definition reflects a shift in the focus away from the home in a village to the global village.

There are different economic systems that try to manage stuff in a better way. Two examples are Communism which shares everything equally, and Capitalism, which encourages private decisions and a free market. Christianity has supported both, and protested against both. When both get going on a large scale they start sacrificing people on the bottom for people on the top. It gets easy to do when you don't know the people involved.

So what do we do?

We try to manage our household as best we can. We can spend our money where we can see it. This could mean companies that tell about their supply chain. It could mean writing letters to suggest changes. It could mean supporting people you can see.

On a slightly different angle, I know a family who's eating pattern has changed due to COVID. They now order a meal every week from a local restaurant. They don't need it. They love cooking, but their community needs those businesses.

We can remember economics isn't all about spending money. It's also about consumption. Do we need it? Can we give it away



to someone who does? (Ines has become quite good at giving stuff to refugees.)

And we know we better because we believe that people are created good. We are more than selfish instincts. We can be glorious and generous - supporting the health and joy of everyone. Sharing God's love.

...with the help of God the head of the household, Jesus our saviour, and the actions of the Holy Spirit.

Amen



Responding to God

♪ musical reflection

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.

Memories: What were some really important things when you were young(er).

Values: How do you chose to buy something?

Values: What do you think is really important? How does your spending reflect that?

Actions: Pick a room in your house (yes, it could be the bathroom). Look around for things you need, what isn't helpful for you and could be given away, and what is honestly not 'good stuff' to be disposed of. Act on this.

Wonder: Speculate how your economic patterns could be improved? How the larger 'household' or community could improve it's economic pattern to bring more health, joy, hope, ...

Actions: Make a Christmas Wish List of Good suggestions. You may want to check out the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D).

presbyterian.ca/pwsd

Actions: What could you give others this Christmas that will show both your care for them, and help share the Kingdom of God?

Sharing.....Mary Ellen MacDonald

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

O Lord and head of the household of faith,
we thank you for the gift of faith nurtured by your Holy Spirit.
We thank you that you have formed a community at Kensington.

We pray for The Church
in all her breadth and variety,
gathered out of every nation, family, people, and tongue,
to build your kingdom for all to know.

O Lord and head of the household of the world,
we pray for our neighbours around the world.

We pray that in every land there might be peace and true justice.

We pray that Ethiopia may experience peace.

We pray for regions of conflict
that are fuelled by valuable minerals.

We pray for those who make our clothes and harvest our food,
that they may be able to support their families.

And we pray for those in our local community
who are suffering economic hardship may find relief.

O Lord and head of all households,
we pray for our leaders and their advisors,
that they make wise decisions in these impossible times.

We also pray for business leaders. That they may remember their responsibilities we all have to help each other. That they may bring health to those who help their business.

O Lord and head of the household,
we pray for those who have special needs.

For those who are sick. . .

or troubled. . .

or lonely. . .

or sad. . .

or facing a change. . .

All these give to you,
in faith that you care and are active in this world.

In the name of Jesus Christ, me pray
Amen.

♪ **Hymn:** Give thanks, my soul.....pg 10

Benediction

*The Lord bless you and keep you;
the Lord make his face to shine upon you
and be gracious to you;
the Lord turn his face toward you
and give you peace.*

Amen.



Sunday, November 15 — MISSION MOMENT

Prayer (Legacy Giving Sunday) We give thanks for and remember the many faithful stewards who have believed in God's church and seeded new missions and ministries through legacy gifts.

Together, We are Making a Difference

Presbyterians Sharing is about mission. It's about ministry. It's about working together to share the good news of the gospel in Canada and around the world. Through our gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, we revitalize churches and support innovative worship. We empower young people to grow in their faith, and prepare leaders to serve the church. We care for God's creation and advocate for human rights. We walk with Indigenous Peoples on a journey of healing and reconciliation. We work with international partners to support leadership development, Christian education and evangelism. And so much more! When we work together, we can accomplish more than we can imagine. Together, we are making a difference.



DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, November 16 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in N.S.

Tuesday, November 17 We give thanks for the Church Council on Justice and Corrections, and pray that their work to address the healing of victims, offenders and their communities as they strive for justice is blessed and fruitful.

Wednesday, November 18 We pray for seminary students, staff and faculty at St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver, B.C., Presbyterian College in Montreal, Que., and Knox College in Toronto, Ont.

Thursday, November 19 We pray for children and young people who must think about the future in uncertain times.

Friday, November 20 (Universal Children's Day) *Kisemanto*—Great Spirit, we pray for wisdom to understand the spirituality of Indigenous ancestors of Turtle Island, who thought of Earth as our Mother and preserved her gifts for the next seven generations of our grandchildren.

Saturday, November 21 We pray for Samuel House in Micske, Romania, a safe place—supported by Presbyterians Sharing—where disadvantaged children can come to play, study, eat nutritious meals and receive Christian care.

A mighty fortress is our God

EIN FESTE BURG 878766667

C /E F G Am D G Am Em F G Am/C

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, a ref - uge nev - er
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be
 3. And though this world, with e - vil filled, should threat - en to un -
 4. That Word a - bove all earth - ly powers—no thanks to them!—a -

Dm G7 C /E F G Am D G Am Em F

fail - ing, our help - er sure a - mid the flood of mor - tal
 los - ing, were not a Sav - iour on our side, the One of
 do us, we will not fear, for God has willed the truth to
 bid - ing, en - sures that all God's gifts are ours, through Christ in

G Am Dm G7 C Em D G/B D G C/E

ills pre - vail - ing. For still our an - cient foe yet
 God's own choos - ing. Who is this Sav - iour, who? Christ
 tri - umph through us: the powers of death and hell our
 us re - sid - ing, whose sum - mons rings a - bove all

C /E F Dm6 C Em Am 6 G/B Am/C D G F

seeks to work us woe with craft and pow - er great and,
 Je - sus, liv - ing, true. Lord Sab - ba - oth by name, from
 God will sure - ly quell: their rage we can en - dure, for
 goods, all earth - ly love. Earth's pow - ers waste a - way; God's

F C A/C# Dm A Am Em F C Am Dm G7 C

armed with cru - el hate, on earth has not an e - qual.
 age to age the same, al - read - y wins the bat - tle.
 look! their doom is sure: one lit - tle word will fell them.
 word en - dures al - way, whose reign will last for - ev - er.

Words: Psalm 46; paraphrase, Martin Luther (1483–1546), translation, Frederick H. Hedge (1805–1890), alt
 Music: Martin Luther (1483–1546); arrangement Hans Leo Hassler (1564–1612)

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WOLVERCOTE

76 76 D



Give thanks, my soul, for harvest,
for store of fruit and grain,
but know the owner gives
so that we may share again.
Where people suffer hunger,
or little children cry,
with gifts from God's rich bounty
may thankfulness reply.

Give thanks, my soul for riches
of woodland, mine, and hill,
but know that gold and timber
are the Creator's still.
God lends to us, as stewards,
abundance we might share,
and thus provide earth's children
the blessing of God's care.

Give thanks, my soul, for labours,
that strength and days employ,
but know that Maker's purpose
bring toil as well as joy.
Show forth, O God, your purpose;
direct our will and hand
to share your love and
bounty with all in every land.

Give thanks, my soul, for beauty,
for vision, hope and skill,
for Christ, divine revealer
of God's redeeming will.
Show forth, O God, your purpose;
direct our will and hand.

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