



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 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.

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

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

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=dkhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)
[pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRxBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)
or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

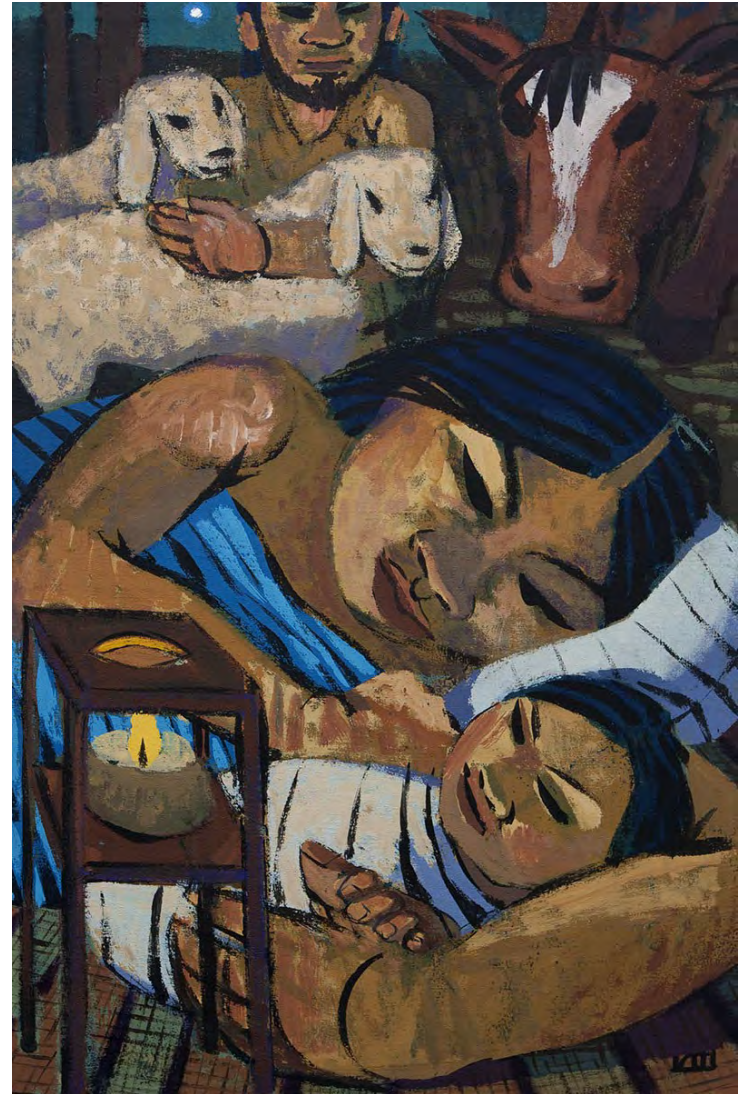
Passcode: 7864826

Book Club: Discussion of *The Fault in our stars* on Dec 30.

Presbyterian Connection: newspapers are available.

Re-opening the Church: Session will consider when to reopen the building after Montréal is no longer a 'red zone'. In the mean time, we are continuing to improve our facilities.

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



Pinoy Belem - W Forte

Contacts

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



Approaching God

note: you should have four candles already lit (hope, peace, joy, love)

Call to worship²

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy;
for to you is born in the city of David
a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord!

**Jesus has arrived in grace and mystery,
renewing faded hopes
and announcing peace to a weary world.**

Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom God favours!
**Jesus comes among us in power and glory, inspiring joy
and calling us to lives that are full of God's love.**

Jesus, the light of the world, is born.
**Let Christ's light shine
in the darkest corners of our lives.
Let Christ's light shine
in the darkest corners of our world.
God is with us.**



lighting the Christ candle

Prayer of Adoration³

**God of grace and glory,
as we celebrate this Christmas,
transform our hearts and our lives
so that your Good News is not an old story
but a fresh truth lived out every day
through the power of Jesus Christ. Amen.**

² provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development

³ provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development

♪ Hymn: On Christmas night all Christians Singpg 7
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0-TZ76wONPs>



Prayer of Confession

Generous God,
you give us the greatest gift of all, yourself,
but often we find it hard to take notice;
we are caught up with our own gifts, given and received.

**Forgive us, generous God,
for the casual way we treat your gift of love.**

**Cast out our sin and enter in,
be born in us today.**

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know these words from Matthew 1: 21
She will give birth to a son,
and you are to give him the name Jesus,
because he will save his people from their sins.



Shepherds - Seeing

 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.

♪ Hymn: Angels we have heard on high #1, 4.....pg 8
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN_Y



Listening to God

 Prayer

Mighty God,
the shepherds of old were full of your praises,
saying that all they had heard and seen
was like what they had been told.
May we hear your Holy Spirit
moving among us now
helping us to hear your message
as we look for you in our lives.
Amen.⁴

⁴ inspired by Worship Sourcebook E.3.1.1

Intro to the readings

Where going to hear the Christmas story from two different point of view. The first is from the Gospel According to Luke. Look tells us of the night watch shepherds, who were pretty small in society of that time.

Them we'll hear from an even smaller source. In order to respect the livelihood of the writer/publisher of the script, we are respecting the copyright and not reprinting it here. We hope to have a video posted on our new YouTube site.

www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w



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

[Luke 2: 1-20](#)

Pageant

The pageant is about Michelle Mouse, who notices a bright light and hears glorious singing over the hill. She is curious and investigates. The Owl tells her about the special baby born. Michelle goes to see, and meets a variety of animals also going. They refuse to let Michelle go in with them though because she hasn't brought a gift. In the end Michelle climbs up the wall to crawl in through a hole... only to get stuck in it. Mary & Joseph look and and express their gratitude that she has blocked the chill breeze from the baby.

In the end Michelle feels good about the visit. She ends by responding to the owl that, "I gave him me for as long as he needed me."

♪ hymns within the pageant:

Hark the Herald.....pg 9
Good Christians all rejoicepg 7
In the bleak mid-winter.....pg 10



Reflection: Gift giving

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁵ Amen.

Our pageant has people, if you like, gathering to bring gifts at a birthday. While the people aren't normally sheep and cows, giving birthday gifts is normal (unless you're a hobbit, in which case the host gives the gifts).

There's a new baby born in the stable and the animals bring gifts. This is good - right?

Sure. It's not giving of the gifts that the issue here.

It's also not what's being given. We all have God given gifts, like sheep have wool and hens have eggs. Some of us are good at accounting, or organizing, or sowing masks, or writing, or curiosity, or getting fired up about injustice, or being a friend. These are all great gifts we can bring to Jesus.

The issue is more the nature of the giving. The sheep, cow, etc give out of their abundance. It's not a big deal to them - although they make a big deal out of it. It feels as though the gifts are actually more about them than the person they've come to honour.

Which is what makes Michelle different. She responded to her God given gift of curiosity and ended up giving her whole self - and helped Jesus in a way she'd never thought of. Her reflection that, "I gave him me for as long as he needed me" is the climax of the pageant

...but it's not the greatest gift in the story, because this is more of a hobbit's tale. I don't think it's clear in the movie, but at the start of *The Lord of the Rings* it is Bilbo who gives out the gifts at his own birthday. This is their way, and it's what is happening at Christmas. God gives us the greatest gift ever... Jesus. God comes

⁵ Psalm 19:14

as a real tangible person. God comes not as an arrogant king on a throne protected by a mighty army. God comes as a defenceless baby in a humble barn. God invites those paying attention, such as the Magi, to come. God invites those normally left out, like the night-watch shepherds, to share the joy. And creation joins in. Perhaps not mice, but there is the star in the heavens.

And there's the life that Jesus lives. This tells us the greatest gift of Christmas is God saying, 'I give myself to you all for as long as you all need me.'

*To God be 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 (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: How did you celebrate Christmas when you were young?

Memories: What was a great gift that you received (any age)?

Values: What Christmas traditions would you like? They can be ones you already do, or don't do. They can also break COVID rules... this is the stuff dreams are made of.

Wonder: Wonder together about other ways God could have come back then.
Wonder together about how the Christmas story would have happen now.

Actions: This question has had volumes of pages written, so just give a highlight. How would you describe the gift God gave at Christmas, and how do you respond to that?

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 people⁶

Bright Holy God,

You come among us.

You fill us with awe and wonder.

You welcome our stories and our prayers . . .

We pray tonight for peace,

peace in places where there is anger and war and fear...

We pray for peacemakers and peace keepers, for rulers, for politicians, for fighters, for older people and children... for all who are caught up in conflict, in bitterness and in danger...

We pray for peace with integrity and with justice...

God, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

We pray for those who are not home for Christmas,
for those who are missing family. . .

We pray for those who have no home. . .

and we pray for those whose home is not a safe or comfortable place. . .

⁶ adapted from *Candles and Conifers* by Ruth Burgess 246

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for the children born tonight and for their families.
We ask you blessing on their lives. . .

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for all who are sick, and for those who care for them and
pray for them. . .

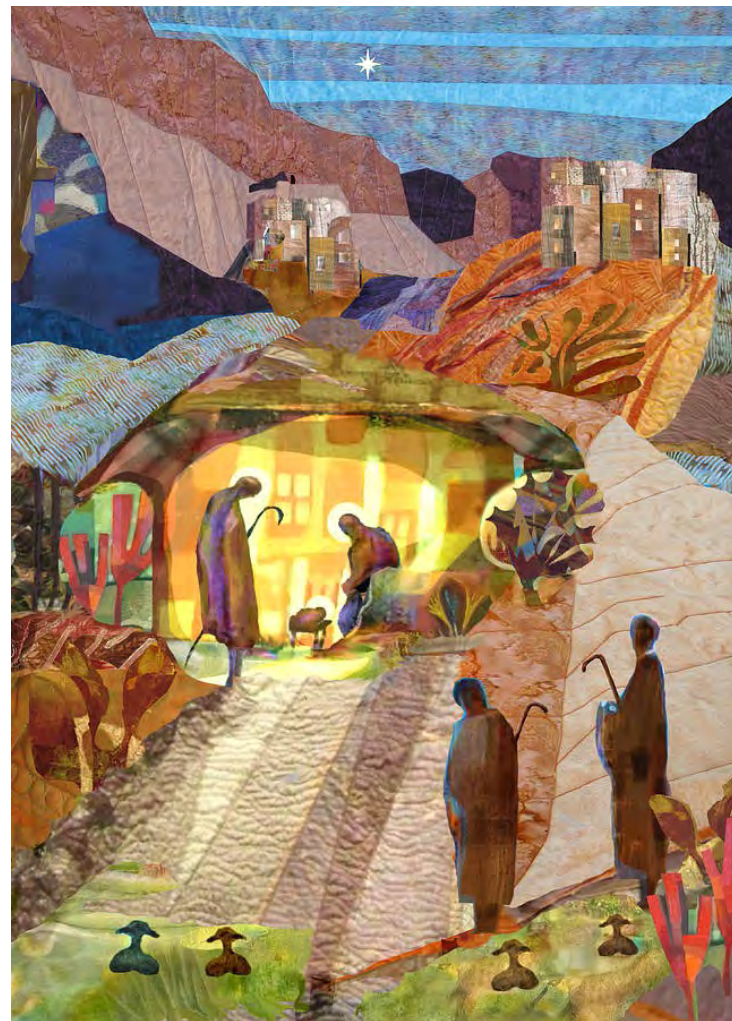
God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

We pray for ourselves, for our needs, for our worries, for our
hopes and dreams. . .

God, in your mercy,
Hear our prayer.

Emmanuel, God with us,
heaven come down to earth,
help us tonight to listen to the angels
and not be afraid of you,
of your weakness or your glory,
Come, Holy helpless Jesus.
Come into our lives with joy.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Joy to the World.....pg 11
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGyYAzrctzk>



Benediction

The wisdom of the Wonderful Counsellor be with you
the angels of the Lord of hosts guard you,
the strength of the mighty God uphold you,
the love of the everlasting Father enfold you,
the joy of the Prince of Peace be yours,
this Christmas and for ever. ⁷

7 Hay and Stardust. pg 61

On Christmas night all Christians sing

SUSSEX CAROL 888888

Unison

1. On Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to hear the news the
 2. Then why should we on earth be so sad, since our Re-deem-er
 3. When sin de-parts be-fore his grace, then life and health come
 4. All out of dark-ness we have light which made the an-gels

an-gels bring, on Christ-mas night all Chris-tians sing to
 made us glad, then why should we on earth be so sad, since
 in its place; when sin de-parts be-fore his grace, then
 sing this night; all out of dark-ness we have light, which

hear the news the an-gels bring, news of great joy, news of great
 our Re-deem-er made us glad, when from our sin he set us
 life and health come in its place. Hea-ven and earth with joy may
 made the an-gels sing this night; "Glo-ry to God," we sing a-

mirth, news of our mer-ci-ful King's birth.
 free all for to gain our lib-er-ty?
 sing, all for to see the new-born King.
 gain now and for-ev-er-more, a-mea.

Good Christians, all rejoice

INDULGE JUBILO Irregular

Good Chris-tians, all re-joice with heart and soul and voice;

1. now give heed to what we say: Je-sus Christ is born to-day,
 2. now you hear of end-less bliss: Je-sus Christ was born for this,
 3. now you need not fear the grave: Je-sus Christ was born to save,

ox and ass be-fore him bow, and he is in the man-ger now.
 He has o-pened heav-en's door, and we are blest for-ev-er-more.
 calls you one and calls you all to gain the ev-er-last-ing hall.

Christ is born to-day;
 Christ was born for this;
 Christ was born to save;

Christ is born to-day.
 Christ was born for this.
 Christ was born to save.

Words: Latin, anonymous; translation: John ...

Angels we have heard on high

IRIS (GLORIA) 7 7 7 7 with refrain (9 9)

1. An - gels we have heard on high, sweet-ly sing-ing o'er the plains,
 2. Shep-herds, why this ju - bi-lee? Why your joy-ous strains pro - long?
 3. Come to Beth-le - hem and see Christ whose birth the an - gels sing;
 4. See him in a man-ger laid, whom the choirs of an - gels praise;

and the moun-tains in re - ply ech - o - ing their joy-ous strains.
 What the glad-some tid-ings be which in - spire your heaven-ly song?
 come, a - dore on bend-ed knee, Christ, the Lord, the new-born King.
 Ma-ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.

Intro Refrain F Cm/Eb D Gm C/E F Bb/D (Dm)

Glo

ri - a (1st) in ex - cel - sis De - o.
 (2nd) in ex - cel - sis De - o.

ri - a

1. Les anges dans nos campagnes
ont entonné l'hymne des cieux,
et l'écho de nos montagnes
redit ce chant mélodieux.
Refrain
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
Gloria in excelsis Deo!
2. Bergers, pour qui cette fête?
Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?
Quel vainqueur ou quel prophète
méritent ces chœurs triomphants?
Refrain
3. Ils annoncent la naissance
du libérateur d'Israël
et pleins de reconnaissance
chantent en ce jour solennel:
Refrain

Hark! the herald angels sing

MENDELSSOHN 7777 D with refrain

1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing glo - ry to the new-born King,
 2. Christ by high - est heaven a - dored, Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord,
 3. Hail the heaven-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of right-cous-ness!

peace on earth and mer - cy mild, God and sin - ners re - con - ciled.
 late in time be - hold him come, off-spring of a vir - gin's womb.
 Light and life to all he brings, risen with heal - ing in his wings.

Joy - ful, all ye na - tions, rise; join the tri - umph of the skies;
 Veiled in flesh the God-head see! Hail the in-car-nate de - i - ty!
 Mild, he lays his glo - ry by, born that we no more may die,

with the an - gel - ic host pro-claim, "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem."
 Pleased on earth with us to dwell, Je - sus, our Em-man - u - el.
 born to raise the lost of earth, born to give us sec - ond birth.

Hark! the her-ald an-gels sing glo-ry to the new-born King.

French

1. Ecoutez! le chant des anges,
 vient d'éclater dans les airs;
 joignons aussi nos louanges
 à leurs sublimes concerts:
 gloire à Dieu! paix sur la terre!
 Aujourd'hui le Christ est né!
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
2. Son palais est une étable,
 une crèche est son berceau,
 et pourtant, c'est l'Admirable,
 c'est le Fils du Dieu très-haut.
 Il vient à nous débonnaire
 et de grâce couronné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
3. Avec vous, bergers et mages,
 aux pieds de notre Seigneur
 nous déposons nos hommages,
 nous lui sonçons notre coeur.
 Tout son peuple sur la terre
 dit, avec nous prosterné:
 Jésus, s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.
 Jésus, s'est fait notre frère,
 un Sauveur nous est donné.

Hungarian

1. Halld mint zeng az egész ég;
 "A Királynak dicsőség!
 Békesség a földön lenn,
 Istentől jó kegyelem."
 Népek, örvendezzetek!
 Visszhangozzák a mennyek!
 Hirdesse a természet:
 Krisztusunk megszületett!
 Halld mint zeng az egész ég:
 "A Királynak dicsőség!"
2. Krisztus, kit imád a menny,
 Űr a nagy világ előtt,
 Köztünk íme megjelent,
 Szent szűz az, ki szülte Őt.
 Dicsősége eget áthat,
 Isten Ő, ki porruhánkat
 Földön élni vette fel.
 Jézus O, Immánuel!
 Halld mint zeng...
3. Dicsőség! Ő a Király,
 Békesség és Igazság,
 Éltető világos nap,
 Bajainkra gyógyírt ad.
 Kis gyermek lett mi érettünk,
 Született, hogy mi élhessünk,
 Porból, hogy feltámasszon
 S újjászületést adjon.
 Halld mint zeng...

1. In the bleak mid - win - ter, fros - ty wind made moan;
 2. Our God, heaven can - not hold him, nor earth sus - tain;
 3. An - gels and arch - an - gels may have gath - ered there,
 4. What can I give him, poor as I am?

earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;
 heaven and earth shall wel - come him when he comes to reign;
 cher - u - bim and ser - a - phim thron - ed the air;
 If I were a shep - herd, I would bring a lamb;

snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,
 in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed the
 but his mo - ther on - ly, in her maid - en bliss,
 if I were a Wise Man, I would do my part; yet

in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.
 Lord God in - car - nate, Je - sus Christ.
 wor - shipped the Be - lov - ed with a kiss.
 what I can I give him - give my heart.



Josey & Maria - Everett

Joy to the world

ANTHOCH 8686CM with repeat

1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come: let earth re-
 2. Joy to the earth! the Sav- iour reigns: let us our
 3. No more let sins and sor- rows grow, nor thorns in -
 4. He rules the world with truth and grace, and makes the

ceive its King; let eve - ry heart pre - pare him
 songs em - ploy, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and
 fest the ground; he comes to make his bless - ings
 na - tions prove the glo - ries of his right - eous -

room and heaven and na - ture sing, and heaven and na - ture
 plains re - peat the sound-ing joy, re - peat the sound-ing
 flow far as the curse is found, far as the curse is
 ness and won-ders of his love, and won-ders of his -

Tenor and bass v.1 And heaven and na-ture sing (Bass), and

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872).

and heaven, and heaven and na - ture sing.
 re - peat, re - peat the sound-ing joy.
 found, far as, far as the curse is found.
 love, and won - ders, won - ders of his love.

heaven and na - ture sing (Similarly for vv 2, 3 & 4)



Heavenly Hosts - M Moyers