



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *Tidings of joy*

*December 13, 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.

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).



### *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

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

### *Announcements*

**Blue Christmas:** Dec 21 at 7 p.m.

Have you found the last year tough? Perhaps you have lost somebody, or lost dreams, or just feel a little lost and not in the Christmas spirit. Join us for a quiet time of worship that acknowledge those feelings in the context of Christmas.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87094852936?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87094852936?pwd=dzM0aE9RenNBb3JRYTRVeDd3bXg1Zz09)  
[pwd=dzM0aE9RenNBb3JRYTRVeDd3bXg1Zz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87094852936?pwd=dzM0aE9RenNBb3JRYTRVeDd3bXg1Zz09)  
or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 870 9485 2936

Passcode: 7864826

**Christmas Eve:** Dec 24 at 7 p.m.

Join us for a festive worship - complete with pageant.

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84809937801?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84809937801?pwd=T3RaNTk9BRVN6UXEwNnNZengyQT09)  
[pwd=T3RaNTk9BRVN6UXEwNnNZengyQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84809937801?pwd=T3RaNTk9BRVN6UXEwNnNZengyQT09)  
or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 848 0993 7801

Passcode: 7864826

**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

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

**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.



## *Approaching God*

note: you should have two candles already lit (hope and peace)

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

In this season of Advent, we celebrate God's joy.


**Knowing that Christ is coming  
to bring healing and wholeness to the world  
is a source of delight!**

When we gather for worship it is a celebration,  
an opportunity to rejoice in all that God is doing  
among us and beyond us.

**We welcome our neighbours and celebrate God's goodness.**

Even when we face difficulty and trouble  
we sing a song of faith,  
confident that Jesus is able  
to redeem our suffering world.

**Together, we are a sign of God's joy for the world.**

 lighting the candle of joy

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

**God of transformation,  
we rejoice that you lift up the lowly  
and bind up the broken hearted.  
We marvel at your power to change hearts and lives.  
Fill us with your Spirit this season  
so that our voices declare your goodness  
and our lives proclaim your mercy  
in Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

<sup>2</sup> provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development

<sup>3</sup> provided by Presbyterian World Service & Development

♪ Hymn: He came down that we might have **hope, peace, joy**.pg 11  
<https://youtu.be/3WhJ95xYjBE?t=1653> (they don't sing 'hope',  
but it gives you an idea.)

### Prayer of Confession

in the stopping  
in the pausing  
in the quiet  
we cannot avoid what we are not


Our faults  
our lack of faith  
our lack of vision  
and of action  
our lack of trust in You – all bubble to the surface

You, the perfect parent,  
see what we are  
and still stand by us  
offering us hope  
and above all, forgiveness

Help us here  
Help us now – to recognize that it was with us in mind that You  
sent the baby Jesus  
It was with us in mind that He grew to live and die and to rise  
again  
Because that's what You think we are worth

May Your love set us free this day and always –  
these things we ask in the name of that Son,  
whose praise we sing  
and who taught us when we pray to say together:<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> adapted from Christian Aid Scotland

 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.




### *Listening to God*

 Prayer

O God, our beginning and end,  
by whose command time runs its course:  
bless our impatience,  
perfect our faith,  
and, while we wait the fulfillment of your promises,  
grant us joy in your Word.  
Amen.<sup>5</sup>

### Intro to the readings

This week the details are in the sermon... so let the Spirit guide you.

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

[Psalm 126](#)

[Luke 1: 39-55](#)

[1 Thessalonians 5: 16-24](#)

♪ Hymn: My soul cries out.....pg 9

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F9QeTmRCpW4>

painting by Sharron Helleman



### Sermon: Tidings of Joy

Dear Lord, please bless these words  
and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>6</sup> Amen.

Christmas - the season of joy. In our closing hymn today we'll sing about the joyous strains of angels echoing off mountains and shepherds. Today is the advent Sunday dedicated to Joy.

Are you feeling it?

or are you feeling more of the advent spirit of waiting... for what seems like forever?

I'm having difficulty seeing the joy. Yes, we've got vaccines coming, but there's still the record levels of coronavirus infections, the full hospitals, the restrictions at Christmas, ..., plus issues of racism and the complexity of what police are expected to do that have faded from the news without being resolved.

[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0017/71603/13-December\\_SusanBrown\\_3-of-Advent.pdf](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/71603/13-December_SusanBrown_3-of-Advent.pdf)

5 adapted from Worship Sourcebook D.3.1.6

6 Psalm 19:14

Today's passages are about joy. We've got a psalm where they were "filled with laughter and ...shouts of joy." Elizabeth & Mary both feel blessed. John leaps with joy while still in the womb. Paul is telling the church in Thessaloniki to "rejoice always."

Are these passages for the real world, or are they just a dream?

I assure you, they are for the real world. They all recognize that there are difficulties in the world. The Psalm was sung by people going up to Jerusalem and remembers their time in captivity. For Elizabeth, not being able to have children had probably dashed her dreams and brought her shame in her community. Mary being pregnant out of marriage was asking to be lynched... which is nobody's dream. On top of that, they lived in an occupied country with oppressive taxes where, around this time, the Roman army had squashed a little rebellion by destroying a city 4 miles from Nazareth... their neighbours. Paul's letter to the Thessalonians was written in response to doubt about Jesus' return, trouble with their leaders, persecution from the Romans, and the deaths of some beloved members.

These passages are about people who knew hard times.

Yet, they are also about joy.

Where do they find it?

With God,  
with their memories,  
and with their Spirit fed dreams.

and what memories they have.

The Psalm isn't about laughing now, it's remembering the joy they had in what God has done.

What memories do you have where God has blessed you with joy? Instead of regretting that you can't get together with others like you want to, remember that you were able to in the past... and that was good.

Which is easier said than done. It's like telling somebody to be grateful. They're more likely to feel guilty for not feeling grateful.

A better way would be to forget the first part. The "Instead of" and go straight to the fond recollections. Then acknowledge that God gave you those blessings.

Take some time now to remember some times of joy. It could be a birthday (a surprise party?)..., or an evening with friends..., or an amazing drop-shot..., or playing with a puppy as it trips over its feet..., or a walk by the water....

What about times when you met Jesus in somebody else. I expect it's not as literal as Elizabeth meeting Jesus in Mary, but we believe that God works through people. Is there a time when you have felt God's peace, or joy, or acceptance, or love through somebody else?

Can you lift up this memory?

...and dream.

Not small dreams, and not individual dreams. Big Dreams.

Listen to the dreams in our readings...

In the psalm they dream of everyone having their fortunes restored. Everyone, not just the writer or singer. Everyone has what they need so that they shout with joy. (What would it take for you to shout with joy?)

Mary's dream is more of crazy. God will take an unmarried woman with, basically, no status or power in society and change the world. God will level things. As Isaiah and Luke say, "Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill shall be made low."<sup>7</sup> Mary's dream is less poetic and names the proud, powerful and rich being made low, while those hungry for food and justice and acceptance and love are lifted up. Mary dreams of a new social order for everyone.

It reminds me of another dream to change society. One that includes these lines,

*I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal."*

*I have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood.*

*I have a dream that one day down in Alabama, little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.*

*I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted, every hill and mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together*

*This is our hope. With this faith we will be able to work together, to pray together, to struggle together, knowing that we will be free one day and sing in the words of the old spiritual: "Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!"<sup>8</sup>*

Just in case you don't recognize it, that comes from Martin

Luther King Jr's "I have a dream" speech given in 1963.



It can be scary to dream that big - hard to let our expectations grow so that we risk falling so far. If we're not careful we can, as Paul puts it, "quench the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit can't be put out, but we can smother it.

One of the secrets to these big dreams is their source. They aren't rooted in self, they flow from God. They are watered by the Holy Spirit and the Word. They are nurtured through discussion, prayer and study. They are fertilized through faithfulness.

Which is something that Paul reminds his listeners. He offers them more than a dream. He reminds them that God is faithful. That God is with us. That God can keep us until the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember that God is faithful, and based on that rejoice, prayer, and give thanks.

Let's try a little dreaming.

I remember when we first closed the church building before Easter I dreamed of a glorious return with lots of singing. I don't think that's what our return will be like... but I have a dream of us gathered together and singing glory to God. I have a dream of inviting neighbours over for dinner. I have a dream of us having a

<sup>7</sup> Luke 3 and Isaiah 40

<sup>8</sup> full text and audio can be found here:

[kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/i-have-dream-address-delivered-march-washington-jobs-and-freedom](http://kinginstitute.stanford.edu/king-papers/documents/i-have-dream-address-delivered-march-washington-jobs-and-freedom)



community Easter egg hunt in the park... even if it's not close to Easter. Maybe we'll even go carolling.

but more than that, I have a dream of nobody being seen by their skin colour, of nobody being afraid, of nobody feeling worthless, of nobody being hungry or cold, of nobody waiting for help, and everyone being able to use the talents God gave them to help everyone else, and of everyone feeling the God's joy.

and everyone will sing joyous strains with the angels.

*To God be the glory*

*Amen.*



*According to Luke - Rhonda Chase*



## *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: Oh for a thousand tongues to sing.....pg 11  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h\\_4DwJ-97co](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h_4DwJ-97co)

### FaithTalk

These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Wonder: What amazing dreams can you come up with for the future?

Memories: Share memories of joyful occasions - and thank God for them.

Actions: Search for different versions of the Magnificate - text, sung, danced, painted, ...

ex. [christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/meditation-advent](http://christianaid.org.uk/resources/churches/meditation-advent)

Values: How do you value God's faithfulness? How do you look for it? How do you let it affect your 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.

## Prayers of the people

We thank you, Creator of dreams,  
for the visions you give us  
in this advent time.

For helping us to remember times when we felt joy and love,  
hope and peace. . .

For helping us dream of this coming again - not just to us, but to  
everyone.

We pray for places where this is not known now.

We pray for those battling illness:

- those that have COVID or are helping in the fight...
- those that have other issues: such as cancer, or a knee replacement...
- those that suffer from mental illness...

Lord, give us your dreams

**that they may they know your joy.**

We pray for those experiencing conflict in these times that  
have pushed everyone

- conflict within their country...
- conflict with their government: such as whether the police are safe to turn to, or how have clean water, ...
- conflict with the neighbours...
- conflict within their family and home during this family orientated season...

Lord, give us your dreams

**that they may they know your joy.**

We pray for those experiencing loneliness in this season that is  
usually full of gathering and cheer...

Lord, give us your dreams

**that they may they know your joy.**

We pray for those who are experiencing an unsettled  
Christmas, whether this is due to:

- a loss of income...
- the lack of a trade between the UK and the EU...

Lord, give us your dreams

**that they may they know your joy.**

And Jesus, we pray for your church. That both the world-wide  
church, and Kensington, may receive your dreams for us. That  
we may celebrate them and live into them.

Lord, give us your dreams

**that they may they know your joy.**

We offer these prayers in the name of Jesus, our source of joy.

**Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Angels we have heard on high.....pg 10

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN\\_Y](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN_Y)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAMzAIH12yc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VAMzAIH12yc) 'hip' harmonies

...and there's many many more on YouTube

Benediction (1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24)

*May the God of peace himself sanctify you entirely; and may your  
spirit and soul and body be kept sound\* and blameless at the coming of  
our Lord Jesus Christ. The one who calls you is faithful, and he will do  
this.*

Amen.





**Prayer** We give thanks for the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation program in Ghana, which provides training to people with disabilities, helping ensure they have the necessary resources to lead healthy and productive lives.



## Halidu's Shop Equips Others

In Ghana, Halidu manages a prosperous and bustling training centre where he teaches kente weaving and dressmaking. When Halidu was young, he developed a sore that led to his leg being amputated. During his recovery, Halidu enrolled in a Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported program that equips people with disabilities with skills to obtain a livelihood. During workshops, he learned vocational skills that included weaving, tailoring and dressmaking. Today, Halidu is using what he learned during his recovery to lead a healthy, productive life and run a successful business.

### DAILY PRAYERS

**Monday, December 14** We pray for the wisdom to understand and be thankful for what it means to have enough during the consumer-driven Christmas rush.

**Tuesday, December 15** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent in Ont.

**Wednesday, December 16** We pray that God fills us with the wisdom of the scriptures, the grace of Christ and the understanding of the Holy Spirit so that we may be a church of people with vision who are at work in the world.

**Thursday, December 17** We thank God for financial and prayer support received from congregations for Presbyterians Sharing in 2020 to support the ministry of the General Assembly and its committees.

**Friday, December 18 (International Migrants Day)** We pray for the safe and just treatment of foreign temporary workers in Canada, as well as for organizations and individuals working for the humane treatment of migrant workers and members of their families.

**Saturday, December 19** We pray for people who are cold and hungry, that they not only find local meal and shelter programs, but also compassion during this winter season.

## Boosting Bodies and Minds in Haiti

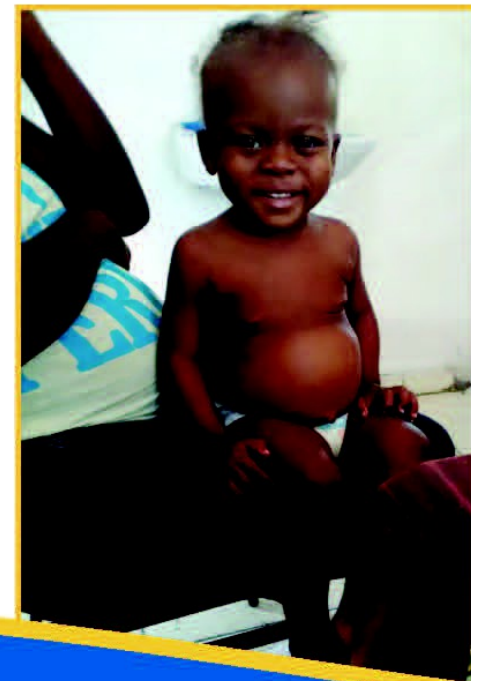
Little Seraphin was light in the arms of her mother when they arrived at Hôpital St. Marc. At only fifteen pounds, the two-year-old was severely underweight and in need of immediate treatment for malnutrition and its many complications.

With persistent droughts and a continuously changing climate, many families in Haiti are left without sufficient food for their children and almost half of the population is malnourished.

After her mother brought her to the hospital, Seraphin was enrolled in a program supported by PWS&D and Canadian Foodgrains Bank, providing therapeutic nutrition support to malnourished children.

In the program, Seraphin was given milk, food, antibiotics and vitamins to help her regain her strength. Within a few months, Seraphin weight had doubled and she was able to leave the program happy and healthy!

This Advent season, help make sure children have access to nutritious food, allowing them to lead healthy lives from childhood to adulthood.



[WeRespond.ca](http://WeRespond.ca)



The development and relief agency  
of The Presbyterian Church in Canada



# 69 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

LUKE 1:46-55

Em C D Em

1 My \_\_\_\_\_ soul cries out with a joy - ful shout that the God of my  
 2 Though \_\_\_\_\_ I am small, my \_\_\_\_\_ God, my all, you \_\_\_\_\_ work great \_\_\_\_\_  
 3 From the halls of power to the for - tress tower, not a stone will be  
 4 Though the na - tions rage from age to age, we re - mem - ber who

C D Em G

heart is great, and my spir - it \_\_\_\_\_ sings of the won - drous \_\_\_\_\_  
 things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the  
 left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice \_\_\_\_\_  
 holds us fast: God's \_\_\_\_\_ mer - cy \_\_\_\_\_ must de - liv - er \_\_\_\_\_

D Em C Em G

things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your  
 past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y  
 tears ev - ery ty - rant \_\_\_\_\_ from his throne. The hun - gry  
 us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

D Em

sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak - ness you  
 name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would  
 poor shall \_\_\_\_\_ weep no more for the food they can  
 word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

C D Em

did not spurn, so from east to west shall my  
 for you yearn, you will show your might, put the  
 nev - er earn; there are ta - bles spread, ev - ery  
 holds us bound, till the spear and rod can be

G D Em C Em

name be blest. Could the world be a - bout to turn?  
 strong to flight, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 mouth be fed, for the world is a - bout to turn.  
 crushed by God, who is turn - ing the world a - round.

Refrain G D

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the

Fm C D Em

fires of your jus - tice burn. Wipe a - way all tears, for the

C D Em C Em

dawn draws near, and the world is a - bout to turn!

Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the *Magnificat*, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Music (STAR OF COUNTY DOWN 8.6.8.6 D refrain 9.8.10.8): Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.

## 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 heav - en - 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.

**Refrain** **I** **VI** **ii** **V** **I** **IV**  
 F Cm/E♭ D Gm C/E F B♭/D (Dm)

**Glo**

**Glo**

Words: Luke 2:6-20; traditional French carol Music: traditional; arrangement; Martin Shaw  
 (1875-1958) from Oxford Book of Carols

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Oxford University Press, 1928

**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



God in Christ  
374

# Oh for a thousand tongues to sing

RICHMOND 8 6 8 6 CM

G D/F# D C/E G C D7 G Em6 D/F# G6 D/A A7 D //

1. Oh for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise, the  
2. Je-sus, the name that charms our fears, and bids our sor-rows cease-'tis  
3. He speaks, and lis-tening to his voice new life the dead re-ceive; the  
4. Hear him, you deaf; you voice-less ones, your tongues a-gain em-ploy; you  
5. My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim, and

G/B Em Am D/C G7/B G7 C G/B C/B D7/A G C G/DD G

glo-ries of my God and King, the tri-umphs of God's grace.  
mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears; 'tis life and health and peace.  
mourn-ful, bro-ken hearts re-joice; the hum-ble poor be-lieve.  
blind, be-hold your Sav-iour comes, and leap, you lame, for joy.  
spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ours of thy name.

## HE CAME DOWN

G D7

He came down that we may have love;

G G7

came down that we may have love; he came down that we may

G Cantor

Why did he come?

C Cm6 G/D D7

have love; hal-le-lu-jah for ev-er-more.



Mary & Angel  
Marcia Carole