



Kensington Presbyterian Church

not like moths

January 10, 2021

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).



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=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)
[pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRlOFF1UT09)
or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Movie: Join Antoinette (over Zoom) to watch *The Lion, the witch and the wardrobe* - based on C.S. Lewis' Narnia book. Jan 23rd at 6 pm.

Book Club: Is reading *The Magicians Nephew* by C.S. Lewis. This is the first book (chronologically) in the Narnia series. If you are interested in joining the discussion on Jan 27th, please contact Antoinette for details.

Re-opening the Church: In order to reduce the spread of the coronavirus we are not allowed to worship in one place. After the lockdown eases and Montréal is no longer 'a red zone' our Session will consider when to reopen the building. In the mean time, we are continuing to improve our facilities.

Please continue to check out the website

<https://kensingtonchurch.ca/>

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

Contacts

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



Approaching God



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



Call to worship

O come, let us worship the Lord
 and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The Magi who study the heavens follow a guiding star!

O come, let us worship the Lord
 and consider what wondrous things God has done:

The peoples who live in the shadows see a glorious light!

O come, let us worship the Lord
 and consider what wondrous things God has done:

**The Christ who embodies the Word
 unveils the hidden plan,**

making us joint heirs of the promise of salvation
 through the gospel!

**O come, let us worship the Lord,
 for God has done wondrous things!**



Prayer of Approach²

Living God,
 who quickens the faith that brought Magi from the east,
 who kindles the hope that brought captives from exile,
 and who inspires the love that brings strangers together,
 let the light that shone in the darkness shine upon us.

Let your light shine within us,
 driving out the shadows

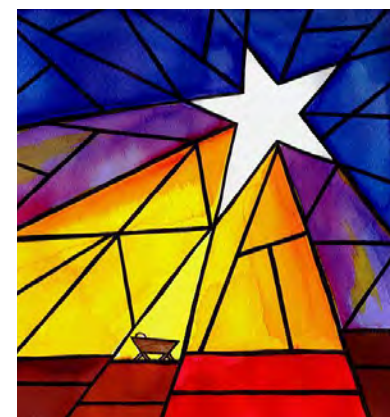
² adapted from Worship Sourcebook F.1.4.6

The ways that we think ourselves superior to others,
 instead of using our gifts to enable there's,
 or letting their gifts enable ours.
 The shadows that think we know the truth,
 and stop us from listening to other ways
 or creating opportunities taste and see your vast glory.
 May your light drive out the shadows that weigh us down.

And let your light shine around us,
 lighting a path for our neighbours to see their way.
 And let it shine above us,
 revealing the Christ who embodied your presence.

In Jesus, one of the sources of your light that you left us was a
 prayer to light our way. We now come together to say the
 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: Arise, your light has come.....pg 8
www.youtube.com/watch?v=X_go8lNaVHc



Listening to God



Prayer

Our Lord and our God,
now as we hear your Word,
fill us with your Spirit.
Soften our hearts that we may see your ways.
Fill us with your light.
Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
Amen.³

Intro to the readings

Today has three great readings.

- The honesty and hope from Isaiah to those in Judea living under Babylonian oppression watching their taxes, resources, and people leaving (being taken) to them.
- The vision being offered to the Ephesians about the scope of God's
- and the Matthew passage, both familiar and lacquered with memories and cultural addition.



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

[Isaiah 60](#): 1-6

[Matthew 2](#): 1-12

[Ephesians 3](#): 7-12

³ Worship Sourcebook F.3.1.6

🎵 Hymn: We three kings.....pg 9
www.youtube.com/watch?v=j1ZOGTPsxng

Sermon: Something old, something new

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



Looking for something has its challenges - which is why you have to look for it. Looking in the dark makes it harder - not just to find it, but not to stub your toe. I'm sure you can remember an example.⁵

The darkness can be less literal. Perhaps you remember a restaurant, but not exactly where it

is - so you walk or drive up and down the street looking for it. Or perhaps you haven't even been there before, but heard about it from somebody else. Maybe they couldn't remember what type of restaurant it was, just that it was really amazing. So you're walking up and down Sherbrooke looking for this amazing restaurant that has several windows and a green awning.

or take another example. You know a baby has been born who will save the world from its problems... but you're not quite sure where, or who the parents are, or what the baby looks like.

I don't think even Google could find that baby.

⁴ Psalm 119:14

⁵ painting is *The Lord is my light* by M Moyers

This is what those Wise Ones were doing. They probably weren't kings, but Zoroastrian priests. They were expecting someone to be born who would save the world. Their studies taught them what signs to look out for, but the other details were in the dark. Then they saw a light - a bright light shining in the heavens.



In 2020 we learned about 'The Great Conjunction', when Jupiter and Saturn are so close in our sky that they look like one amazingly bright star. A previous time this appeared was near when we think Jesus was born. Perhaps this is what they saw.

Regardless, it was a light shining in the darkness. Their belief was that it meant the saviour had been born, and so followed the light looking for its source. When they arrive, they recognize the source of light for the world in the baby Jesus.

We know that Jesus is the light of the world, the saviour. We know about what he will teach, how he crosses barriers to heal, and how he will be put on the cross because of our sins... and then show there is healing beyond even that for those willing to travel with him. Even the first time listener of this gospel would be expecting the saviour as it's in the first line of the book.

This revelation of God at work is the exciting news that the Ephesians are being reminded of - and saying that "through the church the wisdom ... might now be made known". It makes a lot of sense that God would work through the church.

It even makes sense before the Gospels were written - back when Jesus was born. God had chosen a group of people to work through: the Jews. Some of them recognized, or had glimpses, of what was going on: Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds. These were people who had to worry about running a household, finding work, or protecting sheep. Still, the light of God reflects off of them bringing light to the world. However, it's the priests who had dedicated their lives to God that you'd expect to be the ones to recognize God at work.

Even more ironically, we have foreign priests recognizing that baby Jesus is the saviour of the world. They are commonly called Magi - the root of our word magician. There are various references in the Bible that say what they do is bad. While their intent is to find and celebrate the light born into the world, they also reflect it to us - showing us God healing division in the world.

The different Gospels all emphasize different aspects of God. In Mathew we start with showing Jesus rooted in the Jewish people with a list of those who have come before, but the story expands to include the stars in the heavens and people who are supposed to be bad.

It makes me wonder where God might be working now. I do believe that God is working amongst the leaders of the church - within the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and other branches of the church. One example of God working through us with others in the Presbyterian World Service & Development

responses to COVID 19.⁶ I know that God is also at work through people who are part of churches, but don't have leadership positions - Marys and Josephs. But this story of the Magi coming and recognizing Jesus makes me wonder about seeing God reflected outside the church.

In October, CBC radio started a monthly series called 'Montrealer of the Month'. None of the three people so far work within a church. Church isn't even mentioned, but does that mean that God's light isn't reflected in what they do?

The first person recognized as *Montrealer of the Month* was Naveed Rehman.⁷ He's a nursing aid at St. Mary's where he's known for engaging patients and listening to their stories. "He'll do anything for you... and never asks anything in return." One story is how he recognized what it must be like for a patient who was almost blind to be alone in a room all day. He found them a radio to provide some companionship. I think he's actions brought light.

The next month was Anwar Alhjooj.⁸ He was a layer in Italy before coming to Canada to support his wife's education. Starting as a volunteer, he now works at the Montreal City Mission as a social worker and intercultural program coordinator. He is appreciated for the way he makes people feel secure, comfortable, and helps them find a way to contribute. He excels at going beyond listening to the outsider and including them.

Most recently Alia Jaafar⁹ was recognized for her dedication and warmth running a daycare downtown. The children are excited to go. Two things she has in common with the others: she loves what she does, and she is very humble about it. They all

bring light into people's lives.

How do we respond to this light?

because light is needed. We hear in Isaiah of a thick darkness covering the earth and the peoples. There are many types of struggles going on right now, layered upon each other. This is a thick darkness... but the same passage encourages us. "Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you. ...lift up your eyes and look around....Then you shall see and be radiant."

Where should we look?

Look in the Bible, in prayer, in the church... and outside. To those who are reflecting the light of God. The writer of Ephesians talks about the boundless riches of Christ, and the rich variety of God's wisdom. Look beyond your boundaries, because God is big.

So let us acknowledge the darkness, and the light that has come in Jesus. Let us look up and look around. Let us be open to all the places and people that reflect the light of God, bringing healing to the world. Let us remember that God's love is so boundless that it can put stars in the heavens to light our way.

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



6 [presbyterian.ca/pwsc/covid-19-response/actalliance.org/covid19/](https://www.presbyterian.ca/pwsc/covid-19-response/actalliance.org/covid19/)


7 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montrealer-of-the-month-cbc-1.5746345>

8 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montrealer-of-the-month-anwar-alhjooj-1.5823962>

9 <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/montreal/montrealer-of-the-month-december-alia-jaafar-1.5858322>



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).

Etching: Share about a time when you noticed the light/hope/healing/presence of God in an unexpected place/person.

Memories: Describe when have you felt intentionally valued and included?

Values: If we value outsiders (Magi or shepherds or others), how could Kensington welcome them, listen to them, and value them?

Actions: Try a way to look for God outside the church... maybe in a newspaper or book, or Facebook, or in some non-church friends/neighbour.

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.



Heavenly Window - Villeneuve sur Lot

Prayers of the people

God has called us out of darkness
into the glorious light of the Son.

Let us therefore pray for those who do not yet know the light
and for all those in need of our prayers,
saying, "**Lord, hear our prayer.**"

For the church and its ministry to the world,
and for all those who shine the light of the Good News,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[Silence]

For the nations of the world and their leaders,
for all those in authority,
especially our city leaders Premier Legault
& Prime Minister Trudeau;
and for the transition of power in the United States,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[Silence]

For those who are lonely,
for victims of injustice and discrimination,
for those who are hungry and homeless,
for those who are unloved and forgotten,
let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, hear our prayer.

[Silence]

For those who are sick in body, mind, and spirit,
 for those who are overwhelmed by COVID physically
 or mentally,
 for those who are dying or grieving,
 let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, hear our prayer.
 [Silence]

Loving God, hear the prayers of your faithful people
 and guide our thoughts and actions,
 so that your light may shine for all the world to see.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Love divine, all loves excelling.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eb6xfRzjhg

Benediction

*May the light of the glorious gospel of Christ
 Shine in our hearts, transform our lives,
 and brighten the world.
 And the blessing of God almighty,
 Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
 rest upon you always.¹⁰*
 Amen.

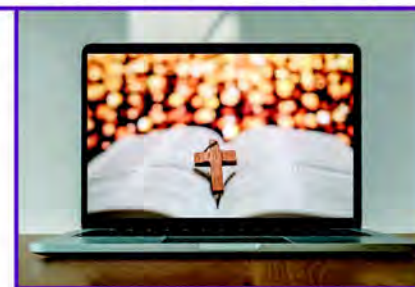


¹⁰ Worship Sourcebook F9.2.1

Sunday, January 10

MISSION MOMENT

Prayer We thank God for technical tools for worshipping and building community online, and for the people in our churches with the skills to help us use them well.



PCCWeb Presence for Congregations and Ministries

A website extends the ministry and mission of a congregation beyond church walls, giving members the ability to make the most of their church experience and allowing visitors the opportunity to learn more about a congregation. A great church website should share details about your congregation's ministry, highlight news and events, offer online worship services, and let people know about upcoming activities, mission projects and fundraisers. Your gifts to Presbyterians Sharing equip congregations and groups of the PCC with simple and easily maintained websites through PCCWeb—a free web hosting and technical support service provided by the Communications Office. To learn more, visit presbyterian.ca/pccweb.

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, January 11 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development programs that bring sanitation aid to countries recovering from flooding.

Tuesday, January 12 We pray for leaders of Canadian churches gathering in the coming days, hosted by the Canadian Council of Churches, to support one another and share the experience of their important and challenging ministries.

Wednesday, January 13 We pray for the work of Cornerstone, an outreach ministry of the Presbytery of Niagara, and its minister, the Rev. Nicole Reid.

Thursday, January 14 We pray for members of the International Affairs Committee as they prepare the committee's report to the 2021 General Assembly.

Friday, January 15 We pray for wisdom and love for congregations supporting family members, friends and neighbours who wrestle with addiction.

Saturday, January 16 We pray for those who live and work in prisons, as well as for those who volunteer and work to bring God's Word of love and grace to these facilities.

712

Arise, your light is come

A D A D A E/B B7 E

1. A - rise, your light is come! The Spir - it's call o - bey; show
 2. A - rise, your light is come! Fling wide the pris - on door; pro -
 3. A - rise, your light is come! All you in sor - row born, bind
 4. A - rise, your light is come! The moun-tains burst in song! Rise

A E/G# D/F# A/E Bm/D B7/D# E A/C# D A/C# Esus4-3 A

forth the glo - ry of your God which shines on you to - day.
 claim the cap-tive's lib - er - ty, good tid - ings to the poor.
 up the bro-ken - heart-ed ones and com - fort those who mourn.
 up like ea - gles on the wing; God's power will make us strong.

Words: Ruth Duck (1947-) Music: William H. Walter (1825-1893); descant, Diana McLeod (1931-)

Words: copyright © Ruth Duck, 1974 Music: descant, copyright © Diana McLeod, 1995



We three kings

KINGS OF ORIENT 8 8 6 with refrain

Em B 7 Em

1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold -
 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise, King and

B 7 Em D

gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 owns a De - i - ty nigh, prayer and prais - ing,
 life of gath - er - ing gloom, sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 God and sac - ri - fice: hal - le - lu - jah,

G G/B G Am Em/B B7 Em

moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ping God on high.
 bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 hal - le - lu - jah, sounds through the earth and skies.

Refrain D D7 G C G

O star of won - der, star of light, star of roy - al beau - ty bright,

Em D G C G D G C G

west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Words: John H. Hopkins Jr. (1820–1891) Music: traditional carol;
 arrangement, John H. Hopkins Jr. (1820–1891)

Words: public domain Music: public domain



Love divine, all loves excelling

HYFRYDOL 8787D

F C F Bb/D C7/E F C Dm C F/A C7/G F /A

1. Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, to
 2. Breathe, oh breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to eve-ry
 3. Come, al-migh-ty to de-liv-er, let us all thy
 4. Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion; pure and spot-less

Bb6 Dm C F F /A C F Bb/D C7/E F C Dm C

earth come down; fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing,
 troub-led breast! Let us all in thee in-her-it,
 grace re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn and nev-er,
 let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion

F/A Gm6 F /A Bb6 Dm C F Am Dm7 Dm

all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art
 let us find the prom-ised rest; take a-way our
 nev-er more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be
 per-fect-ly re-stored in thee, changed from glo-ry

Gm C7 Dm C7/E F /E Dm Bb6 Am Gmsus4-3 Bbmaj7 C7sus4-3

all com-pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art;
 love of sin-nings; Al-pha and O-me-ga be;
 al-ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a-bove,
 in-to glo-ry till in heaven we take our place,

F Am Gm C7 F /A C Bb C

vis-it us with thy sal-va-tion;
 end of faith as its be-gin-ning,
 pray and praise thee, with-out ceas-ing,
 till we cast our crowns be-fore thee,

F/A Bb /D F/C C7 F

en-ter eve-ry trem-bling heart.
 set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
 glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
 lost in won-der, love and praise.