

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Remembering the future

March 14, 2021

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home. 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).

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor)......Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca Antoinette (families)......Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca



March 12, 2021 235 years of the Presbyterian church in Montréal

Communion: is this week. All who want to know God better are welcome to participate, but you'll need to provide your own elements.

Prayer Group: will be meeting through Zoom on Wed. at 11:30 a.m. If you would like to pray at a different time, please contact Peter.

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?

pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09

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.

Live Worship: After Montréal is no longer a Red Zone, Session will reconsider when we feel it is safe to open. If you would like the Zoom information (or to practice), please contact Peter.



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



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 (which is from the PWS&D (Presbyterian World Service and Development) and is being used by congregations across Canada)

The journey to Jerusalem is long. This is a wilderness journey and we are not always comfortable. But we trust and we persevere.

We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

God's people are familiar with wilderness. After Egypt, they wandered in hunger and thirst confused and tired—waiting for the promised land. Our destination is different. We aim for Jerusalem—where it all ends and where there will be new beginnings.

We are pilgrims on a journey. We are travelers on the road.

Let us pray.

God of the wilderness, give us strength when we wander. When we stray and grieve, hunger and thirst, you have promised to make

water spring up in the desert. Quench our thirst. Feed us with manna. Strengthen us when we are tired or lack trust. In the name of Jesus we pray, Amen.

☐ Hymn: Come sing, o church, in joy!.....pg 10 www.youtube.com/watch?v=cevFGtOGnkg

Prayer of Confession

God of compassion,

you are slow to anger and full of mercy, welcoming sinners who return to you with regretful hearts.

You receive in your loving embrace

all who come home to you.

Seat them at your bountiful table of grace, that, with all your children,

they may feast with delight

on all that satisfies the hungry heart.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Saviour, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.²

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Know the Good news through Paul's letter to the Ephesians By grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God.³ Know that you are forgiven and be at peace Amen.

Worship Sourcebook J.2.2.6

Ephesians 2:8

Hymn: In unity we lift our song......pg 11

www.youtube.com/watch?v=LwNHDS2yB0I

Listening to God

♪ Prayer for Illumination

God of call, God of transformation, God of the Lenten journey, help us to discern your still, small voice. Open us to change and growth,

that we may walk with Christ. In Jesus' name,

Amen.4

Intro to the readings

• In the live service we won't be reading all of Psalm 105, but will include a short summary of verses 6-38.

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

Lamentation 3: 17-26

<u>Psalm 105</u>: 1-5, 39-45 (or the whole thing)

Mark 14: 16-26

Sermon: Remembering the future

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

Think of an anniversary you've been to - maybe it was your birthday? Was there balloons and cake? Where stories told of when you were younger? Perhaps you've been to more solemn

4 Worship Sourcebook J.3.1.3

anniversaries, such as Remembrance Day, when we remember those who are no longer with us. This past week recognized the first anniversary of the current pandemic.

We've all experienced anniversaries. Anniversaries are about remembering something that happened. But is it about remembering the person involved or something else?

"Remember the wonderful works God has done," our psalm reminds us. That, I would suggest, is what anniversaries are about. It doesn't matter if it's a birthday or memorial, we take the time to remember the great things God has done.

Now, this often looks like remembering people because God works through people. Wherever there are relationships missed or built, wherever communities are formed and people are helped - God's Spirit is at work.

There are several people in our community who are interested in history, but if I asked you to name one I expect you'd think of Howie. One of the things I appreciate about him is his excitement about history, the many stories he knows... and that he's not offended when I have to do something else.



This week Howie and I talked a bit of history, some of which I recorded to share with you. He shared with me that what got him started into history was a request from somebody here at the church to help research an anniversary. It's interesting where an invitation can go. Initially they'd been hoping for an adolescent

⁵ Psalm 19:14

to help out, but in stepped Howie.

When I asked him why he finds history interesting, this is what he said...

[video played: Howie talks about curiosity being his first drive, and then finding out what people were really like - warts and all.]

The people is also what I find interesting about history - especially how much we lived differently, and how much we are still the same. What makes you curious?



Old St. Gabriel St. Church, Montreal, 1892 Photo by Wm. Notman & Son /McCord Museum

Howie pointed out a while ago that March 12th, last Friday, would be the 235th anniversary of the Presbyterian Church in Montreal. Here's a bit about what he has to say about who gathered that first group of Presbyterians and where they came from.

[video played: Rev Bethune came up after the American Revolution and collected together some Scots - generally ones who used to be soldiers and were now fir traders.]

It's important to remember the past. Our Bible passages today all remind us of that. From *Lamentations*, as might be expected from the title, we are reminded of hard times. I'm not sure what it was like for those soldiers who lost the revolution and gained a

new opportunity in Montreal - one that required hard travel into the woods. The passage from *Lamentations* remembers times when we've forgotten what happiness is; when our soul is weighed down. It's a good reminder that others have gone through this before.

Anne & Howie did a good job bringing this out in their article that I included with the Saturday's email [and reprinted on page 13]. There were the typhus and cholera pandemics in the 1830s and 40s that killed thousands, and thousands more who died in the so-called Spanish flu 100 years ago - when the population was much lower.

It is important at times like these to remember we are not alone, and that "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases."

Now, it may not be as we expect it.

There's the example of Howie volunteering to help research some of the congregation's history when they were looking for an adolescent. There's also the example of the person who came in after Rev. Bethune moved on. I'll let Howie tell you about him...

[video: Howie talks about Rev. Young coming up in about 1790 to reform the Presbyterian community and had a church built. Quite a number of the new members were fir traders. Howie figures that one of the places he found them was in the bars - where, as an alcoholic, he spent a lot of time.]

You'd kinda of expected more heroic ministers starting the Presbyterian church here in Montreal. The first left after a year leaving the congregation to drift back to the Anglicans. The second was an alcoholic. But the Holy Spirit works in all sorts of ways. If you're curiuos, Howie has lots more stories about churches sprouting here in Montreal, and splitting, and joining up. Through it all, God worked to help improve people's lives.

Anniversaries, and history in general, are interesting. They appear to be about the past, but that's just when they happened. They speak about the present. The church and pandemics of the past, and us in a pandemic now. How people carried on then, and carry on now. It's about the way God was with them, is with us, and will always be active in the world.

As Lamentations reminds us, "The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."

To God be all the glory Amen.



Raith Talk

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

Values: Do you think that history is worth spending any time on?

Memories: Share your earliest memories of church.

Etching: Share an example of God working through the/a

church.

Wonder: Wonder together why God bothers to work through

imperfect people.

Spirit Sighting

Please see the PWS&D insert on page 9.



Financially, we have set up a donation option on **our** website. Just click the '<u>Donate Now</u>' 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 <u>Kensington Presbyterian Church</u> and the e-mail address is <u>info@kensingtonchurch.ca</u>.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) are also good options.



Communion



☐ Communion Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him.....pg 12
 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ModYoPReYYw



Today we are going to remember another unexpected way that God worked to bring healing to the world. One that is bigger than Montreal, bigger than Presbyterians, bigger than history, and bigger than death.

In a way that was more unexpected than anything in our history, God brought healing through the betrayal and death of Jesus. God's love and commitment to the world, faithfulness.

In a few weeks we'll celebrate that anniversary. Today I invite you to remember Jesus being with us through it all - then and now.

It is the will of Jesus that those who want to experience him should meet Jesus here.

C'est la volonté de Dieu que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus devraient partager ce repas.

So, come,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have come often
and you who have not come for a long time,
you who have tried to follow
and have done so imperfectly.⁶



liturgical table - Jan Richardson

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper, we also come together with a statement of faith that we share with Christians of many types, around the world and through the centuries.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried;

he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy catholic church,

the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,

the resurrection of the body,

and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Great prayer of thanksgiving & the Lord's Prayer The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

⁶ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

Dear Lord, we come to you in joy and wonder. Your creation is amazing: full of complexity and beauty. and then you created us in your image, each of unique, and each needing the others.

and you can see it all - you know it all.
and you teach us, repeatedly, how to live better.
Sending all sorts of reminders to us
from crocuses to prophets.
Pushing dirt from our lives,
you never giving up on us.

Therefore we join our voices with with the whole of creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, Holy , Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.Hosanna in the highest.Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.Hosanna in the highest.

and you came
physically into history as Jesus,
teaching and healing
Gathering a group of imperfect disciples
and leading them to do wonders.
Shining a light to show the right way to live.

Standing in your light,
we see how we don't live up to your invitation,
but you still invite us to repent,
to turn from the ways we hurt and allow hurt,
and back to your way.

In going to Jerusalem,
and staying through the betrayals,
the despair,
the sorrow
and death,
You showed us that this is not the end.

you transformed them all, bringing hope, joy, health & life. In the face of your unexpected ways, Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

and as we wait for your return, we are not alone because you're Spirit is with us.

We thank you for your continued presence, guidance, strength and healing.

There are many who need to feel your touch,

- those who are feeling alone or disconnected. . .
- those whose health and lives are affected by COVID. . .
- those who suffer from other physical or mental health issues. . .
- and those who are trying to support others. . .

May these people feel you peace and hope.

As we share your bread and your cup, we pray that your Spirit will make them alive so that we may be closer to you and strengthened by you until you come again.

As we prepare to share this symbol of the feast to come, we come together to say the prayer you teach us: (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.



We are all One in Jesus Christ - Soichi Watanabe



Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God he broke the bread and shared it, saying

"This is my body; it is broken for you."

"Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous"

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said, "This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me."

"Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon (saunt) sang; faites ceci en mémoire de moi"

These are the gifts of God for the people of God. [take and drink]

* Prayer after Communion

Loving God,

your Spirit connects us across any distance, and has fed us through this sacrament, making us one with Christ

and showing your love and kingdom here on Earth.

Lead us from here,

to experiences of your love.

and grant us courage to respond in ways that celebrate and share your love for this world. Amen.

□ Hymn: There's a Spirit in the air.....pg 10 www.youtube.com/watch?v=d8r-AkLkxtU



Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.



Sunday, March 14

MISSION MOMENT

(4th Sunday in Lent) We give thanks and pray for Fraternidad de Presbiteriales Mayas in Guatemala as they empower Mayan women through Bible study and workshops on self-esteem and human rights.



Empowering Women and Girls

On March 8, we celebrate International Women's Day and reflect on the work the church is doing around the world to help achieve gender equality. Through Presbyterian World Service & Development, we support programs that help marginalized women and girls reach their full potential, access quality education and health care, achieve economic independence and advocate for their rights. Empowering and supporting vulnerable women and girls not only creates self-reliance but is crucial to ending poverty and hunger. When women are empowered, they help build a more sustainable and just world.

DAILY PRAYERS

Monday, March 15 We give thanks for volunteers, who are the heart and hands of their church communities.

Tuesday, March 16 We pray for the Ministry & Personnel Committee of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough in Ont. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

Wednesday, March 17 We pray for Presbyterian World Service & Development projects that teach families about cooking and nutrition in order to build healthier, more sustainable futures.

Thursday, March 18 We pray that the faculty of Knox College (Toronto, Ont.), Presbyterian College (Montreal, Que.) and Vancouver School of Theology (B.C.) find joy and wisdom in and for the work of theological education.

Friday, March 19 We pray for those who are feeling isolated or alone, and give thanks for church fellowship programs that extend Christ's friendship to those suffering from loneliness and isolation.

Saturday, March 20 (Spring Equinox) We give thanks for a new growing season and pray for ministries with gardening programs.

A Home Away from Home

Accused of bewitching her niece after she fell ill, Zenabu Sugri began to fear for her safety in her own home.

In Ghana, where belief in witchcraft is widespread, it is often used to explain unusual and unfortunate events. Unfortunately, older women like Zenabu, are blamed and subjected to cruel treatment and discrimination when accused.

After suffering from relentless taunting, Zenabu found sanctuary at the PWS&D-supported Gambaga Camp—a refuge for women accused of witchcraft.

Zenabu has now found a sense of belonging with the community of women. At the camp, she's learnt how to make soap and sells it to earn an income. "It is peaceful. I am in good health and getting enough to eat," Zenabu shared.

This Lenten season faithfully respond to Christ's call to serve the marginalized. Through support for PWS&D, we can combat stigma and discrimination while supporting the vulnerable to lead peaceful and secure lives.

WeRespond.ca





The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada



Words: Brian Dill (1949-) Music: John Darwall (1731-1789) Words: copyright @ Brian Dill, 1989 Music: public domain CCLI# 4440603

There's a spirit in the air



- 1. There's a spir it in the tell - ing Chris - tians eve - ry-where: air, Lose your shy - ness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:
- 3. When be-liev ers break the bread, when a hun gry child is fed,
- 4 Still the Spir it gives us light, see - ing wrong and set - ting right:



"Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv - ing, work - ing, in our world!" God in Christ has come to stay. Live to-mor-row's life to - day! praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv-ing, work-ing, in our world. God in Christ has come to stay. Live to-mor-row's life to - day!



- 5. When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home, praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.
- 6. May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways. God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!
- 7. There's a Spirit in the air, calling people everywhere: praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.

Alternate tune: Monkland

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: John W. Wilson (1905-1992) Words: Copyright © 1969, 1995 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1979 by Hope Publishing Co.



1 In unity we lift our song

of grateful adoration, for brothers brave and sisters strong. What cause for celebration! For those whose faithfulness has kept us through distress, who've shared with us our plight, who've held us in the night, the blessed congregation.

- 2 For stories told and told again to every generation, to give us strength in time of pain, to give us consolation.

 Our spirits to revive to keep our dreams alive, when we are far from home and evil seasons come; how firm is our foundation.
- 3 For sacred scriptures handed down, a blessed trust and treasure, which give us hope when hope is gone and make us weep with pleasure.

 And when our eyes grow blind and death is close behind, we shall recite them still whose words our hearts can fill with hope beyond all measure.
- 4 For God our way, our bread, our rest, of all these gifts the Giver.
 Our strength, our guide, our nurturing breast whose hand will yet deliver.
 Who keeps us till the day when night shall pass away, when hate and fear are gone and all our work is done, and we shall sing forever.



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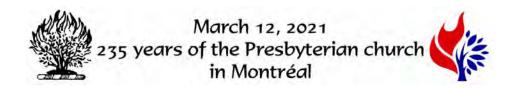
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Marking our History.

By March 12, 2021, the world will have endured a full year living through what the WHO declared a global Pandemic: the COVID-19 crisis. It has been painful and exhausting for many: a year of sickness and sorrow, but also a year of service, courage, and survival. By a very strange coincidence, this day also marks the 235th year that the Presbyterian Church has been serving our faith in Montreal, beginning with its origins in a rented room in a Catholic church within the double stone walls of fortified Old Montreal. The oldest archival records of the Presbyterian Church in Canada are the baptism, marriage, and death register of the St. Gabriel St. Church, from 1796.

The Rev. John Bethune, originally from the Isle of Skye, came to Montreal as a military chaplain and on March 12, 1786 began offering services in Gaelic and English in one room of the chapel of the Recollets, a space shared with Anglicans and Franciscan monks. He moved on to serve in Glengarry district the following year, and in 1790 a new minister, John Young, moved to Montreal and continued Presbyterian services. Finally, on Oct. 7, 1792, Rev. Young preached from the pulpit of the first house of Presbyterian worship, a stone structure called "The Scotch Kirk," the St. Gabriel Street Church illustrated above.

Over the centuries, Montrealers have endured many trials and challenges, like the thousands of immigrants and settlers dying of typhus and cholera pandemics in the period from 1832-1848. In February of 1833, the city declared a general period of fasting and

prayer to end the latest cholera epidemic. Health services were limited, and many died in miserable fever sheds. The so-called Spanish flu of 1918 struck hardest in Montreal, then Canada's major port city, where most of the returning WW I military landed, and some 3,128 people died.

Today we endure a health crisis: thousands infected and dying even with our modern facilities and health services. We continue to worship safely in our homes through prayer and Zoom services, with our printed bulletins, pastoral visits, phone calls and other contacts like an online book club, Zoom Café, movie night, Prayer Partnerships, WMS services and prayer groups. We all do our best to sustain and honour our church's traditions, now celebrating 235 years in Montreal.

Howie Dearlove and Anne Blott



Old St. Gabriel St. Church, Montreal, 1892. PHOTO BY WM. NOTMAN & SON /McCord Museum

