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Kensington Presbyterian Church What it's about?

May 2, 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).



Trust in the Lord - Ivan Guaderrama

Announcements

Communion: We will be connecting with God through the Lord's Supper today. All who want to know God better are welcome to participate, but you'll need to provide your own elements.

Book Study: first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30

Join Ines Rombeek and others in exploring *The Liturgy of the Ordinary* by Tish Harrison Warren. As the title suggests, it helps you find God in all aspects of life. We will be exploring the book one chapter at a time.

If you would like to join in, please contact Ines.Rombeek@gmail.com or through Rev. Peter.

It's nice to see that there will be people joining from inside and outside the congregation. If you know anybody who is open to the idea of God, curious about God, or what it means to be a Christian this is a good activity to invite them to.

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.

Contacts

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

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



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

Call to worship²
Let us worship the eternal God,
the source of love and life, who creates us.
Let us worship Jesus Christ,
the risen one, who lives among us.
Let us worship the Spirit,
the holy fire, who renews us.

To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Prayer of Approach
Dearest Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly.

We are so grateful that your arms are always up to us.

We come to you now,
being led here by your Spirit,
to spend time with you,
and others gathered through this ministry.
May we realize how much you love the world,

and not be afraid to respond.

Sometimes we are afraid of what loving you might demand.

Forgive us when we look away from you, or those who need to know your love through us.

Heal us from when past loves have hurt us.

Help us to prune what we need to out of our life.

To have faith in your love,

and to accept your forgiveness.

In Jesus name Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Here the Good News

"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world,
but in order that the world might be saved through him." Know that you are forgiven and be at peace

Amen.



Love Hearts - Banksy

² Worship Sourcebook 1.2.26

Listening to God

Prayer for Illumination

God of life.

your Spirit raised Jesus from dead.

Your Spirit inspired the prophets and writers of Scripture.

Your Spirit draws us to Christ

and helps us to acknowledge him as Lord.

We ask that you will send your Spirit now to give us deeper insight, encouragement, faith, and hope through the proclamation of the Easter gospel. Amen.⁴



Intro to the readings

- Today's Gospel passage from John is from Jesus' final teaching to his disciples. He is trying to reassure them and offer them hope before his arrest.
- The letter called 1 John has themes similar to the Gospel John, but experts believe they are written by different people... and that Revelation is also a different John.
- Back in chapter one of Acts Jesus had told the disciples that "you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8). They were in Jerusalem, then Judea, and now we meet an Ethiopian - who is from beyond the Roman Empire... or the ends of the earth.



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

1 John 4: 7-9, 19

John 15: 1-8

Acts 8: 26-40

Worship Sourcebook N.3.1.1

Sermon: What it's about

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

I suspect sometime over the last 32 years you've encountered The Simpsons - the animated American family that's still producing new stories. I never watched it much, but I've seen enough to have an idea of the various characters and how they play with their stereotypes. One of the regulars is their neighbour Ned Flanders. He's the



Christian stereotype: all about trying to do the right thing - as if following a set of rules is what it's about.

While this may be what the world thinks of Christians, I don't think it's a good representation. Being a Christian isn't about following a set of rules to get into Heaven or gain wealth here on earth. It's about responding to God's love.⁶

How do we respond?

Have you ever been loved by somebody who you felt out-loved you, or who was 'out of your league'? Was there fear of letting them down? Fear of them rejecting you if they really knew you? Where you intimidated? God's love is so big it created the universe. It's so strong that "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" How do we respond?

It helps to remember what God's love is like. Paul reminds the

Psalm 19:14

I used to think that Judaism was about following the rules to please God, but this is also a bad misunderstanding. Jews (yes, a generalization), point out that it starts with God's love which they respond to. The rules are a tool that helps.

John 3: 16a

Corinthians that "Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth."

This is not a love to be intimidated by. You will not let God down.

What are some healthier responses to love?

The first is to want to spend time with what you love. It doesn't matter if it's a TV show or a person. If you are in love, then you want to spend time with your love.

Another response is to want to please the person you love. Something I'm noticing in my boys is how they are asking to do activities they know I like to do. It's a way they show their love.

It also relates to another response: imitation. Sometimes it's intentional. You love the way somebody volunteers at The Depot, or knows about things, or paints, or... You love somebody and want to be like them. Sometimes it's not intentional. Can you think of a couple that have been together so long that they have become like each other?

Also linked to time is communication. When you are in love there can be lots of time just spent mindlessly gazing into each other's eyes, but there is also the desire to share ideas & feelings, your ups & your downs.

When you're in love, you want it to go on; you want to abide in it.

Abide isn't a word that's used much anymore. If you look it up it can mean stable - like you want it to go on. It can also mean to

live with. If you think about living with somebody for a while you know it can mean 'stable', but definitely doesn't mean 'stay the same'. People and relationships are always in flux. That's part of living. It doesn't mean the relationship doesn't go on, it's just not stagnant.

I think this is part of what Jesus is getting at when he invites us to "Abide in me".

But this isn't just an invitation to move in, this is an invitation to respond to the love shown in Jesus, because I cut it short. The full phrase is, "Abide in me as I abide in you."

How does Jesus abide in us?

Well, as Psalm 23⁹ reminded us last week¹⁰, the Good Shepherd will follow pursue us all the days of our life. God will lead and guide us through through dark valleys to what we need - with the help of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, and other helpers. And there's the classic signs of love: wanting to spend time with those



you love, listening to them, giving honest advice, and offering them grace. We can see this in the way the Jesus lived and died, and came back for us.

How do we abide in Jesus?

We can also pursue God. You can do this by:

• studying the Bible, having conversations with others (through books or in person),

^{9 &}lt;u>bible.oremus.org/?passage=psalm+23</u>

¹⁰ kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities/ - check out the April 25th service

- looking back on your day for sightings/actions of the Holy Spirit,
- listening for the Spirit nudging you,
- praying or having conversations
- going to places where you expect to find God, such as worship and communion
- intentionally spending time with God

Now love will often lead to unexpected places in your life. Most of the people in my French class moved to Montreal for love. Where will our life go if we abide with Jesus? I don't know, but the story from Acts gives two good examples.

For Phillip, he is going to unknown places - seemingly wherever the wind (Spirit) blows him. For the Ethiopian, he is going back home - but not as he was. When he was made a eunuch he was no longer a part of a family. Now he realized that the God wanted and accepted him as a child of God. Now he knew he was loved by God. I wonder how this love changed his life when he got home? Neither of them knew what was coming or how their lives would be in responding to God's love.

Can you imagine being in either one of the shoes?

Living with the unexpected can be draining. Thankfully it's not the unexpected we're asked to abide with - it's Jesus: the Shepherd we can depend on. The one who loves us more than life, and will never give up.

This doesn't deny the unexpected or the dark valleys, but when we're abiding in Jesus we can have faith that life will grow - that love will grow. This can be seen in the fruit that grows (which is an interesting analogy for another time).

So remember what it's all about. "We love because Jesus first loved us." 11

In the name of God: Creator, Son & Spirit - Holy and One. 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: Can you think of any couples who have become similar to each other?

Etching: How does God pursue you? (How do you notice God?)

How do you pursue God?

Values: How do you abide with each other?

Actions: How do you respond to God's love?

Wonder: Consider the imagine of the grape vine. The need to be connected to roots. The need for pruning to produce fruit. That the fruit isn't for that grape vine, but other vines and many animals. That the grapes can be turned into something beyond their expectations (I had a very nice grape pie once).



^{11 1} John 4: 19

5/13

🧩 Spirit Sighting

This week students and elders will be 'gathering' for the Guidance Conference. It is a concentrated time when they reflect together about the student's call - to ministry or otherwise. They will be intently listening for how the Spirit is leading. One sign of the Spirit in this is that people are being called to be ministers in our denomination. God has a future planned for us. Our prayers go out to them as they do this, especially with the added challenges with pandemic restrictions.

*Offering

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.

MANN

Communion

☐ Hymn: Put peace into each other's hands.....pg 11 (560)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zu1xDPrwTFQ



Invitation to the table

One of the ways that Jesus abides with us, and us with God, is through Communion. This memory of Jesus with his disciples, and a symbol of the great feast to come. But more than remembering, we also experience the living Christ here in ways that can be hard to describe.

You are invited to come to the LORD's table. Wherever you are, Christ is with you. offering bread broken for our journeying and wine poured out for our tears.

In this symbol of the Feast

In this symbol of the Feast, where loss finds comfort in promise and despair is transformed into hope, we come together.

Whoever you are, whatever your bring, hear the risen Christ call your name; and accept God's invitation to new life.¹²

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

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.

6/13

¹² portions by Jan Berry from Fire & Bread. ed Ruth Burgess

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.

With joy, we praise you, gracious God, because you have created heaven and earth.

While there are times of the year that are dark, when we feel alone;

isolated by the invisible ways creation is broken.

Aspects of creation can be terrifying;

but your beauty and love is also there.

Like the blossoms promising apples to come and the cardinals singing their joyful song.

and you don't just let creation sing of your love, you send us prophets and books and artists and others.

And feeling your call, we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.¹³

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.

We thank you that you love us so much that you didn't stay in some classroom, but came out to find us.

We thank you for Jesus,

who shows us what your love is like:

living, healing, teaching, leading, providing honest criticism...

All so we can become the better versions of ourselves that you dream we can be.

We thank you that your love for us so much that you will even follow us to death to lead us to life.

And while the life and death and resurrection of Jesus doesn't make sense, we witnessed the signs of it in the lives of people around us, and even in us.

and so together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

¹³ and now more adapted from Worship Sourcebbok N.8.2.2.4

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

Thank you that your Spirit is continually at work in this world-moving in all of our lives, bringing healing and drawing us closer to you.

We pray for:

- 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. . .

And we thank you for turning ordinary things (like a table, bread & juice) into holy things so that we are reminded that you are with us - always.

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 be 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:

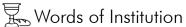
(feel free to use another version/translation)

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.



The Last Supper - Ivan Guaderrama



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
Easter God,
you have met us the elements shared today,
offering your peace and joy.
Send us out into the world,
dancing with delight
and with hallelujahs ringing in our hearts,
to share your justice and your praise.
Amen.

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, May 2 -

MISSION MOMENT

Empowering Youth in Malawi

The people in Malawi's Mzimba District face many challenges. School dropout rates are high and teen pregnancy is on the rise. More women are experiencing



gender-based violence, and there is a lack of knowledge about HIV transmission and prevention. To help address and educate the community about these issues, Presbyterian World Service & Development's local partner, Livingstonia Synod AIDS Programme, has trained 20 community facilitators to teach parents how to nurture adolescents. The facilitators help parents engage youth on issues such as sexual and reproductive health, teen pregnancy, early marriage and the transmission of HIV. The project has been successful in encouraging adolescents to return to school after dropping out.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 2 We pray for Eastern Orthodox Christians as they celebrate Easter and the Resurrection of our Lord.

Monday, May 3 We pray for the candidates for ministry and the guidance counsellors who will gather to engage in dialogue and reflection about vocation and discernment during the Guidance Conference this week.

Tuesday, May 4 (Asian Heritage Month) We give thanks for Asian cultures and people in Canada, and pray that their rich contributions to our history and our nation be honoured and remembered.

Wednesday, May 5 We pray for graduating theological students who are beginning the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

Thursday, May 6 We give thanks and pray for clerks of Session as they, with ministers and fellow elders, provide leadership and pastoral care in congregations.

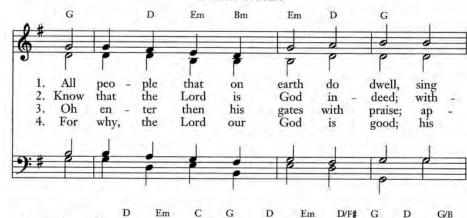
Friday, May 7 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Western Han-Ca.

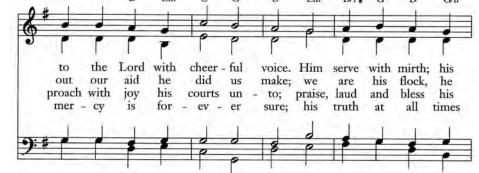
Saturday, May 8 We pray for the safety of LGBTQI2+ refugees seeking sanctuary in Canada, and give thanks for the congregations and sponsors supporting them.

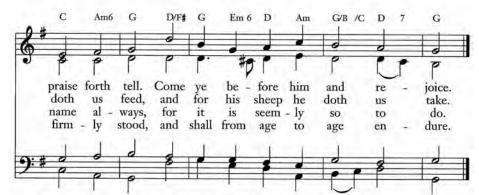
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All people that on earth do dwell

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Words: Psalm 100; paraphrase, William Kethe (c. 1535–1594) as in Scottish Psalter 1650 Music: Genevan Psalter 1551; last line from Ravencroft's Psalter 1621; fauxbourdon, John Dowland (1563–1626) Words: public domain Music: public domain

All people that on earth do dwell

William Kethe; adapt. Thomas H. Troeger, 14

Verse 1

All people that on earth do dwell, sing out your faith with cheerful voice; delight in God whose praise you tell, whose presence calls you to rejoice.

Verse 2

Know t5hat there is one God, indeed, who fashions us without our aid, who claims us, gives us all we need, whose tender care will never fade.

Verse 3

Enter the sacred gates with praise; with joy approach the temple walls. Extol and bless our God always as people whom the Spirit calls.

Verse 4

Proclaim again that God is good, whose mercy is forever sure, whose truth at all times firmly stood, and shall from age to age endure.

¹⁴ digitalsongsandhymns.com/songs/6984





Words: Omer Westendorf (1916-) Music: Welsh traditional

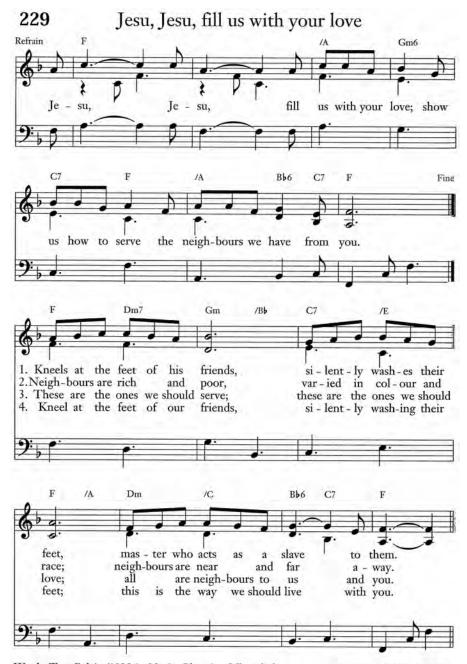
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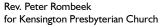
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Words: Tom Colvin (1925-) Music: Ghanaian folk melody; arrangement, Jane Marshall (1924-); adaptation, Tom Colvin (1925-) CCLI #4440603

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1 Corinthians 13 - Ivan Guaderrama