

Kensington Presbyterian Church and the other faiths?

June 20, 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).

Announcements

VBS: two weeks of virtual VBS is being run by A&P. Join them virtually each morning from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., for learning, singing, crafts, games and a fun time with your friends and energetic counsellors!! Kits, including booklets, craft supplies and other goodies, will be delivered to all participants during the last week of June, so we're ready to learn and work together during our zoom time at VBS. For more information email Sharon at churchschool@standrewstpaul.com.

Sunday School: is available Sundays, noon to 1^{ish}
Join Antoinette for a chat, reflections on a Bible passage and an activity. For more information, contact Antoinette (below).

zoom.us/j/95177919687?pwd=K1hpWXJrVElxQWpOMINKdkV1UGloQT09

Residential Schools: For those looking for more information, please visit these sites (or talk to Rev. Peter):

presbyterian.ca/2021/06/05/pcc-and-residential-schools/
presbyterian.ca/healing

Book Study: first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - ex. July 7th Brushing your teeth & God?? Join the discussion and see the connections. The Liturgy of the Ordinary helps you find God in all aspects of life... one chapter a month. If you are interested, please contact lnes.Rombeek@gmail.com.

This is also a good activity to invite a friend who is open to the idea of God or curious about what it means to be a Christian.

Prayer Group: Wed. at 11:30 a.m.

Weather permitting, we will try both Zoom and meeting in the courtyard at Benny Farm.

us02web.zoom.us/j/78266904325?

pwd=dkhMck1ZRXBKTmdvK2VsaHRIOFF1UT09

or phone: 438-809-7799

Meeting ID: 782 6690 4325

Passcode: 7864826

Re-opening: Session is currently making sure everything is well planned to keep people safe for re-opening the building in September.

Visiting: The government considers ministers to be essential workers. If you need a visit, please contact Rev. 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.



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 God, you summon the day to dawn; you teach the morning to waken the earth.

Great is your name, Great is your love.

For you the valleys will sing for joy, the trees of the field shall clap their hands.

Great is your name, Great is your love.

To you the leaders on the earth shall bow, the poor and the persecuted shall shouts for joy.

Great is your name, Great is your love.

Your love and justice shall last for ever, fresh as the morning, sure as the sunrise.

Great is your name, Great is your love.²

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyYWW P9MH4

Prayer of Approach From before the world began and after the end of eternity, you are God.

2 A Wee Worship Book, 5th ed. pg 19

From the sea bursting from its womb to the wind ceasing from its chase, you are God.

In the vastness of the universe and the forgotten corners of our hearts, you are God.

You are our God, and we bless you.

Because the world is beautiful and tender. and we are caretakers of creation, we need you God.

We need you, God.

Because human knowledge seems endless, and we do not know what we do not know, we need you God.

We need you, God.

Because we are free to live without you and could worship ourselves, alone, we need you God.

We need you, God.

Because you came among us and sat beside us and heard us speak and saw us ignore you and healed our pain and let us wound you and loved us to the end and triumphed over all our hatred, we need you God.

We need you, God.

Prayers of Illumination - Moyer



Because you, not we, are God, we need you God.

We need you, God.

Thank you God for the words of scripture that say,

Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine.

and

You are precious to me.

I love you,

I honour you,

I am with you.

and so we respond;

Maker of all,

we are your children, the creatures of your kindness,

made in your image.

This day

we will walk by your light,

follow your son,

and live by your Spirit.

This day,

we will not offer to you offerings that cost us nothing.

For this is the day that the Lord has made; We will rejoice and be glad in it.

Amen.³

Listening to God

 □ Hymn: Sometimes a Healing Word is Comfort.....pg 9 (768) www.youtube.com/watch?v=tvOViM5OiGM



rayer for Illumination

Lord God,

you have declared that your kingdom is among us.

Open our eyes to see it,

our ears to hear it,

our hearts to hold it,

our hands to serve it.

This we pray in Jesus' name. Amen.4



Intro to the readings

- We'll have two readings from some letters shared around the early church.
- We are going to read a section of Living Faith. True, it's not scripture, but it considered by the church to be an important understanding of God & the world.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

1 Peter 3: 13-17 Romans 2: 12-16 Living Faith⁶ 9.2

A Wee Worship Book, 5th ed. pg 19-

Worship Sourcebook 3.1.24

If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré, ISBN 0061834963

or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV available in English, French, Korean, Madarin & Taiwanese presbyterian.ca/resources/resources-od/



Sermon: What about other Faiths?

Dear Lord, please bless these words

and the meditations of our hearts.⁷ Amen.

A rabbi, an imam & a pastor walk into a bar. Thankfully they weren't walking fast and only got small bumps on their heads. They were probably deep in discussion and not watching where they were going.

Sadly, the world is a much more dangerous place. People are getting targeted for their beliefs. While we have a myth that Canada is better than that, recent news may finally be revealing it's not true.

There was the killing of the Muslim family in London the other week simply for looking Muslim. When the government minister responsible for the fight against racism spoke at a vigil for the family he was booed because he was seen as representing a government that promotes a fear of Muslims, that paints them as a threat.

I remember hearing interviews with Muslim women around the time of Bill 21 talking about how they felt both misunderstood and targeted. I heard similar sentiments last week.

Yesterday I heard how the recent wave of prejudice against Muslims goes back to 9/11... 20 years ago.

Of course, it goes much further back than that, and it's not just 'society' or governments or the media. The church has also had issues with people of different faiths: most notably (at the moment) Muslims and Indigenous beliefs, but also Jews and, I suspect, every other belief system encountered by European explorers.

There was antisemitism in the early church as Jews were painted as evil for killing Jesus - neither of which is an accurate statement. This trend led to the tragedy of churches standing by as the Canadian government turned away a ship of Jewish refugees in the lead up to the holocaust.

The church was also complicit with European economic desires to take the Holy Land back from 'the infidels'.



Recently I was talking to a minister who is involved with the Arabic community in his city. I asked if they were doing anything in response to the killings in London. The response was that they help with immigration issues and converting Muslims to Christianity, but don't get involved in politics.

There is Biblical support for active converting of Muslims... everybody actually. There are passages that say that the only way to salvation in through Jesus. If we care about others, then we need to convert them.

But what else does the Bible say?

Well, lots of things.

Take for instance 1st Peter where he writes something similar. He tells people to always be ready to explain where your hope comes from. But not like somebody on a soapbox, shouting from a street corner, or trying to force somebody into a situation, or threatening somebody with hell. We are told to tell about our source of hope "with gentleness and respect." Living Faith puts it poetically that, "We should not address others in a spirit of arrogance implying that we are better than they. But rather, in the spirit of humility, as beggars telling others where food is to be found, we point to life in Christ."

The letter to the Romans picks up on the 'spirit of arrogance'. This is thought to be the last letter of Paul's we have. He's been doing ministry a long time now. He's responding to the issue of those who are outside what is proper and right. Paul challenges them to reconsider how we define what is right. He says to look at the person's actions. If they are doing good then their conscience bears witness to what is in their heart. We would say that it's the Holy Spirit working in their heart... whether they know it or not.

How do we live with other faiths? Do we try to convert them all, or to we acknowledge that God may be at work in others?

Living Faith is a great resource that was produced the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Another one is called *The Social*

Action Handbook. Every year the national church meets at General Assembly and makes decisions about all sorts of things. Then afterwards somebody gets to sort through it and slot topics into *The Social Action Handbook*. Looking through the section on *People of Other Faiths* I discovered this statement from 2009.

"There always remains a tension between our certainty and joy that we wish to share in Christian witness and the gospel demand to bear witness in a relationship of hospitality, openness and humility. Because of our human limitation and our imperfect grasp of our sure faith, we are open to God's gift of faith and God's gift of salvation in Christ that may, by the Holy Spirit, work in ways we do not understand and fathom."

Jesus tells a story about this. A man gets mugged and left for dead. The good people avert their eyes and avoid getting involved. Then along comes the outsider who brings him to safety and pays for the medical bills.⁹

How do we live with other faiths? We humbly and respectfully share our hope and embrace good wherever we find it.

What does that look like?

Again I'll quote from *The Social Action Handbook*, referring to the 2009 General Assembly.

"If reconciliation between Christians and Muslims is not [to] be mere rhetoric but a living reality, then the fears, suspicions, and age-old resentments that exist on all sides must be faced, discussed and resolved. Reconciliation will involve Christians examining themselves and acting justly, loving mercy and walking humbly with God (Micah 6:8). Christians must rid themselves of the bigotry and animosity that is often directed to and felt by Muslims and cultivate a greater understanding of

The Social Action Handbook 2019 ed, pg 67

The Good Samaritan, Luke 10: 25-37

Muslim beliefs and religious practices – and urge their fellow citizens to do the same."

There's lots of ways to do that. The World Council of Churches published an interesting document called *Freedom of Religion or Belief.* ¹⁰ It contains Biblical reflections, big issues, and things that individuals and churches can do. Ideas include: identifying people or groups that are being bullied because of their beliefs; Listening to them; Raising awareness in the community through posters or talks; Invite politicians or local business leaders to be involved; Spend time with people of different faiths.

One of the things Imam Muneeb Nasir said to the General Assembly this year was that Christians and Muslims have much in common. That we both value justice, mercy and walking humbly with God. He challenged us to team up our faith communities to do good in the world.¹¹



¹⁰ www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/freedom-of-religion-or-belief-a-guide-to-biblical-insights

One of the interesting side effects of working with people of other faiths is that we can learn what it means to be Christian. We may have opportunities as we ask them about what they believe to try and say what we believe.

We may even learn how to be better Christians. I particularly admire how Muslims structure their life around prayer, not the other way around. I also have the impression that memorizing their Bible is important. I wonder what life would be like with such a priority on the relationship with God. What if Christians did this too?

Together we can help make the world a better place, and learn more about God.

...and as for saving their souls? We can tell them about our experience, listen to theirs, and let God do the judging.

To God be all the glory Amen.

Responding to God

∏ Hymn: Lord, make us servants of your peace.....pg 11 (739)
 youtu.be/O5UHp9wKPKo

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

Actions: Name your neighbours and share some of what you know about them (ex. name, occupation, likes/dislikes, religion, post-COVID dreams, ...).
You're doing better than most if you only know their names. What might they know of you?

II https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AZIjpIRbGvg

Etching: What interaction did you have with people of

different religions? (especially when you were

younger)

Memories: Do you find it easy to recognize the image of God

in people who aren't Christian? Try to share an

example of when you have?

Wonder: How could we balance the parts of the Bible that

talk of salvation being through Jesus, and that this

puts limits on God's mercy and grace?

Values: Describe some good and/or hard things about

having different religions in a society.

Actions: The World Council of Churches document: Freedom of

Religion or Belief. It contains Biblical reflections, big issues, and things that individuals and churches can do www.oikoumene.org/resources/documents/freedom-

of-religion-or-belief-a-guide-to-biblical-insights

Actions: Pray for those who are persecuted for their religion.

- Spirit Sighting

In Berlin a new building is being built called *The House of One*. It will be contain a synagogue, a church, and a mosque together under one roof. There will be linked by shared community rooms



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.

♪ Prayers of the people

Bound together in Christ in the communion of the Holy Spirit, let us pray with one heart and mind to our God, saying:

God of all mercies,

hear our prayer.

May the love that passes ceaselessly between the Father and the Son in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit renew and deepen the life of each Christian and draw us all gathered into your Kingdom, we pray: God of all mercies.

hear our prayer.

We pray for the sick, the suffering, and all who are in need: such as

Peter M, those with doctor's appointments, Pat B's continued recovery, and those who are still living with fear & loneliness.

For healing for all the world, we pray:

God of all mercies,

hear our prayer.

7/11

For the leaders of Kensington: the Session, Peter, Antoinette & the new music director whom only you know (so far),

and for the leaders of nations

that they may discern ways to overcome divisions and mistrust and may reflect your unity in every aspect of common life, we pray:

God of all mercies,

hear our prayer.

For our families, our households, and our communities. Help us to discover all we have in common so that we may work together to seek justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with your Spirit both here and throughout creation,

so that nobody is persecuted for the looks, their abilities, or their religion, we pray:

God of all mercies,

hear our prayer.

Gracious God, as we give these prayers into your care, we also turn to the prayer you gave us through Jesus to help shape our relationships and hopes. 12

Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

Jesus left us a prayer to guide us into a healthier relations with God and each other. Let us join with Christians around the world, saying...

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 Amen.



★ Benediction

May God our maker bless us and wrap us round in love and tenderness.

May Jesus our brother bless us and ask us the questions that lead us to do justice.

May the Holy Spirit bless us and fill our lives with her courage and wisdom.

May we live bravely in the love of the Trinity all our days and nights. 13



¹² adapted from Worship Sourcebook 4.4.23

¹³ Iona Abby Worship Book

Sunday, June 20

MISSION MOMENT

National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 21 is **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples. The Presbyterian Church in Canada acknowledges the responsibility that our church,



governments and all Canadians have to continue working for healing and justice with Indigenous people. Presbyterians Sharing supports nine ministries that operate in and with Indigenous communities in Canada. These ministries meet physical and spiritual needs by providing meals, counselling, temporary housing and employment assistance. They also strive to heal hearts through art and music therapy, worship services that incorporate Indigenous beliefs, and more.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 20 On **National Indigenous Peoples Sunday**, we give thanks for Indigenous people of all ages and nations who build up Indigenous communities through art and literature, language preservation and instruction, law and governance, healthcare and education.

Monday, June 21 (National Indigenous Peoples Day) We give thanks for Indigenous leaders who nurture and strengthen their communities and the whole nation, and pray for their well-being.

Tuesday, June 22 We pray for a spirit of global cooperation and generosity among the nations of the world as they face new challenges and respond to the enduring needs of people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wednesday, June 23 We give thanks for scientific research and discovery to confront disease and improve people's health through the development of vaccines.

Thursday, June 24 We give thanks for the work of Paul Clarke who is retiring from his role as Executive Director of Action Réfugiés Montréal this month. We pray that God will continue to bless him and the work of Action Réfugiés during this transition.

Friday, June 25 We pray for the generosity to respond to God's call to share what we have with those in need.

Saturday, June 26 We give thanks that women at the Gambaga Camp in Ghana are receiving skills training to improve their livelihoods with support from Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Mission

768 Sometimes a healing word is comfort

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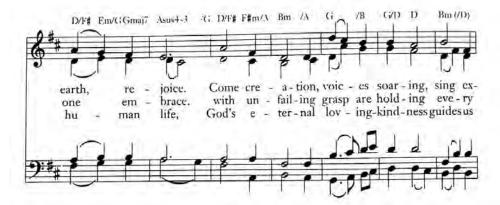


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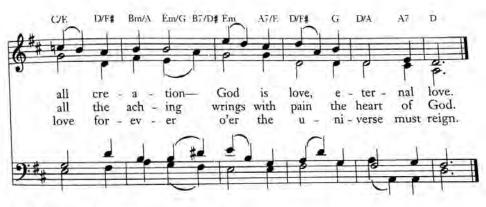
God is love: come heaven, adoring 314





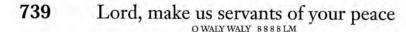






Alternate tune: Hyfrydol

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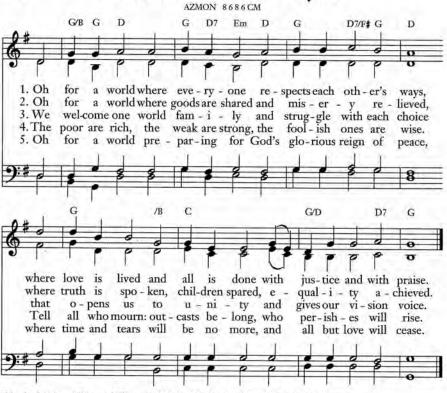




See Also: O Waly Waly 25 224

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730 Oh for a world where everyone



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