Kensington Presbyterian Church How would Jesus vote?

September 5, 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).



Louis XIV Wikipedia

Contacts

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Announcements

Communion this week: All those who wish to know Jesus better are welcome to join us for the Lord's Supper next week. You'll need to provide your own elements (juice/wine & bread)

Re-opening: Next week we will be offering a fourth option for worship: Zoom, <u>YouTube</u>, <u>Text</u>, and in the building. If you have not yet received a copy of the guide to the re-opening, please contact your elder or Rev Peter.

In short, we will be observing many of the measures you've experienced over the last 17 months. Do to risks, there will be no congregational singing. Fellowship will be outside. We encourage those without a vaccine shot to worship from home for your own safety.

Book Study: first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - ex. Oct 5th

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

Beechridge Presbytery Church: will be celebrating their 200th anniversary this afternoon at 1:30.

New Hope Fundraiser: New Hope runs seniors programs and Meals on Wheels out of our building during the week. They will be receiving the local proceeds of *The Grand Parade* on September 18th. You can join the walk or donate money through this website: thegrandparade.org/location/montrealndg

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 (Psalm 47:1-2, 5-6)
Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.

For the LORD, the Most High, is awesome,
a great king over all the earth.
God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

Sing praises to God, sing praises;
sing praises to our King, sing praises.

☐ Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.....pg 10 (321)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCnQNwQG5GI

🕏 Prayer of Approach

and to work with us.

Praise to you Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation. we set aside this time to come to you, and recognize that you are our Lord.

Thank you for not being a leader like one of us, but of being willing to move among us, to meet us where we are,

As we come think about you,
we remember the ways that you lead us,
and the ways you want us to live.
We recognize that we don't live up to your dreams;

that we do things that give us more than we need and the expense of others - that we do things that even hurt others and creation.

. . .

We are sorry Jesus, may your Spirit help us. Amen.

☀ Assurance of Pardon

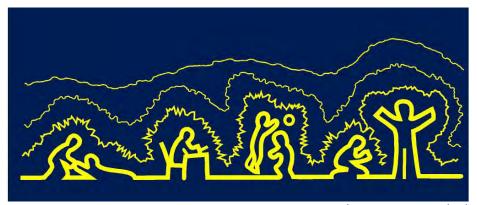
Here the Good News

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Glory to God. Amen.²





making waves - P Rombeek

² Worship Sourcebook 2.4.40

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds

by the power of your Holy Spirit,

that we may hear your Word with joy.

Amen.³

★ Intro to the readings

- Psalm 19 is interesting as the first part is about creation and the sun, and the part we will be saying isn't but it could be seen as as different kind of light.
- The passage from Matthew is quite well known. I think one of the reasons is that it helps focus on some points... and on how one might do them.
- The passage from Micah is another famous one, and it also provides a good summary of things.

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

<u>Psalm 19</u>: 7-14 <u>Matthew 22</u>: 31-40

Micah 6: 6-8

-Sermon: How would Jesus vote?

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

As I said in the email invite, while on vacation I tried not to hear any news - and I did a pretty good job. One of the things that changed while I was gone is that we have an additional election this fall - and soon.



Global News

More so than normal, elections get me thinking about what, or how, God would want the government to be doing things. The catchy way to say that is, "How would Jesus vote?"

Of course, there's a question that needs to come before that. Would Jesus vote?

There's lots of people in our democracy who don't vote. Some because they don't have faith in the system, some as a protest against the system, some because they don't see any good choices, and some because they can't be bothered.

Would Jesus have voted?

I think so. After all, he did engage with the system, and within the system.

One way to change a society is through fighting. It could be by raising an army for a traditional war, or through a guerrilla campaign. While Jesus did gather quite a following, he didn't use them to use violence against the system.

There are several stories in which he heals people and then tells those healed to go and get certified by the priests - not to flaunt the system. There's also many stories of Jesus having

³ Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10

⁴ 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

⁵ Psalm 19:14

dinner with the leaders in the communities. He challenges them with stories, which is an acceptable thing within the system.



https://pbs.twimg.com/media/EgBsqAMWkAA9_8d.jpg

Speaking of teaching, Jesus did this as other travelling rabbis did. When visiting the Temple in Jerusalem you would expect to find people teaching and debating there... and we find Jesus there. In the Gospel According to Matthew, the story builds to Jesus arriving in Jerusalem. There Jesus engages rather dramatically with the system in the form of a protest and the tipping over of the merchant's tables... not exactly actions within the system. After that there are some days of teaching - including

- the story of the poor and outcasts being invited to the Wedding Banquet,
- the question of whether to pay taxes ("who's coin is it,"
 Jesus asks.) a discussion not just about the Jewish
 'System', but also the Roman one they had to live in,

- the observation of the widow and the rich man putting their offering in another money question
- there's the question about what the greatest commandment is - with the answer from the Hebrew Bible being love
- and there's the passage we heard today.

These are just some of the discussions Jesus had with leaders in the community - within the system.

That Jesus participated with the leaders in the community, and usually within the accepted way of doing things, suggest to me that he would also have participated in an election.

I don't think he would have participated quietly. Jesus wasn't shy about speaking up, but what would he have spoken up about?

I think he would have included some of the issues that are of concern today. At the prayer group we were sharing what issues we thought were important and the Environment and Housing were two that came up as universally important - and the Bible definitely speaks about them.

God values the environment - each part of the global ecosystem. The Bible, and Jesus' teachings, are full of references to nature. In Genesis 1 God creates things in turn, and values each of them - not because of their use, but because of what they are: trees, bees, and so on. It's also obvious that we are living so that we damage the natural world: locally and global. Scientists can tell us about the pollution of the local air, water and ground, with the fairly new aspect of micro-plastics, and that animals, even here, have gone extinct. And this damage to the natural world includes us. As the Bible points out, we are a part of the natural world. In the one version God created us on the sixth day after the other animals. In the other we are formed out of the

dirt.

The environment would be an issue that Jesus would ask politicians about. Thankfully they are talking about it.

As the Prayer Group observed, housing in another important issue. The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada agrees with them. A few years ago⁶ our denomination observed that, "Adequate, affordable housing is a vital pillar for building communities in which all human beings can flourish according to the will of God, and a foundation for good health, employment and education. When housing is inadequate or unaffordable these things diminish. Inadequate housing contributes to poorer health, increased likelihood of preventable illness and death, and increased risk of exposure to violence (particularly among those who are homeless). Poor housing affects a child's performance at school, which may have an impact into adulthood."

Having a safe and secure home is an important part of community - and much of Jesus' ministry is about community. The healings he does serve several purposes. They show that Jesus is connected to God; they help the persons physical or mental health; and they restore them to their community.

I think Jesus would also have asked the politicians what they would do about housing issues.

Today's passage from Matthew highlights some other issues. There's looking after those who are hungry, thirsty or need cloths - those how need the basics of life. For the Federal Government, this most directly concerns the Indigenous peoples. The city government sees these issues with those struggling with low income, or who are homeless. Meeting these needs is something

that God values.

There's the mention of welcoming strangers - again this includes the Federal (and Provincial) refugee and immigration policies and procedures, as well as how people are welcomed on the local level when they arrive here. Can they connect to the community? Can they find the resources they need to start a new life? Are thy valued - or in the language of the Bible, are they loved?

There's also the mention of prisons - which reminds me of the discussions on policing that were happening last year. How would God what this done? What should we be asking of our potential representatives?

The other topic mentioned is the need for healing - for those with physical & mental health issues, and on a larger scale, for communities. While health care is not directly an issue in this year's elections, it is still important and worth talking about. The healing of communities is something that local politicians can be involved in.

Which, almost, leads us into who would Jesus vote for because there's the question of how to improve our society to help people. Broadly speaking, politicians and parties on the right believe in smaller governments that don't get in the way of people helping people, while parties on the left believe that the government should play an active part in doing the helping. Both systems have advantages and disadvantages.

Which would Jesus support... I don't know. I suspect he might vote more for the person and their commitment. I suspect that the words spoken through Micah might be a guide. Do they do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly? I suspect Jesus would look for these in the candidates.

^{6 2014 -} as sighted in the Social Action Handbook of the Presbyterian Church in Canada

I want to end with some thoughts from a few different people. Martin Luther King Jr was a strong believer in the Peaceable Kingdom - with the understanding that peace was not inaction. It is important to participate.

The other thought comes from Natan Obed, leader of the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami (a representative national organization). Yesterday I heard him say that it is up to the voters to elect members of parliament who will sincerely push reconciliation forward. Again the idea of taking responsibility.

How will you know about their plans for the environment, or housing, or reconciliation - ask them questions and push for details. Then pray about the answers and discuss them with others. See where the Spirit is blowing.

To God be all the glory. Amen.

Responding to God



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

Values: Share what issues you think are important.

Wonder: Wonder together what are some small things that could be done to help... or work from the other direction and dream about what it would be like if the issues were solves and consider what the journey

was like to get there.

Actions: Talk or email your candidates and ask them what

they suggest doing to help your issues.

Actions: You may want to explore issues through the church or

Biblical lens. Consider looking at sections of the Social Action Handbook presbyterian.ca/justice/social-action

or check out Public Faith in Action by Miroslav Volf.

Actions: Ask Rev. Peter for a Bible study to explore the issues.

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 also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is <u>Kensington Presbyterian Church</u> and the e-mail address is <u>info@kensingtonchurch.ca</u>. And you can sign up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options, or simply mail or drop off a cheque or cash.



Communion





☐ Hymn: Jesus calls us here to meet him.....pg 12 (528)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvBGtFPd6TQ

Invitation to the table

We may not be gathered at one table, or even at one time, but we have all been gathered by one Lord, God almighty, ruler of heaven and earth.

We have all been invited to experience God now.

Join in,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have been here often
and you who have not been here for a long time,
you who have tried to follow
and you who struggle.

Join in, not because you are reading this:
but because our living Lord invites us to "Come".

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.⁷

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.

Lord, we thank you for your love.

That you care about each little flower that opens, each little bird that sings,
the fish and the flees
the lakes and rivers

You care about every one... and all of us together.

Looking back, we can see you bringing forth leaders to show us the way to live with each other

⁷ adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

and the other parts of creation.

That you reached into the brokenness of the world, to lead us into a healthy community.

Looking now,

we see your movement in our lives, reaching out to help us.

So we join with the whole 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 the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

And The One who came in the name of the Lord was Jesus. We thank you for coming to live with us, for raising issues of justice and love to set us a goal to live for.

We thank you that, through Jesus, you show how strong your love is. That you are willing to reach for us, listen to us, challenge us, and invite us in the healing of ourselves and the world.

We see your love in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.

We have 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.

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

Lord, we thank you that you continue to lead us through the

work of your Spirit.

We ask for your help as we contemplate the elections coming.

Help us to engage the system so that your issues will be heard.

We also pray for:

- issues related to the pandemic.
 - That the increase in cases in Western Canada, and elsewhere in the world, decreases.
 - That secondary issues, such as the huge increase in mental illness, be acknowledged and healing happen.
 - That as we look forward to life after COVID, help us to acknowledge and heal from the suffering we have experienced
 - That our reopening of the building next week will not lead to anyone getting sick
- those who suffer from other physical or mental health issues...
 - We are thankful that Peter M's stem cell transfusion seems to be going well, and pray for his ongoing battle with cancer.
- and we pray for other things in our hearts. . .

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.

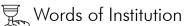
As we prepare to share this symbol of the feast to come, we come together to say the prayer you teach us:

(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.



Jesus offering bread & cup - Barredo Maximino Cerezo



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]

rayer after Communion

Jésus, il n'y a rien qui puisse te séparer de nous.

Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.

Your Spirit nourishes us and offers us strength.

Send us out with tenderheartedness

to touch our neighbours as you would

to share your justice, hope and love. Amen.

∏ Hymn: Now let us from this table rise.....pg 13 (556)
 www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q3c9nLdio7Q

← Benediction

Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.⁸



September 5, 2021

How would Jesus vote?

B Ephesians 3: 20-21

9/13

Sunday, September 5

MISSION MOMENT

Hearing God's Call

Joshua Su, a lay missionary at the Taiwanese Robert Campbell Presbyterian Church in Montreal, Quebec, saw a need on Montreal's south shore for Christian community and worship among Mandarin-speaking people. With the support of the congregation and Cyclical PCC, Joshua was able



to start a network of small groups that meet in homes for fellowship, discussion and prayer. One of the goals of this new and growing worshipping community is to equip leaders to work alongside Joshua as they start new intergenerational discipleship groups. Following in the Apostle Paul's footsteps, leaders within this ministry are hearing God's call to share the gospel in the world.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 5 We pray for the Rev. David Mang, Joshua Su and for the new worshipping communities growing in the Presbytery of Montreal in Quebec.

Monday, September 6 (Labour Day) We pray for the safety and well-being of all workers, and for fair pay and benefits for all.

Tuesday, September 7 (Rosh Hashanah) We pray for our Jewish neighbours who are celebrating Rosh Hashanah (New Year's Day) and the anniversary of the creation of the world.

Wednesday, September 8 (World Literacy Day) We give thanks for the gift of literacy and for teachers and tutors who pass on the gift of reading and writing.

Thursday, September 9 We pray for all of the students attending theological colleges who are beginning or resuming their studies. May they be enriched and challenged through their studies.

Friday, September 10 We pray for Csilla Bertalan, Director of Samuel House, and her colleagues as they provide Christian care to underprivileged children in Romania.

Saturday, September 11 We pray for peace in Palestine and Israel so that all children may grow up in a safe place with equal opportunities.

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church



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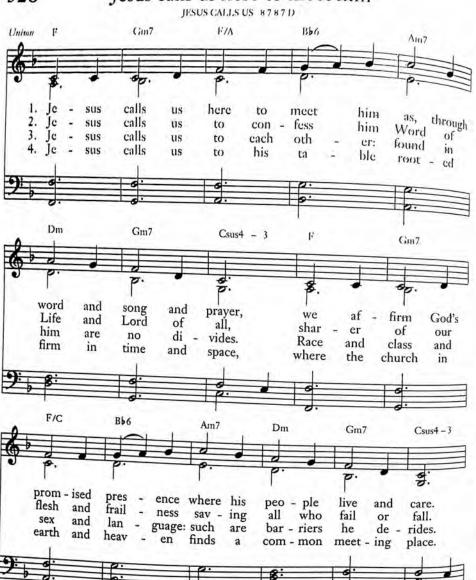
Lord, whose love

BEACH SPRING 8787 D ВЬ C/Bb Gm/F F /E Dmsus4-3 bore the weight of 1. Lord, whose love through hum-ble ser - vice 2. Still your chil - dren wan-der home - less; still the hun - gry till your love's we wor - ship, grant us vi - sion, forth in your to your ser - vice, 4. Called by wor - ship Gm/F F F Æ. Dmsus4-3 6 cross, for - sak who up - on the hu-man need, cap - tives long for dom; still the free cry for bread; its height and depth and ness veal-ing in great light youth, the ged, the child, the name we go C/E (Dm7)C C/Bb Bb (sus2-1) Bb 6 we, your serv - ants, bring the of-fered mer - cy's per - fect deed: still in grief we mourn our dead. your deep com -As, O Lord, dawns up - on our quick-ened sight, mak-ing known the needs and hope and health, good will and love in liv - ing deeds to show;



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