



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Who is my neighbour?

October 3, 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).

Announcements

Re-opening: We are now offering a fourth option for worship:

Zoom, [YouTube](#), [Text](#), 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.

Sunday School: is available for those who are interested. It will take place in Kensington Hall (or outside when nice) for the whole service (to help reduce any risk of spreading infections).

Book Study: first Wednesdays of the month at 7:30 - ex. Oct 6th

We are reading through *Liturgy of the Ordinary*, which helps us to see God in our daily lives. This month's link is 'losing your keys'. This is a great opportunity to invite friends who are curious about God. While reading the chapter ahead helps, it's not necessary. Contact Rev. Peter for more details.

The Kensington W.M.S. will not be meeting this fall until the conditions are more favourable for our type of meeting. Howie Dearlove would be happy to pick up any donations that people wish to make to support larger work of the W.M.S.

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



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

Weather permitting, we will meet both in the courtyard at Benny Farm and on Zoom. Please ask Rev. Peter for zoom details.

Climate Change Conference: October 14 to 16

Our Synod has organized this **conference** to consider what we can do about climate change. The main speaker, Dr. Norman Wirzba of Duke University, will lead three one hour sessions, followed by question times. More details can be found here:

www.presbyterian.ca/geosynod/synod2021.html

Other studies: Online studies for anybody (not aimed at ministers) are being offered by the Ottawa School of Theology and Spirituality. While the first batch have already started, you may still be interested in joining for them, or other courses. Some examples are: Sacred song and social change, The Celtic Christian Tradition, Women in the Church, & Diversity in Worship. More information here: <https://osts.ca/courses.htm>

Presbyterian Church and Residential Schools: For a video presentation, and other information, please check out this web page presbyterian.ca/2021/09/27/video-residential-schools-pcc

Contacts

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



Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Chris est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship (based on Psalm 108:1-4)²

Our hearts are ready, O Lord,
our hearts are ready!

We will sing and make melody!

We will awaken the dawn!

We will give thanks to you, O Lord, among the peoples,
we will sing praises to you among the nations.

**For your steadfast love is great above the heavens,
and your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.**

♪ Hymn: Now thank we all our God.....pg 11 (457)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=s99dNPKYtHk



Prayer of Approach

Dear God,

We have come here because your Spirit invited us,
calling us by name to this time with you,
and our the others in our Kensington community.

**With the help of your Spirit,
we can see in the world,
in our neighbours
and in ourselves.**

**Reaching out with love,
offering hope,
and bringing healing.**

² from Worship Sourcebook 1.2.17

Jesus,
you know us more than a neighbour,
even more than family.

**We are sorry that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.**

**In your mercy, forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

Through Christ, our Lord.³

Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear these comforting words:

If you repent and believe in God's redeeming mercy,
your sins are forgiven.

Trust in God's promises and begin anew your life
with God and all people
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Amen.⁴

³ last part from Worship Sourcebook 2.2.11

⁴ Worship Sourcebook 2.4.33

Listening to God

♪ Hymn: Sing them over again to me.....pg 12 (498)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PVh--AlfkH4



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we may hear your Word with hope.
Amen.⁵



Generations
at the
Chalet BBQ
Michael Litvack

✧ Intro to the readings

- Our psalm is short, but has some imagery we don't normally use living with as much rain as we do. In a dry land having oil to moisten your hair & skin, enough to run down your beard, was a wonderful spa treatment. In the dry season on the mountain, the dew would be your source of water. In both cases they come down... like the Holy Spirit.
- Paul's letter to the Galatians is responding to the argument as to whether gentiles need to become Jews before they can become a Christian. Part of this includes who you live with your neighbours.
- The gospel reading follows on the heels of last week's reading in which 70 followers of Christ, not the special 12, go out to share God's peace, and come back with joy.
- Before the last passage God was trying to get Israel's attention and has Elijah call down a drought. He then tells Elijah to head out of Israel to Zarephath. It's good to remember that in this time period most people believed gods were local.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁶ or click on the name to be taken to an online version (NRSV).

[Psalm 133](#)

[Galatians 5: 13-15](#)

[Luke 10: 25-29](#)

[1 Kings 17: 7-16](#)

⁵ adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.10

⁶ 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

✦ Sermon: Who is my neighbour?

Dear Lord, please bless these words
and the meditations of our hearts.⁷ Amen.

Do you ever find life a little complicated? Do you wish there was a simple, and short, instruction book by somebody who really gets it? Even better, something shorter than a book, like a fridge magnet.

If so, then today's gospel passage is good news for you. It summarizes the Bible into one sentence. "*You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.*"

There you go.

but how? you may ask.

or perhaps, 'how do I know I'm doing it right?'

Well, loving God is like loving anyone else. You need to talk with God (we call that prayer), and you need to listen (we also call that prayer, or a type of meditation). You need to spend time with God, to look for God (back in Sept 19th we called that seeking). And you need to follow God. These are the easy things to say that we can find hard to put into our schedule. Perhaps that's why we need to love God with all that we are.

Interestingly, in the Gospel passage, that's not the part that gets the attention. Perhaps it's a given. The part the person questions is, "*who is my neighbour?*"

Were they not sure? or were they trying to get out of something? The questioner was a lawyer, so details must have been important to them.

7 Psalm 19:14

Jesus answers with the story of the Good Samaritan.⁸ A man is beaten up and left for dead. Two people who you would expect to help walk past, and the person least likely to help does. It seems unlikely that any of them are neighbours, as in living beside, of the person needing help.



Who is the neighbour in the parable? The lawyer replies, 'The one who helps.'

How do we love our neighbour? by helping.

The Truth & Reconciliation Commission made it clear that helping as we see best is not always a good thing. Even when people were working with the best of intentions, there was still tremendous damage caused by programs such as the residential schools and the 60s scoop.

So how do we help our neighbour?

Well, loving neighbours is like loving God. You need to talk with them, and listen to them. You need to spend time with them. I wouldn't suggest following them around though, that would be stalking. Still, within the first three points there's lots of opportunities.

As for the question of who do we do this with, or '*who is my neighbour?*' That could be anybody in the global village. However,

8 picture by Annie Vallotton

everyone is rather hard to focus on. What if we focus on the people who live around us, our literal neighbours?

The first thing was talking to them.

Do you do that?

How could you do that more easily?

For starters, say Bonjour/Hi when you see them. Be friendly and figure out which language they speak. When it looks like you can share a few more seconds, introduce yourself. Find out their name. If this doesn't happen, you could try knocking on their door and introducing yourself. COVID comfort levels are generally low enough that you can do this now without scaring them. You can even use the COVID isolation as an excuse to 'reintroduce' yourself. What if you are like Ines & I and have difficulty remembering names? We created a helpful little map for our fridge where we write our neighbours names.

With some intentionality, this could grow into more interactions. Perhaps you could use a little help moving something, or you need an egg, or you see that they need some help with their garden (thinking of Jen's example last week), or you discuss things that go beyond the weather and traffic cones.



Kensington
volunteers
helping
harvest for
The Depot
photo: Jea
Young Cho

One of the blessings that the pandemic brought me was a weekly series out of the Centre for Missional Leadership at St. Andrew's Hall (Vancouver). It provided a time to hear the word of God, hear from an interesting speaker, and connect with other ministers (from around the world). One of the speakers talked about the importance of knowing our neighbours - by name, and beyond. They went on to show how this is an important way for sharing the love, hope and healing of God.

This makes me think that the question of 'who is my neighbour?' is a distraction from the real question. We should be asking, 'How is my neighbour?'

While I'd worked at getting to know my neighbour's names, our conversations were pretty superficial. After hearing that speaker I started asking people what they were looking forward to after COVID. Since then we've had more depth in our conversation. We actively look out for each other, and listen for when the other needs help. One of them recently mentioned our conversation as meaningful moment. They felt valued. In the language of our passage, loved.

It's important that this isn't done with a paternalistic attitude that we Christians are better, or even that we are the quiet suffering servants to our neighbours. Respectful relationships aren't just one way. The increased relationship with my neighbours wasn't just me offering to do things for them, or ask them deep questions. I also invited them to help us. I shared my hopes and troubles as well. It is important in relationships for there to be a back and forth.

Many people find that hard - to expose your hopes or needs. There's the risk that the other person may not respect them, and hurt you. Do you find it hard?

In the stories about Elijah he is often working by himself. I wonder if he had difficulty asking somebody else for help. The

widow obviously didn't have anybody helping her as she was about to make the last meal for her and her son. I wonder how hard it was for Elijah to ask the widow for help, and for the widow to place her life in someone else's hands.

But they did. They each shared their needs, and what they had. Neither was superior to the other. They loved their neighbour as themselves - and lived because of it.

They even grew closer to God.

Elijah already had a strong connection with God, but now he had more experience of following God into unknown (and foreign) territory where God was able to provide - and all Elijah could do was trust. And the widow learned that the God of Israel could even do wonders outside of Israel, through people who were not the part of 'the chosen people.' They both saw God's love through the other.

Which is an exiting and surprising aspect of trying to love others - that we are also moving closer to God... that loving them is part of loving God.



Hands across the divide - M Harron

This helps everyone through the complexities of life.

How to make that simple? You could put a note on your fridge, beside the map of your neighbours that says, "*Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.*"

Is this actually simple?

Perhaps.

Regardless of how simple it sounds, or hard it is to live out loving God and our neighbour - and it does requires intentionality and effort - we will help make the world a better place for all.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Brother, Sister, let me serve you.....pg 11 (635)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qblqtb4jzL8

🗣️ FaithTalk

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

Values: What do you appreciate about your neighbourhood?

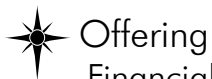
Actions: Create a map of your neighbours. Find out the names of those you don't know. Find out their interests, concerns & dreams.

Memories: Share a memory of a neighbour who you felt valued you. How did they show it?

Wonder: Imagine what our neighbourhoods would be like if we all shared our interests, concerns, and hopes with each other.

What would Kensington be like if we engaged our neighbours in their interests, concerns and hopes?

Wonder: If, like Elijah, God wants you to be living were you are, how can you share God's love, hope & healing there? (and how could Kensington help?)



Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on **our website**. Just click the '[Donate Now](#)' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow. You can also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is [Kensington Presbyterian Church](#) and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca. 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: Let us talents and tongues employ (v. 1-2).....pg 13 (563)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nYnF86ZzHH8



Invitation to the table

We are not 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.⁹

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.



liturgical table - Jan Richardson

 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.

and so we come before you Lord,
in this time.

A time when thanksgiving is starting to fill neighbourhoods
as we look forward to next weekend's celebration.

While it can become a time of too much,
it can also remind us, and our neighbours, of what a
wonderful world you have blessed us with.

From the varieties of foods,
and the variety of trees leaves,
with so many colours showing as their green seeps away.
To the varieties of people,
who can bless us with their lives,
and we can bless with ours.

We thank you for the infinite variety in creation,
and all the ways that it sings Hallelujah to you
even as winter as coming.

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.**

Hosanna to you,
Praise to you.

You lift our hearts as your Spirit gives us glimpses of you.
As we see you in Jesus, who is both Lord and servant.

Leaving the glory
to travel along the broken sidewalks with us.

Reaching to us, and our neighbours,
to share your amazing love,

and the wonderful hope of a world living with you.
We offer thanksgiving for the courageous love that Jesus shows
through his life, death and resurrection.

We have witnessed the signs of your love 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.

and we thank you that you want to live in relationship with us.

That you want to listen to our joys, and concerns.

And so we share with you what is on our hearts and minds...
including

- our neighbours. Those whose names we know, and those with whom we have need to build a relationship. Help us to share our lives, and your love. . .
- those who face discrimination for being who you created them as. This week we pray especially for our indigenous brothers and sisters. Help us to listen to them, and help their journey. . .
- our sighs of relief as COVID cases decrease here in Quebec, but pray for all the areas of the world that are still in crisis. . .

- those who suffer from other physical or mental health issues. . .
- and we pray for other issues on our hearts. . .

We that you continue to be present with us through your Holy Spirit.

and for the way you turn ordinary things (like a table, bread & juice) into special 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.



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

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: Let us talents and tongues employ (v. 3).....pg 13 (563)

<https://youtu.be/nYnF86ZzHH8?t=84>



Benediction

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit

be with you all.¹⁰



¹⁰ 2 Corinthians 13:13

Rev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

10/13

Sunday, October 3

MISSION MOMENT

Elder Exemplifies God's Love at Place of Hope Indigenous PC



Although the work of God is sometimes accompanied by displays of power or dramatic revelations, it is often the gentle whisper of the Spirit that stirs someone deeply. The Holy Spirit has been stirring in Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This is due in part to the work of an elder at Place of Hope, who simply lives out what she believes. In a quiet, loving way, this elder has been teaching the church's young people that God cares about the details of their lives and loves them unconditionally. And in following her example, many older youths have been baptized in recent months. The elder's faith is a compelling testimony and an example for all, as she quietly draws those around her to Christ. Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church receives support from gifts to Presbyterians Sharing.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 3 (World Communion Sunday) We pray for the church throughout the world. May God renew its worship, nurture its growth, empower its witness and restore its unity.

Monday, October 4 (National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls) We pray for the insight and strength to work for an end to colonial racism and misogyny that targets and harms Indigenous women, girls and LGBTQI2S+ people.

Tuesday, October 5 We pray for the children of Residential School Survivors who suffer from the generational effects of that era. May they heal through God's protection, guidance and love.

Wednesday, October 6 We give thanks for those who participated in Ride for Refuge in support of Presbyterian World Service & Development's food security projects around the world.

Thursday, October 7 We pray for God's protection, comfort and healing for the people and lands recovering from severe natural disasters.

Friday, October 8 As **Coming Out Day** (October 11) approaches, we pray that LGBTQI+ people who are planning to come out for the first time receive love and support from their families, friends and church communities.

Saturday, October 9 We pray for The Presbyterian Church in Canada's church planting support initiatives.

October 3, 2021
How is my neighbour?

Now Thank We All Our God

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1. Now thank we all our God with heart and hands and voices,
 2. O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
 3. All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,

who wondrous things has done, in whom his world rejoices;
 with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
 the Son, and him who reigns with them in highest heaven—

who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
 and keep us in his grace, and guide us when perplexed,
 the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;

with countless gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
 and free us from all ills in this world and the next.
 for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever more.

Martin Rinkart, 1636
 Tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1858; mod.

Rev. Peter Rombeek
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

NUN DANKET 6.7.6.7.6.6.6.6
 Johann Crüger, 1647

635

Brother, sister, let me serve you

SERVANT SONG 8 7 8 7

E♭ (Fm/E♭ E♭maj7) A♭/E♭ (E♭maj7 Fm/E♭ E♭) Cm (Fm/C Cm7) E♭/G Fm7 (E♭/G) B♭

1. Broth-er, sis-ter, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you;
 2. We are pil-grims on a jour-ney, and com-pan-ions on the road;
 3. I will hold the Christ-light for you in the night-time of your fear;
 4. I will weep when you are weep-ing; when you laugh I'll laugh with you;

A♭ E♭/G B♭7/F E♭ A♭/C (B♭6 A♭6 E♭/G) Fm (E♭/G Fm/A♭) Cm A♭6 B♭7 E♭

pray that I may have the grace to let you be my serv-ant too.
 we are here to help each oth-er walk the mile and bear the load.
 I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
 I will share your joy and sor-row, till we've seen this jour-ney through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,
 we shall find such harmony,
 born of all we've known together
 of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;
 let me be as Christ to you;
 pray that I may have the grace to
 let you be my servant too.

Words: Richard Gillard (1953-) Music: Richard Gillard (1953-)

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Sing them over again to me

G G/D D7 G

1. Sing them o-ver a-gain to me, won-der-ful words of life;
 2. Christ, the bless-ed one, gives to all, won-der-ful words of life;
 3. Sweet-ly ech-o the gos-pel call, won-der-ful words of life;

G G/D D7 G

let me more of their beau-ty see, won-der-ful words of life;
 sin-ner, list to the lov-ing call, won-der-ful words of life;
 of-fer par-don and peace to all, won-der-ful words of life;

G C/G G C/G G

words of life and beau-ty, teach me faith and du-ty.
 all so free-ly giv-en, woo-ing us to heav-en.
 Je-sus, on-ly Sav-iour, sanc-ti-fy for-ev-er.

Words: Philip Bliss (1838–1876) Music: Philip Bliss (1838–1876)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Refrain D/F# G D 7 G

Beau-ti-ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life,

D/F# G D7 G

beau-ti-ful words, won-der-ful words, won-der-ful words of life.

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Let us talents and tongues employ

LINSTEAD 8 8 8 8 LM with refrain (5 5 5 3)

C Dm7/C F/G C G7

1. Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach - ing out with a
 2. Christ is a - ble to make us one; at the ta - ble he
 3. Je - sus calls us in, sends us out bear - ing fruit in a

C F/C C C Dm7/C F/G C

shout of joy: bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured,
 set the tone, teach - ing peo - ple to live to bless,
 world of doubt, gives us love to tell, bread to share:

G7 C/G G C Refrain C

Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.
 love in word and in deed ex - press. Je - sus lives a - gain,
 God (Im - man - u - el) eve - ry - where!

F (Dm7) G7 C F C

earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a - round: loaves a - bound!

Words: Fred Kaan (1929-) Music: Jamaican folk song; adaptation, Doreen Potter (1925-1980);
 arrangement, Andrew Donaldson (1951-) CCLI #4440603

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 for Kensington Presbyterian Church



1 Corinthians 13 - Ivan Guaderrama