



## Kensington Presbyterian Church

### *The way to joy*

*October 10, 2021*

**WELCOME**, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.<sup>1</sup> This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer, or even in small groups outside.

If you have any prayer requests, ideas, or just want to talk, please reach out to your elder or Rev. Peter (Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca)



### *Contacts*

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<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.

### *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. Nov 3<sup>rd</sup>

**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/qeosynod/synod2021.html](http://www.presbyterian.ca/qeosynod/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: [osts.ca/courses.htm](http://osts.ca/courses.htm)



## Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship (based on Psalm 9)

We will give thanks to you, O LORD, with our whole heart;  
we will tell of all your wonderful deeds.

**We will be glad and celebrate you;  
we will sing praise to your name, O Most High.**

♪ Hymn: We praise you, O God.....pg 8 (425)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wYMO9vPXtQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1wYMO9vPXtQ)



Prayer of Approach

Living God,

We come to worship you on this Thanksgiving weekend;  
grateful for all that you offer us.

For the way you come as Jesus,

showing your understanding for our needs of  
food and clothing, healing and companionship.  
Collecting people together then, and now,  
to form communities that can help each other  
to seek your Kingdom - your way of living.

We realize that too often we don't think about living your way.

We ignore or turn from your gifts

and try and do things ourselves.

We try to add to what is already full,

and earn what we already have.

We are sorry for the ways we turn from your Kingdom. . .

May your Spirit help us to live into your righteousness.

With Jesus help

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 your life anew  
with God and all people.

in the name of Jesus Christ.<sup>2</sup>



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

Just as Jesus Christ taught his disciples how to pray, so too do we  
follow in their footsteps. Let us take a moment to pray the prayer that  
Jesus taught us together.

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,**

<sup>2</sup> Worship Sourcebook 2.4.33

**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.**



## *Listening to God*

♪ Hymn: In the bulb there is a flower.....pg 8 (674)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDpByzZqeQ4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDpByzZqeQ4)

### 🧘 Prayer for Illumination

○ God, open our hearts and minds  
 by the power of your Holy Spirit,  
 that as the Scriptures are read  
 and your Word is proclaimed,  
 we your Wisdom stir questions in us  
 that help us seek your story.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

### ✦ Intro to the readings

- Our first reading is from the prophet Joel. Joel is speaking to a people who are facing multiple hardships, and he's challenging them to realize that their way of life needs changing. When they turn to God, we'll hear what that will be like.
- Today's psalm is interesting and subtle in its use of tenses. This gives some scholars trouble, but I think it represents life

well.

- Our Gospel passage is part of the Sermon on the Mount, which contains the Lord's Prayer. This passage looks at part of the prayer from a different angle. 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.'



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>4</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Joel 2: 21-27](#)

[Psalm 126](#)

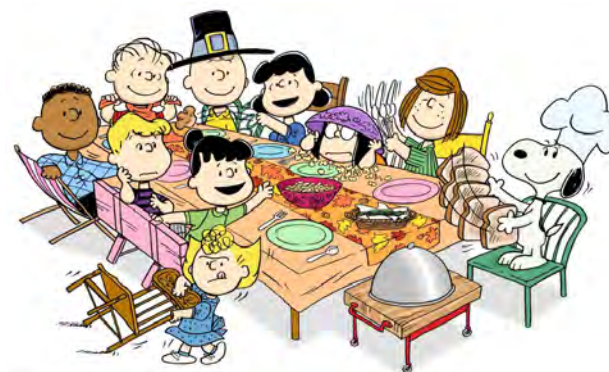
[Matthew 6: 25-33](#)



Sermon: The way to joy

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

Are you worried about an awkward silence at Thanksgiving Dinner? or that it might feel a little heavy after being away from each other so much? Markus told me a good (6 year old) dinner joke yesterday you can use. Why does 9 not like 7? because 7 8 9.



[lexingtonathleticclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/peanuts-thanksgiving.jpeg](http://lexingtonathleticclub.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/peanuts-thanksgiving.jpeg)

<sup>4</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> Psalm 19:14

<sup>3</sup> adapted from Worship Sourcebook 3.1.28



It's Thanksgiving Weekend and across Canada people will take some time to reflect and be thankful. This is a good thing. It helps us remember good times. I pray that people's '*mouths will be filled with laughter, and tongues with shouts of joy*' (to borrow from the psalm). It sounds like a great Thanksgiving dinner.

This idea of reflecting on the good times is probably why the lectionary chose this psalm for Thanksgiving Sunday. It's a psalm that remembers abundant blessings. "*When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.*" We're not talking about a nice day or a nice dinner - these were people whose dreams were fulfilled.

What dreams do you have? Sitting with family around a packed dinner table? Singing in the church choir again? Can you dream bigger? How about Kensington's role in the community? What about everyone in Québec not just getting along, but supporting each other? What about a world with no pollution problems? What about a world where everyone is so filled with joy that you can't help it pouring out?

What a great dream,

but that's not the end of this song. Despite the commentators trying to make the past/present tenses in the psalm nice and easy, life has abundant times and hard times. While the psalm starts with remembering joy, the Psalmist then turns to God asking that their tears be grow back into joy.

Can you relate to that?

Having times that were good being interrupted by the hard?

It's good to remember the joy-full times, because sometimes life doesn't feel that good. Sometimes it's full of hardship. Common challenges can vary from the daily grind of planning dinner again, to still being isolated, to your health issues... and

that of loved ones. As a society we also face issues of food insecurity, housing, and the environment. As I mentioned, the people Joel is talking to were also facing difficulties. In their case it included crop failure and invading armies.

What's Joel's message? It's not the words in Matthew of '*don't worry.*' Words like that can sound so empty and disconnected. Joel starts before our reading with a call to reflect; to lament the hardship that is going on.<sup>6</sup> Admit that these are hard times. Then pray. Joel challenges them to turn to God in their need - and to reflect on their part.

This is key.

He invites the Israelites to look at how they live. To admit that it's not working. To turn to God. This is where life is to be found.

and how does this solve the problems of crop failure and invading armies?

Because Joel believes that God is the LORD of all. If you are focused on anything else, especially what you can do, than you're walking the wrong way. Seek God first. When you do this, Joel tells us, God will bring abundance. Out of the dry soil will come life. The rain will pour down. (Rain may not be what you're dreaming off for this weekend, but all sorts of good things arise because of it.) The psalmist sings, '*may those who work in tears come home with shouts of joy.*'

While I don't feel that telling somebody who is going through hard times, '*don't worry,*' to be helpful, I do like the Matthew passage. For starters, I like the imagery. I can picture beautiful flowers. I can remember birds singing in the trees. I appreciate that God looks after them and cares about them - and that God cares about me too.

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<sup>6</sup> We looked at Lament on July 4<sup>th</sup>: [kckf.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/when-youre-sinking-july-4.pdf](https://kckf.files.wordpress.com/2021/07/when-youre-sinking-july-4.pdf)

I pray you feel this as well, because you are valued by God. Through whatever hardships or blessings you may be experiencing, God loves you. It doesn't matter what you've done, or not done, God loves you. The people Joel is speaking to were not living righteously (as God would want them), and God still loves them and wants to care for them. This is one of the big themes in the Bible.

There's been several ways to take the Matthew passage over time. Some people see it as a call to live in poverty. Give everything away and let God provide what you need. Some monks and nuns are examples of this. While I admire them, I don't think that's the message for us.

Another way to interpret it is as an invitation not to work. Just soar around on the breeze or lay in the sun and God will take care of you. While that might be tempting, I also don't think that's the message here.

While most of the words are about not worrying and trusting God to provide, it's the climax that explains it. *"seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."* When is it you don't have to worry? When you are looking first to the Kingdom. When you are living righteously (God's way). It sounds very similar to what Joel was saying.

Does this mean to live in poverty? Maybe. What it does mean is that you ask yourself if how you live helps God's kingdom come.

Does it mean not working? No. It does mean doing things that help God's kingdom come, and not worrying about yourself first.

Does it mean hard things won't happen? Sadly, no. It does mean that by focusing on God's kingdom you can be satisfied.



Thanks be to God  
Amen.

There will even be times of abundant joy.

And what's it mean to help God's kingdom come? The simple answer is to *"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."*<sup>7</sup>

And as we figure out how to do that together, may you be so filled with joy that it overflows to all those around.



## Responding to God

🎵 Hymn: Seek ye first .....pg 9 (625)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C-fIDs33Dg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4C-fIDs33Dg)

💬 FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little). Some questions this week come from [gratefulness.org/practice/daily-questions](https://gratefulness.org/practice/daily-questions)

Value: What is something that really makes Thanksgiving feel like Thanksgiving for you?

Wonder: What everyday happenings do I cherish?

Etching: What is the "great fullness" of my life?

Values: How do you succeed/struggle to 'seek ye first the Kingdom of God'?

Actions: What can I do differently so that I end this day with greater reverence for it?

7 Luke 10:27 - see last week: [kckf.files.wordpress.com/2021/10/neighbours-oct-3.pdf](https://kckf.files.wordpress.com/2021/10/neighbours-oct-3.pdf)



## 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 now donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is [info@kensingtonchurch.ca](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

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



## Spirit Sighting

Our Thanksgiving Appeal this year is helping with various programs related to COVID. We are doing this through the Presbyterian World Service and Development, and their partners. In terms of providing aid, this is a very efficient organization. You can find more details at the end of this document.

Should you wish to donate to this cause online, you can do so through links on our website.



## Prayers of the people

God of the Autumn,  
Thank you for the beauty of this  
season.  
For the colours of the leaves  
before they fall to nourish the soil.  
For all the harvests we can enjoy,  
and the farmers  
who struggle to feed us.  
For the Sun and the fresh  
temperatures  
For warm sweaters and houses,  
and even for rain,



that along with wet shoes and aching bones  
will bring growth and life.

God of the Autumn,  
help us to be more like nature,  
accepting the changing seasons;  
like the changing of the trees:  
not a dying as life sometimes feels,  
but a stripping bare in preparation for inner growth.  
Help us to accept the changing seasons  
not because they are out of our control,  
but because they are in your hands.

Jesus, our shepherd,  
Lift our heads from focusing on ourselves,  
so we can see the beauty of your Kingdom,  
and work so that your justice, mercy and love  
will be realized in our communities.

Jesus, the great physician,  
We you bring healing,  
so that while people may go out in tears,  
they come home with shouts of joy.  
We thank you for those who experience your healing,  
or moments of wholeness,  
and we pray for people we know need your touch. . .

Thank you that you care about us,  
and that we can trust you to look after us  
when we look to you.

In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.<sup>8</sup>

<sup>8</sup> portions adapted from 'God of Autumn' by Katrina Crosby in *Acorns and Archangels*. Wild Goose Publ.



♪ Hymn: For the fruits of all creation.....pg 9 (802)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBXHDbesb7k](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IBXHDbesb7k)

✦ Benediction (Numbers 6:24-26)

*The LORD bless you and keep you;  
the LORD make his face to shine upon you  
and be gracious to you;  
the LORD turn his face toward you  
and give you peace.  
Amen.*



## Supporting New Ministries

In 2019, with support from Presbyterians Sharing, The Presbyterian Church in Canada started Cyclical PCC, a church planting support initiative. Since its beginning, God has blessed this initiative with 47 faithful, dedicated and innovative people who feel called to begin new ministries. Rani Ibrahim, a participant in Cyclical PCC, said that the relationships he has formed with other Presbyterian leaders have been especially meaningful.



## DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, October 10 (Harvest Sunday)** We pray for farmers and farm workers as they steward the soil and work to grow and harvest food.

**Monday, October 11 (Thanksgiving Day)** We give thanks to God for the earth and all its beauty and resources, and we pray for a more just care of the earth and its resources.

**Tuesday, October 12** We thank God for the water that sustains us and all other living things in creation, and we pray for the will to protect this precious gift through prayer and advocacy.

**Wednesday, October 13** We pray for the house churches in the Cariboo region of British Columbia, and that they grow in outreach to their neighbours with the love of Jesus to transform lives.

**Thursday, October 14** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent in Ontario.

**Friday, October 15** We pray for the people of Guatemala and the staff at the Protestant Center for Pastoral Studies in Central America as they continue to struggle with the effects of the pandemic and natural disasters.

**Saturday, October 16 (World Food Day)** We pray for smallholder farmers who are suffering the effects of climate change, and we give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners that are striving to end hunger.

## We praise you, O God

1. We praise you, O God, our Re-deem-er, Cre-a-tor; in  
 2. We wor-ship you; God ev-er-faith-ful, we bless you; through  
 3. With voic-es u-ni-ted our prais-es we of-fer, and

grate-ful de-vo-tion our trib-ute we bring. We  
 life's storm and tem-pest our guide you have been. When  
 glad-ly our songs of true wor-ship we raise. Our

lay it be-fore you; we kneel and a-dore you; we  
 per-ils o'er-take us, you will not for-sake us, and  
 sins now con-fess-ing, we pray for your bless-ing; to

bless your ho-ly name; glad prais-es we sing.  
 with your help, O Lord, life's bat-tles we win.  
 you, our great Re-deem-er, for-ev-er be praise.

Words: Dutch, anonymous, 1626, translation, Julia Bulkley Cady Cory (1882-1963); alt  
 Music: Netherlands folk song, 1626; arrangement, Edward Kremser (1838-1914)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

## In the bulb there is a flower

PROMISE 8787D

1. In the bulb there is a flow-er, in the seed, an ap-ple tree,  
 2. There's a song in eve-ry si-lence, seek-ing word and mel-o-dy;  
 3. In our end is our be-gin-ning, in our time, in-fin-i-ty;

in co-coons, a hid-den prom-ise: but-ter-flies will soon be free!  
 there's a dawn in eve-ry dark-ness, bring-ing hope to you and me.  
 in our doubt there is be-liev-ing, in our life, e-ter-ni-ty,

In the cold and snow of win-ter there's a spring that waits to be,  
 From the past will come the fu-ture; what it holds, a mys-ter-y,  
 in our death, a res-ur-rec-tion, at the last, a vic-to-ry,

un-re-vealed un-til its sea-son, some-thing God a-lone can see.

Words: Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992) Music: Natalie Sleeth (1930-1992)

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## Seek ye first

D F#m G D G D Asus4-3

1. Seek ye first the king - dom of God and his right-eous - ness,  
 2. Ask, and it shall be giv-en un-to you; seek and ye shall find;  
 3. We do not live by bread a - lone, but by eve - ry word

D F#m G D G D Asus4-3 D

and all these things shall be add-ed un-to you.  
 knock, and the door shall be o-pened un-to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
 that pro - ceeds from the mouth of God.

Words: Karen Lafferty (1948-) Music: Karen Lafferty (1948-)

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Rev. Peter Rombeek  
 for Kensington Presbyterian Church

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## For the fruits of all creation

AR HYD Y NOS 12 12 8 8 12

F /A Bb F/A Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

1. For the fruits of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God;  
 for the gifts to eve - ry na - tion, thanks be to God;  
 2. In the just re - ward of la - bour, God's will is done;  
 in the help we give our neigh-bour, God's will is done;  
 3. For the har-vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God;  
 for the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God;

Bb/DF Bb/D F/A Bb Cm Bb/D Dm Gm F/A Bb6 Dm Gmsus9/Bb F/C C

for the plough-ing, sow-ing, reap-ing, si-lent growth while we are sleep-ing,  
 in our world-wide task of car-ing for the hun - gry and des-pair-ing,  
 for the won-ders that as-tound us, for the truths that still con-found us,

F/A Bb F Gm /Bb C Am Bbsus2-1 C6 7 F

fu - ture needs in earth's safe-keep-ing, thanks be to God.  
 in the har-vests we are shar-ing, God's will is done.  
 most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-), alt Music: Welsh traditional

Words: copyright © 1970 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: public domain

**With the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to threaten the health and well-being of people around the world, your generosity is making a big difference.** With your support, PWS&D has responded with health training, water, sanitation and hygiene support, educational support, and emergency food relief.

## Health (Bangladesh, Burundi, Guatemala, India, Malawi, Nepal, Nicaragua, Palestine, Somalia and South Sudan)

*Awareness campaigns including radio messages, billboards, broadcasts from vehicles equipped with speaker systems and the training of community hygiene promoters.*

- In South Sudan, awareness campaigns reached 5,950 people. Awareness campaigns are also being supported in Burundi, Malawi and Nepal.
- In Palestine and Nicaragua, people accessed psychosocial support in addition to learning about COVID-19.
- 50 community hygiene promoters in Somalia, trained in the first phase of the response, continue to teach people about measures for staying safe from coronavirus. Volunteers are also going door-to-door in Haiti to raise awareness and provide therapeutic nutritional support to children who are malnourished.
- PWS&D supported 20 hospitals in India with PPE and training for doctors, nurses, administrators and chaplains. In partnership with local churches, PWS&D supported hospitals and communities with training for bereavement counselling.





# Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

(Afghanistan, Burundi, Ghana, Guatemala, Nepal, Nicaragua, Somalia and South Sudan)



*Distribution of soap and hand sanitizer, water storage equipment, and other supplies like menstrual hygiene kits.*

Repairs to a well in Somalia and the installation of a solar water pump helped 52,456 people, including children at a nearby school, access clean water for handwashing, drinking and food preparation.



In Ghana, where PWS&D supports protection and advocacy activities for women accused of witchcraft, PWS&D project funds were redirected to provide food and soap to women, as well as the children who live with them.

Schools in Afghanistan were supported in the purchase of soap and cleaning supplies, as well as the repair of water pipes to ensure access to clean water.





# Emergency Food Relief

(Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Nicaragua, Palestine, Somalia and South Sudan)

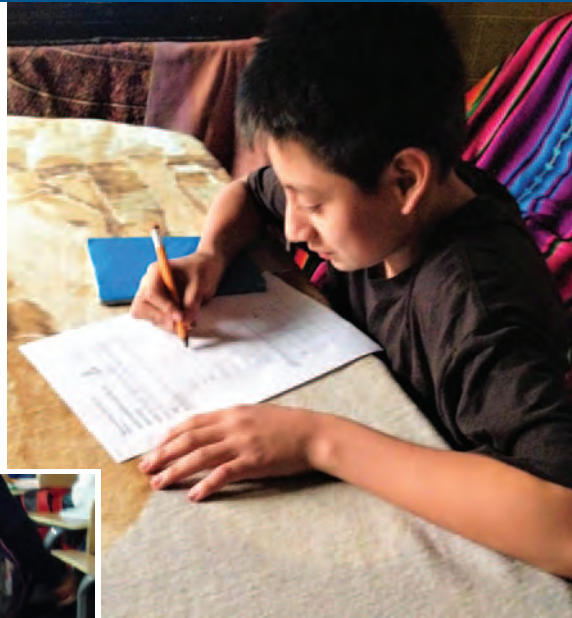
*Emergency food relief for those in greatest need*

- The first phase of the response in Bangladesh included food distributions to over 5,000 families.
- In Somalia, vulnerable families received cash to meet their needs. In Afghanistan, 1,100 of the most vulnerable households—480 of which are women-headed—were also provided cash transfers.
- In South Sudan, 20 tons of emergency supplies were given out including maize, sorghum, beans, lentils, rice, sugar and cooking oil.
- Cash vouchers allowed families to purchase items in local markets according to their needs, benefiting families in Nepal and Palestine.
- In Burundi, food was distributed to people in quarantine.



## Educational Support (Guatemala and Palestine)

Financial aid for tuition fees allowed children in nine Palestinian schools to continue their studies despite the pandemic, and ensured their teachers' salaries were paid. At PWS&D-supported Francisco Coll School in Guatemala, students are attending school for in-person classes Monday through Wednesday, and are being provided with study guides to continue their learning from home the rest of the week.



# Thank you!

The Bible teaches us to "love one another with mutual affection" through patient prayer and generous hospitality (Romans 12:10-13, NRSV). Your faithful response to this call has helped many vulnerable people receive support during this global crisis. Thank you!



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