

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Christmas Eve

December 24, 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)



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

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site Visits: If you would like to talk or have a prayer please contact Rev. Peter anytime. We can have a visit in a manner that you are comfortable with.

Re-opening: With concerns about the rapid spreading of the Omicron variant of COVID, we will be closing the building for a while after Christmas. We will continue to monitor the situation and hope to invite you back to the building soon.

We will continue to offer you opportunities to worship over Zoom, YouTube and with the full text version.

Children's activities: if you know of anyone who might be interested, please contact Antoinette.

(and check out page 15)

The Chosen: Thursdays Jan 13 to Feb 24 7 video, 8 study
You are invited to join us over Zoom as we watch and discuss the series *The Chosen* along-side the Biblical stories of Jesus. This video series is a fascinating drama based on what we know of Jesus' followers and the times they lived in. We will consider what is artistic licence and what is revelatory. The discussion will be lead by Rev. Peter. (more information on page 16)

Contacts

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Antoinette (families)......Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director)....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

Before starting, light the four advent candles.

Approaching God

☐ Hymn: Light a candle (Christ).....pg 10 www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vttgd0MdzE (tune only)

Call to worship & lighting of the candle² God has come into the world.

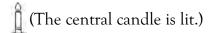
Glory to God in the highest!

This is the good news for all people: to us is born a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.

The world is transformed.

And things cannot remain the same.

It is made new in hope, peace, joy and love.



Let us pray:

Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your transforming power.



Through Jesus Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

 □ Hymn: Angels we have heard on high.....pg 11 (147) www.youtube.com/watch?v=yJZCR30TN Y



here we are.

Society doesn't see us as famous

or powerful

or rich

or wise.

but you invite us anyway.

And we come

to celebrate your birthday,

to celebrate with joy

what you have done.

Dear Lord; in this time we joyfully remember you coming so vulnerably among us in Jesus, born of Mary. Born to be with us, born to love us, born to save us,

born to free us.

Born to show us your promise to never leave us.

Please forgive us for so often forgetting all this; for thinking of you in human terms for imagining you to be a far-off sort of God, distant and detached or angry and vengeful;

provided by the Presbyterian World Service and Development, 2021

or thinking of you as a petulant parent,
rewarding us with sweets when we are good
and smacking us when we are bad.
Forgive us for blaming you when things go wrong
and ignoring you when we think we are in control;
for being so busy and caught up in our own concerns
that we don't even take time
to stop and listen to yours.

Help us

to come to your birthday ...and to your birth.

Help us to let you enter our lives. Speak your word of power in our hearts and change us, once again.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon
Hear the good news...

Do not be afraid!

Listen, I bring you glorious news of great joy which is for all the people.

This very day, in David's town, a Saviour has been born for you.³



Listening to God

Today's worship will follow a patter of scripture, reflection & music as we hear from various parts of the Christmas story. Each reflection will be from the perspective of a character in that part of the story.

Prayer for Illumination

Jesus, who was and is and is to come, As we take this time to hear your words may your Spirit move through us bringing us hope and inspiration so that your love fills us and overflows into all the parched places around us. Amen.

Mary & the Angel

<u>Luke 1</u>: 26-38

Reflection: Mary

What on earth is going on?

God is coming - coming through me.

It's crazy to think that;

one person bringing

God into the world.

It's just ridiculous.

No one person could contain God.

God is everywhere.

But it's also wonderful.

God is going to come into the world just like one of us.

As a baby;

through a mother; through me.

And I'm just an ordinary person.

Sheba's has stunning eyes;

Beth bakes beautiful buns;

Rachel helped raise 11 brothers & sisters

Salome's a princess

There's nothing special about me.

Yet, it seems I can help change the world.

Mike Moyers

³ Luke 2: 10-11 JB Phillips

□ Special Music

Joseph

<u>Matthew 1</u>: 18-25

Reflection: Joseph

What on earth is going on?

Everything is crazy.

even God.

The first sign was after meeting Mary.

The matchmaker suggested she'd be a good match. I talked with her dad. We came to an arrangement. Everything was being done as it should.

Then I met her. I noticed her nice child bearing hips - and her eyes sparkled. As I got to know her a bit better it there were hints of strength and depth.



Thanks-giving Chapel - P Johnson

I looked forward to going to her parents for dinner. I missed her through the day.

It felt a bit crazy.

And then I felt like I'd been hit with a stone, no, a boulder.

The most shameful thing happened.

Mary became pregnant.

This is not how things happen.

This was totally unacceptable.

It would ruin my future.

How could my world have turned upside-down so quickly?

And then more craziness,

an angel came.

It said this was God's work.

God?

Is this how God works?

Does God work outside the rules;
outside of what's acceptable?

Still, how can I not accept it? How can I not accept her? not accept God?

I find myself accepting the unacceptable

Birth

<u>Luke 2</u>: 1-7



The Hard Path (Ein schwerer Gang) - Fritz von Uhde

Reflection: Joseph What on earth is going on?

God has this plan.
That Mary will deliver the Son of God, and it was going well.
The pregnancy has been smooth.
We had a nice home, and her mom was around to help.
and then Caesar has us go to Bethlehem.

God is supposed to be the King of kings.

Couldn't God have overruled Caesar on this one.

This is not making our life easy.

In fact, it's downright hard.

and then we get here and everywhere is full.

All those distant relatives I haven't

All those distant relatives I haven't seen since I was 3 have no space. The places with extra rooms for rent are full. No one can make any room for us.

Don't they know Mary is carrying the Son of God?

Could God not have sent an angel and arranged for someplace to stay?

Can't people make room for God?

☐ O Little Town of Bethlehem.....pg 13 (164)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uKPYOf2aSF0

Shepherds

<u>Luke 2</u>: 8-20

Reflection: a shepherd Wha' on earth is going on?

No-body usually stops to talk wit' us.

It's not that we be stupid,

we just ain't able to get somet'ng better.

After all,

who wants to put their life out for someone else's sheep...

'specially at night when the nasties comes out.

I suppose we do look a little rough, being out in all the weat'er. and we can smell like wet sheep.

Could be nobody talks to us 'cause o' that.

'though, could be just that we way down the ladder of who be important.

But den someone came.

No. Not someone, well yes, but no.

T'was an angel.

And it says that God's finally sent the saviour.

'ave difficulty believin' it meself.

But you can ask any o' us.

We all saw um.

The sky was full of an army of angels all singin', "Glory to God".

And we checked it out.

Just down the block here,
like the angels said.

Crazy, ain't it.

God has come
and actually told us of all people.

Wonder who else God wants includin'?

□ Once in Judah's least known city.....pg 12
 www.youtube.com/watch?v=d-IfIDfxroM (organ only)



Adoration of the Shepherds - Lebrun

Magi

<u>Matthew 2</u>: 1-12

Reflection: Mary

What on earth is going on?

I'm hanging up diapers on the roof when I hear a commotion. Looking up there's this parade of camels. That's odd. I never scene eastern traders come through here before.

and then they stop

and look right up at me.

The camels bow, and men get off go to my door.

What do these people from the ends of the earth want?

We great them and offer hospitality, and they tell an amazing story.

It seems in their gentile books they have stories that the creator will send a saviour for the world.

It's so close to our story you'd think the were reading our Bible.

And I ask why they came here?

They say it was because of a new star in the heavens.

A new star?

bringing educated (and rich) people to our humble house? from the ends of the earth?

It seems God is coming to everyone - to the whole universe. Glory to God!

■ Special Music



MINNY

Responding to God

FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. This week they are a little more personal than usual. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: Share stories from memorable Christmas's past. Perhaps when you were a child, or first moved out, or ...

Wonder: What about the Christmas stories cause you to wonder? What about them do you find wonderful?

Values: How is the Christmas story relevant today? How can it connect with today's world?

Wonder: Practice meeting somebody who finds out you go to church, and they ask you what Christmas is about. What would you say? What's the point? What on Earth is going on?

and as a bonus, here's the questions planed for last Sunday's pageant service when I mistakenly used Christmas Eve.

Memories: Share some memories of past Christmas pageants.

Perhaps ones that you were in, or even the Charlie
Brown Christmas.

Values: Where do the values of Christmas need to connect with our world?

Wonder: How can Christmas decoration (tree ornaments) connect modern issues to the Christmas Story?

Actions: Join with the shepherds and angels in sharing with someone what Christmas means to you.

🚸 Spirit Sighting

7/16

I didn't read many Spiderman comics as a kid, but I do remember his 'spidey-sense'. He just gets this sense when something bad is about it to happen.

While I don't get it like him, I find that sometimes somebody comes to mind. When I reach out to them I discover there's something going on. That it was a good time to connect.

and when I don't, I often discover it would have been a good time to have connected.



I don't think it's a super power. In talking with others, I've noticed this 'spidey-sense' in their lives as well - and I think I've got a better name. Spirit-Sense. I suspect this is the Holy Spirit trying to prod us into reaching out when needed. The hard part is noticing, and then responding.

So if somebody comes to mind for you this year, especially during the Christmas season, please reach out. I suspect it's the Spirit prodding you.

╆ 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.

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

Prayers of the people & Lord's Prayer
Incarnate God,
You came as a human
starting as a baby
one of us
one with us.
This is a wonder to celebrate.

With your coming,
we can come to you,
because you want to share our joys and concerns.



According to Luke - Rhonda Chase

Remembering the Christmas story, we pray
... with gratitude for the safety and security
we have from our government,
and that governments will not impose hardship on the poor,
but instead will help those in need;

... we pray for mothers,
especially single mother,
that they are supported by the community;
... we thank you for our homes,
and pray that no door will be shut
on those who need a safe place to stay;
... we thank you for those we share our lives with,

for our families
for those who we can go to for support and help.
and we pray for those who don't have this,
who struggle with their families
or who struggle alone.

... we pray for those who, like the shepherds, live with fear, may they be calmed with your peace.

... and that those who feel insignificant know they are a precious and an important part of your story.

... we pray that wise men and wise women might appear in this world, in Israel & Palestine Afghanistan, Etheopia & Venezuela Russia, China & the U.S.

and here at home.

... that this Christmas

may your church here at Kensington be like a stable, providing safe shelter and witnessing to your glorious mystery.

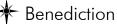
And may we be like those who gathered that first Christmas, feeling your love and your presence.

As we pray for the world, we also join with all Christians in saying the prayer you left us:

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.

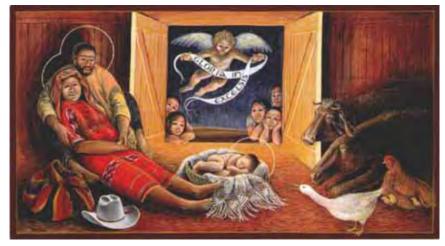
☐ Hymn: Joy to the World.....pg 14 (153)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGyYAzrctzk



May God, who sent the angels
to proclaim the glad news of the Savior's birth,
fill you with joy
so that the good news pours
bringing hope to the world.
Amen.





Christ is Born!

Even in the face of poverty, injustice and disaster, hope finds a way.

For 75 years, our church has been faithfully responding with Presbyterian World Service & Development to God's call to serve those in need. Together with our partners, we are making a positive difference in our global village.

Inspired by God's promise of abundant life, we are responding to hunger, poverty, injustice and disaster. We are responding to care for the poor, sick and vulnerable. Working together, we are helping restore human dignity, ease the pain of want and promote community cooperation that benefits all. As an expression of Christ's hope, peace, joy and love, we are working towards a sustainable, compassionate and just world.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ, let us remember our neighbours near and far. Without you, this transformative work would not be possible.

This Christmas, please support PWS&D.

WeRespond.ca





The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Light a candle bright and tall



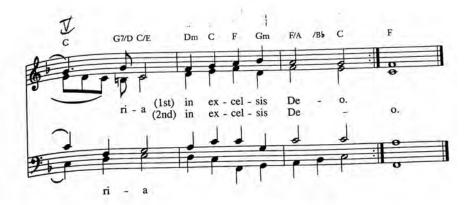
Words: David Wood © 2012 Music: Adapted from a Chorale by Conrad Kocher (1786–1872); harmony, William Henry Monk (1823–1889), Carman H. Milligan (1909–)

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Words: Luke 2:6-20; traditional French carol Music: traditional; arrangement; Martin Shaw (1875-1958) from Oxford Book of Carols

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright @ Oxford University Press, 1928



- Les anges dans nos campagnes ont entonné l'hymne des cieux, et l'écho de nos montagnes redit ce chant mélodieux. Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
- Bergers, pour qui cette fête?
 Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?
 Quel vainqueur ou quel prophète
 méritent ces choeurs triomphants?
 Refrain
- Ils annoncent la naissance du libérateur d'Israël et pleins de reconnaissance chantent en ce jour solennel: Refrain

Once in Judah's least known city



Words: traditional Appalachian carol; adaptation, John Jacob Niles (1892–1980) CCL1 #4440603

Music: American traditional, John Jacob Niles (1892–1980); arrangement, Donald P. Hustad (1918–)

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12/16 Music: Henry John Gauntlett (1805–1876); harmony, A.H. Mann (1850–1929)
Words: public domain Music: harmony, opyright © Novello & Co. Ltd. CCL1#4440603

O little town of Bethlehem

FOREST GREEN 8686 D CMD



Words: Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), alt Music: English traditional; harmony, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) Words: public domain Music: barmony, copyright @ Oxford University Press from The English Hymnal CCLI #4440603

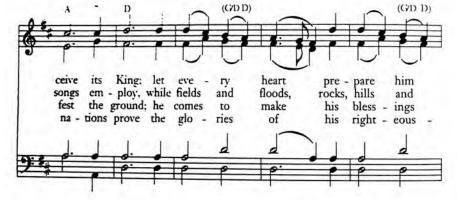






Joy to the world





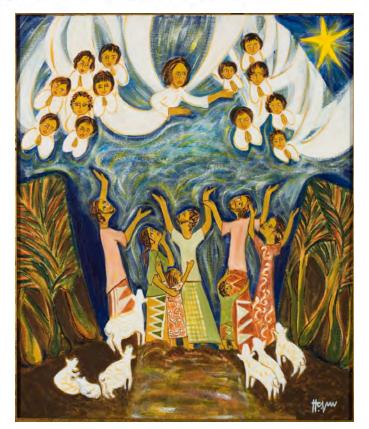


Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748), alt Music: Lowell Mason (1792-1872); harmony, Henry Rosevear (1903-1982)

Words: public domain Music: barmony, copyright O estate of Henry Rosevear



heaven and na - ture sing (Similarly for vv 2, 3 & 4)



Annunciation to the Shepherds - Hanna Varghese

CONNECT the DOTS

Scripture tells us the angels and a beautiful star led the way for people to find Jesus after he was born. Connect the dots to form the angel chorus and the star!

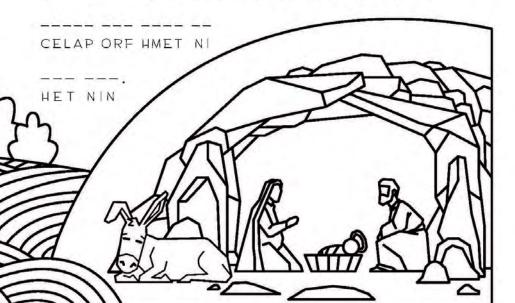


How does the Gospel of Luke describe Jesus' birth? Unscramble the words to find out.

DNA RMYA VEAG TIHRB OT EHR BIFORSTNR ONS

DAN PAWREPD IMH NI SNDAB FO OTCLH NAD IADL

MIH NI A RAMNEG CABUSEE HERTE SWA ON



from Illustraited Media





Thursdays Bible Study

7 p.m. video 8 p.m. discussion

Please join us during the following study times:

Episode 1: Thursday, January 13th,

7 p.m. Streaming of the video, 8 p.m. Bible study led by Rev. Peter

Episode 2: Thursday, January 20th,

7 p.m. Streaming of the video,

8 p.m. Bible study led by Rev. Peter

Episode 3: Thursday, January 27th,

7 p.m. Streaming of the video,

8 p.m. Bible study led by Rev. Peter

Episode 4: Thursday, February 3rd,

7 p.m. Streaming of the video,

8 p.m. Bible study led by Rev. Peter

Episode 5: Thursday, February 10th,

7 p.m. Streaming of the video,

8 p.m. Bible study led by Rev. Peter

Episode 6: Thursday, February 17th,

7 p.m. Streaming of the video,

8 p.m. Bible study led by Rev. Peter

Episode 7: Thursday, February 24th,

7 p.m. Streaming of the video,

8 p.m. Bible study led by Rev. Peter

Following Jesus what was it like? what is it like?

You are invited to join us in watching and discussing an exciting video series on the life of Jesus and the disciples.

This series was discovered for us by Ines. She writes, "I find this show fascinating as it gives the gospels more depth and background."

The creators describe it like this, "The Chosen is based on the true stories of the gospels of Jesus Christ. Some locations and timelines have been combined or condensed. Backstories and some characters or dialogue have been added. However, all biblical and historical context and any artistic imagination are designed to support the truth and intention of the Scriptures. Viewers are encouraged to read the gospels." (from the disclaimer at the beginning)

We'll inviting you to watch an episode a week. We'll follow it with a discussion on how this version helps us see things we didn't before. Rev Peter will also be there to help sort out the artistic imagination from biblical truth. This will also include a Bible Study based on a theme from the episode.

You can find it on their website: watch.angelstudios.com/thechosen and on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/watch?v = q6sHNLmYbAM

If you are interested in joining this virtual "Bible Study" please let us know.

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December 24, 2021 Christmas Eve