

### Kensington Presbyterian Church

Magnificent
December 12, 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)



Mary & Angel - Marcia Carole

#### Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559......info@Kensingtonchurch.ca Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor)......Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca 514-773-4620 Antoinette (families)......Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director)....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

### Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site **Re-opening:** We are pleased that we will now be able to sing in the building, as well as over Zoom, YouTube, and with the Text.

**Sunday School:** is available every week for those who are interested. For the next two weeks they are practising and recording parts of the Christmas pageant, so everyone can participate even if they can't be there.

Community Dinner Dec 18th, 6-9pm location: at the church The Montreal Children's Theatre is inviting everyone to dinner and entertainment, but particularly those who are finding this season a burden or isolating. Admission: pay what you can Vaccination passport required.

montrealchildrenstheatre.ca/events

**Prayer Group**: Thursdays at 9:15 a.m. in 3500 Benny Av (off the Benny Farm Courtyard). Please let Rev. Peter if you would like to join with zoom and this can be arranged.

#### **CHRISTMAS EVENTS**

'Messy' Church: Dec 17<sup>th</sup>

Everyone is invited to join in a Messy Church type activity that will combine doing activities at home (with the help of a package available from the church), and meeting online through Zoom. If you're interested, or just curious, please contact Kathryn or Rev. Peter for your surprise box.

Pageant Sunday: Dec 19 at 10:30 a.m.

Blue Christmas: Tuesday Dec 21 at 7:30 p.m.

On the longest night we share a quiet worship service that holds those who are finding this time of year hard.

Caroling: Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>, meet at the church at 6:30.

Christmas Eve: Friday, Dec 24 at 7:00 p.m.

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



# Approaching God

□ Hymn: Light a candle (joy).....pg 13 www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vttgd0MdzE (tune only)

Call to worship & lighting of the candle<sup>2</sup> Joy is the celebration given by God.

Joy is the celebration at the birth of the Christ Child.

Joy is the celebration when the angels sing "Glory to God in the highest."

We celebrate the joy of Christ coming again.

(The first candle is lit.)

Let us pray:

Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with your life-giving joy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

 □ Hymn: Hail to the Lord's anointed.....pg 9 (115) www.youtube.com/watch?v=DbCMyq111s8 (organ only)

Frayer of Adoration & Confession Merciful God, always with us, always coming: We confess that we do not know how to prepare for your Advent. We are distracted by the busyness of this season; we have ignored the promise of your kingdom. We forget how you work through people; people around us, and even people like us.

Forgive us, God.

Please give us the simple wonder of the shepherds, the intelligent courage of the Magi, and the accepting faith of Mary and Joseph.

May we journey with them and find the good news of a child born for us.

Now, in the quiet of our hearts, we ask you to make us ready for his coming.

#### Amen.

Assurance of Pardon The good news of this Advent season

is forgiveness of sin and new life.

Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of joy and peace.

Thanks be to the Advent God, who comes among us, setting us free to love and serve.

Lord's prayer (feel free to use another version/translation) As we approach God, let us be guided by the prayer that Jesus teaches 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.

provided by the Presbyterian World Service and Development, 2021

# W N N N

## Listening to God

☐ Hymn: the first nowell #1, 2, 6.....pg 10 (136)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=c1Lj8NOjbD4

🖍 Prayer for Illumination

Immanuel, as we wait for your return, help us see your glory and receive your peace through the reading and preaching of your Word. We pray in your name.

Amen.<sup>3</sup>

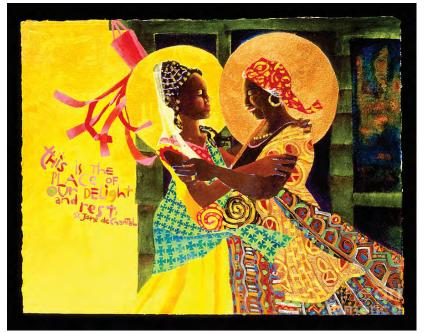
Intro to the readings

- There's a number of things going on in the psalm. One is the reminder of where to get light for your life. Another is people like Joseph and his baby brother Benjamin.
- Micah was a farmer, until God asked him to go into the big city to deliver words of warning and hope. While King David came from Bethlehem, that's not who Micah is talking about. What would you expect based on these words?
- The gospel of Luke starts with the story of Zechariah hear that he and his elderly wife will finally have a baby. Then we go to Mary hearing that will have a baby, despite not having "lain with a man."

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

Psalm 80: 1-7 Micah 5: 2-5a Luke 1: 39-55

or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV



Windsock Visitation - Br Mickey McGrath osfs



Sermon: Magnificent

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

Imagine you work for a marketing agency and you've been hired for a big product launch. It's not an entirely new product, so there's a network you could work with - but this is supposed to revolutionize everything.

How would you do it?

I'm sure we can all think of some good marketing campaigns. I can remember the first batman movie, where they just used the logo to create a sense of mystery. Then there's the Fiberglas pink flamingos. Or the coffee commercial that had the man and the

<sup>3</sup> adapted from Worship Sourcebook D.3.1.7

<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

woman building their relationship over a series of commercials. While I wasn't alive for this one, the marketing was so good for orange juice that we still think of it as The source for vitamin C. Marketing can not only help the product, it can change the way people live their lives.

How would you reveal the coming of the Messiah, the Son of God, the saviour of the universe?

My suspicion is that nobody would do it the way God did.

There is a whole religious system dedicated to God. There's a council of leaders, and a chief priest. God almost works with it. An angel does go to a priest - not the chief priest, or any of the important ones. It goes to Zechariah. Now there's nothing wrong with Zechariah, except that he hasn't been blessed with children... and he asks for proof from the angel of the LORD in the temple.

After that the arrival of the good news is outside the system: the church, political leaders, and even men are all left to watch.

God uses Elizabeth to pave the way, or more specifically, to give birth to John who will pave the way for Jesus. It's an unlikely choice. Although she's well regarded in the community, not having had children distances her from everyone else. She is from a small town and has no star power. And then there's the practical side of her being too old to have children. She is an unlikely choice.

And so is Mary. She's not a princess or queen. Unlike Elizabeth, who has probably wanted a child for decades, Mary likely doesn't want one just yet. She's also a risk. While Mary is capable of having a child, not being married means she is likely to be either pushed out of her society, or killed. Mary is another unlikely choice where God takes an ordinary person and does something big through them.



Overshadowed - Patty Wickman

Is this how you would bring in a new era?

Of course, it shouldn't be a big surprise. Just think of some of the important people in the Bible. Joseph was an arrogant kid who was sold into slavery and ended up in jail, before becoming the saviour of his people and the Egyptians. Moses was a shepherd in the outback when God called him to go tell the most powerful man in the world to release his slave workforce. He also had a stutter. And then there's the greatest king of Israel, David. He first comes on the scene as the least son of a family in the little nothing town of Bethlehem. People. Unlikely people. Individual people who God's Spirit brings together with others to reveal a new world.

and this plan doesn't seem to change.

Our gospel reading, our good news, tells about these unlikely people who are part of the plan to change the world. Bethlehem even plays a part... and it was still a small nothing town.

It's not that God doesn't work through great leaders. Joseph was lifted up to be in charge of all the food in Egypt. David became the king that united the Jewish people into one kingdom. Much later we have stories of Paul & Peter sharing the good news with leaders in communities, who then used their power and privilege to help set up the new church. But often God takes ordinary and unlikely people and lifts them up... sometimes after letting their pride take them down first.

And while these leaders are humble, recognizing that any greatness they have is due to God, they also have joy in the situation. Take Mary & Elizabeth, for example.

These women may have been worried about their future and the burden they would continue to carry even after giving birth... but they weren't consumed by it. Joy grows insides them. Celebration shines out in Elizabeth's greeting, and in Mary's song.

Not that Mary's song is all warm and fuzzy. It recognizes there are people suffering. There are people hungry - probably for food, but also other necessities of life. If you are in this category, which would have included Mary (and most of the people at the time), having your needs met is something to celebrate.

She also sings of a new life for those who are doing well - one they may not like. Those who are rich will be emptied. Those who are proud will be brought down. This is more than God inviting overlooked people to change the world, it's taking those with privilege & power off the top and moving them to the bottom.

This could be a rallying cry for a revolution, but it's not. Mary just sings it as it is. This is what God has done.

Will this be uncomfortable? Probably for everyone. Often those on the sidelines don't want to be in the centre... although with God all things are possible. Often those living a comfortable life don't want to learn that they can't depend on themselves, that the pride in what they can do isn't enough. Those who are rich with many things don't want to face that without being full of God they are empty. Yet, with God all things are possible.



Magnificat, Robyn Sand Anderson

In the Older Testament to how God worked with people, this was true - and within the Newer Testament... and since then as well. God invites ordinary people to be part of sharing a new reality with the world. Take Rosa Parks for example. She wasn't ignorant of what would happen, yet she was willing to be arrested

for not giving up her seat to a white person. Take Candy Lightner. I didn't know her name until the other day, but I experienced her impact in high school. When her daughter was walking to a church event and killed by a drunk driver, who had repeat offences, Candy started Mother's Against Drunk Driving (MADD). They succeeded in making drunk driving unacceptable and increasing the punishments. This has made a big difference in how our society lives. Neither of them did this all by themselves, and neither did Elizabeth or Mary, but they all accepted the call.

This reminds me of a few important things:

• that it's not about how important or capable we are, but about how much we trust God. When it's God we are full of, then amazing, world changing, things can happen.

This goes for individuals like you and me, and for the congregation. Our impact in the world isn't related to how big we are.

- that we need to pay attention to those who are not being noticed. That God is working in them possibly changing the world through them. This goes for parts of the world that are ignored, and parts of our community. How can we listen better? How can we support God's new reality?
- and that God works in improbable ways like birthing a new reality in places where it's impossible... except that with God, all things are possible.

To God be all the glory Amen.



# Responding to God

□ Special Music: Ave Maris Stella
 www.youtube.com/watch?v=jmFFYZID4rg (by Grieg)
 www.youtube.com/watch?v=7KBxONe4eCU

Dance: Jane prepared a dance reflecting Mary's response to God's invitation. To watch it check out our YouTube video at <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC">www.youtube.com/channel/UC</a> EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz w

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).

Etching: Who are some people who have had a big impact on the your world?

Wonder: How could we listen better to the unexpected places and people that God might be working through.

Wonder: The idea of the Messiah evolves through the Bible. What kind of saviour is the world in need of?

Values: Do you hold onto some pride or riches that take space away from God? With prayer, how could you turn them over to God?

Actions: Where do we/you look for our saviour?

Values: How could we support God's new reality in our community?

### 🔺 Spirit Sighting

Several ways the Spirit is working through the church, often referred to as 'the body of Christ' can be found on pg 8.

## 🔆 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 God, creator of the universe,

Abba/Father, you formed us in your image and delivered us, birthed us, into this world.

We rejoice that we are your children; that we are reflections of you; that we magnify you.

As your Spirit fills us our spirit hears your dong and sings along

spreading your song into all the corners of life.

We pray for those who have too much pride that they forget it is only through you that glory is possible. We pray for those who are so rich in money or opportunities that they forget it is only through you that they will be satisfied We prayer for those with privilege or power over others, that they will know your mercy, and share it with others.

We pray for ourselves when are full of pride or riches or power.

We pray for people like Elizabeth & Mary, who are normally ignored or excluded.

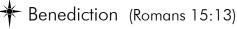
May we help them to be heard, respected, & celebrated. and may we learn more of God's new reality through them and join in the song.

We pray with Mary for those who are hungry for justice for peace for hope for joy for healing for love

We remember who you worked in the past.

May we notice you working around us,
and in us,
now and forever

In Jesus name Amen.



May the God of hope

fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



### MISSION MOMENT

### From Hopeless to Hopeful

"I didn't have any hope of living a meaningful life. My left leg was deformed by poliomyelitis at a young age, and I grew up with this challenge," said Monica Akamb, a 45-year-old woman living in northern Ghana. "My biggest challenge, however, transcends the impairment. It has been the negative attitudes and stereotypes of community members and even within my immediate family." Monica explained how her experience with the



Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Program (CBR) made a tremendous difference in her life. "Thank God that CBR and PWS&D came to my rescue. They taught my family and the community to treat persons with disabilities with dignity. I learned gardening skills and now grow vegetables for a living. I am able to produce onion, cabbage and lettuce for food and income." The Presbyterian Church in Ghana, supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development, manages this project.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, December 12 (Third Sunday of Advent)** We pray for a sense of joy at the dawn of a new day that is initiated by the birth of the Christ child among us.

**Monday, December 13** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Pictou in Nova Scotia.

**Tuesday, December 14** We pray for the Indigenous community of Nazko in British Columbia, and that hope will abound, and lives will be healed through relationships with the Creator's son, Jesus.

**Wednesday, December 15** We pray for members of the Canadian Armed Forces who are deployed and may face loneliness and hardship.

**Thursday, December 16** We pray for support for local food banks as staff and volunteers strive to provide food, toiletries and other essential items this winter.

**Friday, December 17** We pray that parents and caregivers of children and youth are blessed with wisdom and patience.

**Saturday, December 18** (International Migrants Day) We pray for the safety and well-being of all migrant workers and their families and encourage governments to protect the rights of migrant workers.

## Maternal Health Today and Tomorrow

In Malawi, the rates of infant and child mortality are incredibly high.

For many pregnant women, access to health services like prenatal check-ups, delivery support and immunizations for their newborns and themselves are not easily accessible.

Through ongoing work, PWS&D is improving health services, encouraging their use and helping ensure the consumption of nutritious foods for mothers, newborns, pregnant women and children under five.

We are working to share necessary knowledge and information about maternal and child health practices while empowering pregnant women and mothers to make informed decisions about their own health and that of their children.

Additionally, construction and improvement of labour and delivery wards and maternity centres staffed with knowledgeable midwives are nurturing long-term, sustainable care for mothers and babies.

This Advent season, help give moms and babies the best chance for a healthy future by building support for maternal and child health care among families and communities.

WeRespond.ca





The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

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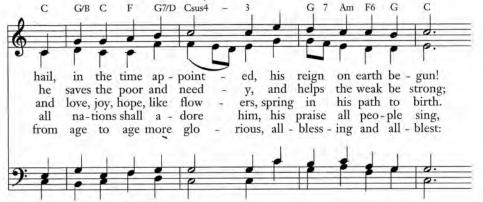
### Hail to the Lord's Anointed

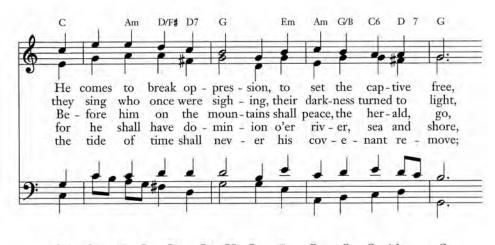
ST. THEODULPH 7676D

C G/B C F G7/D Csus4 - 3 G 7 Am F6 G C

1. Hail to the Lord's A - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son;
2. He brings sal - va - tion speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong;
3. He shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth,
4. All powers shall bow be - fore him, and gold and in - cense bring;
5. O'er eve - ry foe vic - to - rious, Christ on his throne shall rest,









Words: James Montgomery (1771–1854), alt Music: Melchior Teschner (1584–1635)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

### The first nowell

THE FIRST NOWELL Irregular



that hath made heaven and earth of nought, and with his blood our souls has bought. Refrain:

Words: English traditional, 17th century Music: English traditional carol, Sandy's Christmas Carols, 1833; descant and alternate harmony, Healey Willan (1880-1968)

Words: public domain Music: descant and alternate harmony, copyright © Oxford University Press



<sup>\*</sup> May be used as instrumental or choral accompaniment for the chorus.

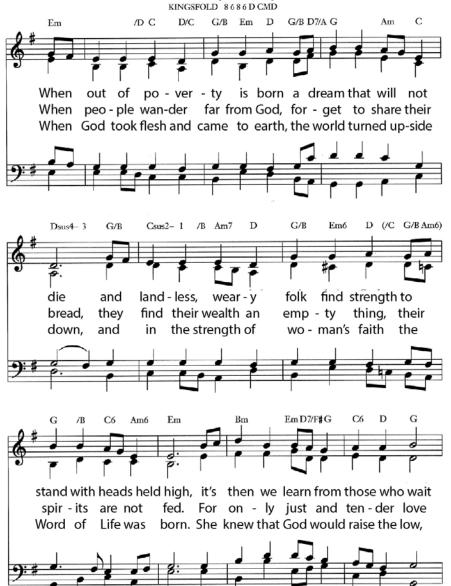
LUKE 1:46-55



Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the Magnificat, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music (STAR OF COUNTY DOWN 8.6.8.6 D refrain 9.8.10.8): Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney © 1990 GIA
Publications, Inc.



### When out of poverty is born





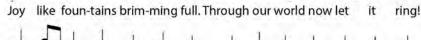


Words: Kathy Galloway (1952-) Music: English traditional; arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872–1958) CCLI #4440603

Music: copyright © Oxford University Press from The English Hymnal 1985









Shine with-in our hearts to-day Come, O Joy, to us, we pray.

