



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Pageant Sunday

December 19, 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)



Contacts

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

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 following the government rules and checking for proof of vaccinations for those coming in person, in addition to our other precautions.

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

Sunday School: is available every week for those who are interested.

Prayer Group: Will be starting again in the new year.

If you wish to pray, you can contact Rev. Peter anytime.

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.

Eleanor Bruce passed away Friday morning after having a fall earlier in the week. After a long and good life, Eleanor has left this reality to live closer with God. Her daughters will be working out details after Christmas.

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

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.

Carolling: Dec 23rd, meet at the church at 6:30.

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

This time of worship will include sections lead by our children.
If you wish to watch them, please check out our YouTube video
at: www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w



Approaching God

♪ Hymn: Light a candle (love).....pg 13
www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vttgd0MdZ_E (tune only)

🗨️ Call to worship & lighting of the candle²

Love is a gift of God.

Love burns in our hearts.

Love is warmth in a world that is often bitter and cold.

In Jesus Christ, we receive God's gift of love.



(The first candle is lit.)

Let us pray:

**Source of light, shine in our lives and in your world with
your unending love. Through Jesus, in whose name we
pray. Amen.**

♪ Hymn: O Come all ye faithful.....pg 10 (159)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=P3ip7x9EiP0

🧎 Prayer of Adoration & Confession

Mighty God, you are more powerful than anything.

You rule from before time began to after it's end.

We praise you because you are so great.

But you became a baby.
You giggled and cried.
You were just like us.
We praise you because you came to show us what it means to love


As we gather with you,
we realize there are times when we haven't shown love to our
friends and family;
when we haven't listened and helped people who need help,
like those who experience racism or colonialism.
We realize there are times when we hurt the environment
with how we live.
Please forgive us. . .

Thank you for being gracious and not saying 'I told you so'.
Thank you for continuing to be with us
and not giving up on us.
Please help us to know you better
and live as you dream we would.

With the help of your Holy Spirit
Amen.



Assurance of Pardon
The good news of this Advent season
is that God forgives us
and helps us live new lives.
Let us commit our lives to Christ's way of love.
**Thanks 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.**



Rev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church



Listening to God



Prayer for Illumination

Immanuel, as we wait for your return,
help us see your glory and receive your love
through the telling of your story and ours.

We pray in Jesus name.

Amen.³



Video Pageant: prepared by the children school and filmed a scene at a time (so everybody can be in it... many times.)



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

The Pageants are based on parts of [Luke 2](#) and [Matthew 2](#) (for the wise men)

[Psalm 98](#)



Hymn: Sing a new song.....pg 11 (422)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZH7t9_mXuh4



Live Pageant: The Sunday school shares the nativity story in another form.



Hymn: Long ago, prophets knew.....pg 12 (121)
youtu.be/Mu4n-kdYm7o?t=30
www.youtube.com/watch?v=GGB89g_r5yg (children)

³ adapted from Worship Sourcebook D.3.1.7

⁴ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963
or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV



Kensington Christmas Pageant 2021





Lessons: Thoughts from Christmas

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

What does Christmas mean to you?

We will be hearing from some in the Sunday school how they answer that, along with some other people in the congregation. I don't know what they will say, but hopefully you can visit our YouTube channel to hear what they say (and see the pageants). If you need help with this, please let me know. Here's the website: www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoen7j1iGcz_w

There are a number of usual answer to this questions. I suspect the most common for adults would involve gathering with family and friends - the coming together of community. This brings out stories of when personalities collide, and how precious relationships can be.

Young children are more likely to talk about presents, feasting, and time off school. But even then, I remember hangout out with my cousins, aunts, uncles & grandparents - the dinner table that would stretch though doorways until we had to rent the church hall.

Sometimes people get theological. They share the wonder of the Creator of the universe as a vulnerable little baby, or the King of kings born in a humble stable, or that a star appeared in the heavens and drawing people from foreign lands, or that God invites ordinary people to help in saving the world - people who aren't qualified, but through God they changed the world.

Not all the changes done in the name of Jesus has been good.

Christians have judged, enslaved, and killed others, including other Christians. Jesus didn't come to enslave or kill others. He didn't raise an army for war, but was the King who served everyone else. He talked about loving even your enemies - and demonstrated it. He provided opportunities rather than judgement (although the consequences of our actions do come). Sometimes we forget that diversity is good. The Christmas story contains the educated and uneducated, those who are rich and many who are poor, those at home and those who become refugees. Because imperfect people make up the world, we have to deal with issues like the legacy of the residential schools, the issues raised by Black Lives Matter, and the environment. But at Christmas we are reminded that everyone is a part of the nativity - a part of the coming of Christ.

Christmas is about many things. Some examples are: community, family, doing things together, nourishment (including food), God humbly living with us & for us (even those we exclude), and God inviting us to be a part of saving the world.

All of these and more are good answers;
what do you say?

What does Christmas mean to you?

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*





Responding to God

♪ Special Music.....Church School

💬 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?

✦ Spirit Sighting

There are many ways I have seen God's Spirit working. I've seen that the Presbyterian church is continuing to work on its relationship with the Indigenous Peoples. That they are listening to stories of racism and will act on these stories. That we engage with communities around the world to share love, hope and healing - because that is what God invites us to do. That we no longer do this as great saviours who know better, but as humble servants we join the community - like Jesus at Christmas.

You can learn about some projects on page 9.



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.....led by Alex Plant

The prayers of the people will be a responsive prayer. After "O God, in your mercy" is spoken, you are invited to respond with "**Hear our prayers of love and compassion**"

Let us pray,

Heavenly father, we come to you today with our praises and desires for you. You draw us into your merciful love and throughout all generations, you have been faithful to us. You have given us new life in one another. You call us to take up the task of being the custodians of creation and to follow your way in the world. We pray for your continued presence in our lives, and in the new generations who will live out the new life you promise in Christ Jesus.

O God, in your mercy

Hear our prayers of love and compassion

We pray for those who are experiencing the effects of climate change first hand, through floods, fires, storms, and destructive

pollution. Show them your love and compassion in the midst of chaos and destruction. Remind us of the beauty of your creation. Inspire us to be proactive in our role in creation. We pray for the leaders of the world. Call upon them to take charge of the climate crisis so that your creation may breathe freely again. We pray for compassionate hearts driven away from greedy thoughts. Inspire them to make decisions that bring healing.

O God, in your mercy

Hear our prayers of love and compassion

We pray for our indigenous brothers and sisters as they continue to face the effects of selfish and destructive actions. We recognize your desire for peace and harmony, and we pray that you show us the way forward, fostering reconciliation and healing. We pray for indigenous voices to be heard as we celebrate a season of joy and love. As we hear the message of angels proclaiming the birth of Christ, we pray that we also hear the voices of indigenous people as we follow the example of Christ in our daily living.

O God, in your mercy

Hear our prayers of love and compassion

We pray for compassionate hearts towards our brothers and sisters who face hatred and discrimination on a daily basis. In a season of giving and joy, we pray that we can leave behind our prejudices and judgements, coming together in the spirit of Christ's birth, sharing in the love that you give us so that we may love others regardless of who they are. We pray that hatred be overcome with love and discrimination be overtaken with

compassion. Speak to us your words of peace so that we may come together and remove the racist attitudes that hold us back from loving one another as you love us.

O God, in your mercy

Hear our prayers of love and compassion

We pray for those suffering with sickness and going through losses this season. We especially pray for the family of Eleanor Bruce. Be with them and comfort them during this difficult time, may you bring a spirit of joy in remembering Eleanor's life. We pray for those who feel despair and who look down on themselves, not seeing the goodness in others. We ask that you give strength and courage for those who feel isolated and alone this season. We pray for the medical workers who are dealing with the ever developing pandemic. Bring them strength and encourage us to do our part in keeping one another safe from harm. Where there is pain, we pray for healing. Where there is mourning, we pray for your comforting presence. Where there is despair, we pray for hope. Be with those who are in need of mental health, bring your healing presence to all who are suffering around the world.

O God, in your mercy

Hear our prayers of love and compassion

God of eternal life, as a challenging year comes to a close, and a new year beckons, come to us once more as we celebrate Christ's birth. Be with us as we witness his birth as a community of believers, making all things new. Reveal to us your loving presence as Christ reveals himself to the world, bringing salvation

to your people. Bless all of us as we find the love of Christ that nourishes and nurtures our love for one another. As Christ was born as one of us, we pray that your light blesses and fills the world with your glorious power. We thank you for the life, the love, and the hope you give us through Christ Jesus, this day, this Christmas, and forever more. This we pray in your most precious name.

Amen

♪ Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain.....pg 10 (133)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9o7bv7enYI

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfDUkWy3IW8 (gospel)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=W_GgZsUyzHA (banjo & fiddle)

✦ Benediction (Romans 15:13)

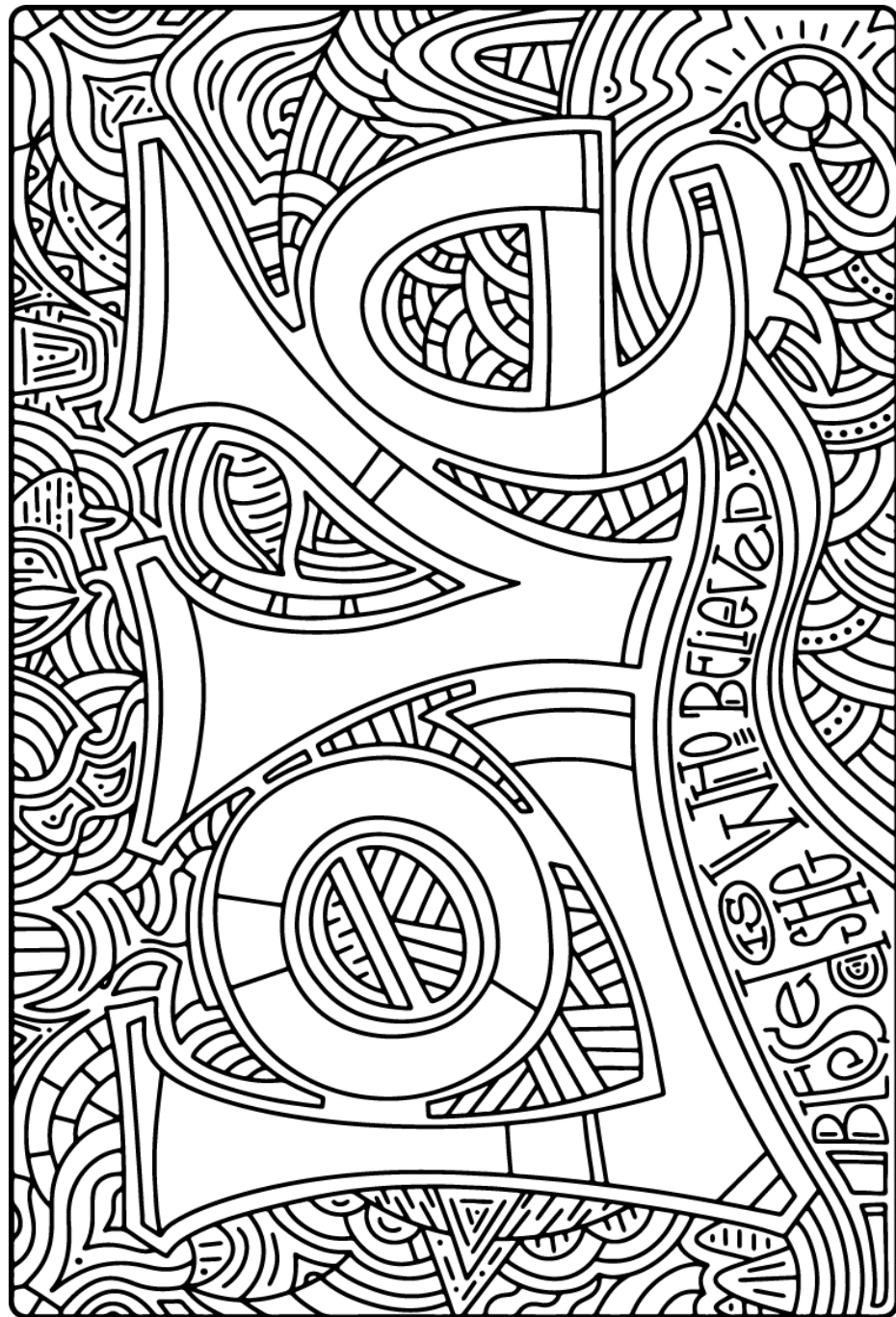
May the God of hope

fill you with all joy and peace in believing,

so that you may abound in hope

by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.



Sharing Hope

We are a vibrant denomination, working together to put our faith into action. Through Presbyterians Sharing, we participate in God's mission together: building strong congregations, serving vulnerable people, seeking justice, walking with Indigenous people, and sharing God's love and hope around the world. We share hope when a new faith community meets for the first time. We share hope when a child in Romania escapes poverty through education. We share hope when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We share hope when a boarding home resident confides in a trusted visitor. All of this is possible because of generous gifts to Presbyterians Sharing. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 19 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) We pray that the love we find in the Christ child will nourish and nurture our love.

Monday, December 20 We pray for socially marginalized and vulnerable people who find this time of the year difficult.

Tuesday, December 21 We pray for the Presbytery of West Toronto's Ministry Committee. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

Wednesday, December 22 We give thanks for the efforts that have been made to confront systemic racism in our society, and we pray for those who continue to work toward ending racial discrimination.

Thursday, December 23 We give thanks and pray for organizations and people that dedicate their work to ensuring the care, protection and rights of all children.

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that the light of God's love blesses and fills the world.

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day) Holy Child, born of Earth woman and the Spirit of heaven. Warrior of heaven and earth who conquered death, we thank you. For the life, love and hope you give us through children, kakike ka' nanaskom'tinaan (Cree for "we will always be grateful").

An Education for Robina

Robina lives with her mother, father and five siblings in a make-shift house in Afghanistan. This past year, Robina was the only member of her family in school—but it wasn't just because of COVID-19.

Prior to the Taliban takeover of the country, only 38 percent of children in Afghanistan attended school. Poverty is one of the leading causes; families with many children often can't afford uniforms and school supplies for each child.

Girls are affected unequally because of a cultural belief that there is little value for education for girls. Only one in five students in Afghan schools are female, and only about one in 10 adult women are literate. And the current political situation in Afghanistan means many more children are faced with uncertainty about their futures, particularly girls.

PWS&D is passionate about ensuring children have access to quality education. Starting at the community level, PWS&D's local partner in Afghanistan helps parents and religious leaders understand girls' rights—most importantly, the right to education.

This Advent season help make sure children like Robina have access to a quality education so that they can build bright and sustainable futures.

[WeRespond.ca](https://www.werespond.ca)



Oh come, all ye faithful

1. Oh come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant; oh
 2. God of God, Light of light,
 3. See how the shep - herds, sum - moned to his cra - dle,
 4. Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion;
 5. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing;

come ye, oh come ye to Beth - le - hem.
 born un - to Ma - ry, the vir - gin blest,
 leav - ing their flocks draw nigh with ho - ly fear;
 sing, all ye ci - ti - zens of heaven a - bove:
 Je - sus, to thee be glo - ry given;

Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels:
 ve - ry God, be - got - ten, not cre - at - ed:
 we too will thith - er bend our joy - ful foot - steps:
 "Glo - ry to God in the high - est!"
 Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing:

Go, tell it on the mountain

GO, TELL IT 7 6 7 6 with refrain

Refrain G C/G G G/B D D7 Em/D D G G/B Am7 D7
 Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o - ver the hills and eve - ry - where.

G C/G G G/B Am/C Am G/D D7 G Fine
 Go, tell it on the moun - tain that Je - sus Christ is born.

C/G G G/B D Em D G
 1. While shep - herds kept their watch - ing o'er si - lent flocks by night,
 2. The shep - herds feared and trem - bled, when lo, a - bove the earth
 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,

G C G/B G G/B A A7 D/F# D7 D.C.
 be - hold, through - out the heav - ens there shone a ho - ly light.
 rang out the an - gel cho - rus that hailed our Sav - iour's birth!
 and God sent us sal - va - tion that bless - ed Christ - mas morn.

Words: African-American traditional; adaptation, John W. Work (1901-1967)

Music: African-American traditional; arrangement, John W. Work (1901-1967), alt

Words: adaptation, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 Music: arrangement, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 CCLI #4440603

422 Sing a new song unto the Lord

Unison

Refrain G D D#dim Em Am7

Sing a new song un - to the Lord; let your song be

D /C G/B D7/A G G/B D

sung from moun - tain's height. Sing a new song

D#dim Em Am7 G6/B D 7 G Fine

un - to the Lord, sing-ing hal - le - lu - jah!

Words: Psalm 98; paraphrase, Daniel L. Schutte Music: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-), arrangement Sr. Theophane Hytrek, OSF (1915-1992)

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G D7/A Am/G D/F# Em /D C6 G6/B

1. For God's peo - ple dance for joy. Oh come be - fore the
2. Rise, O chil - dren, from your sleep; your Sav - iour now has
3. Glad my soul for I have seen the glo - ry of the

D7/A G D7/F# G D7/A Am/G /E D

Lord, play for the Lord on glad tam - bou - rines, and
come. He has turned your sor - row to joy, and
Lord. The trum - pet sounds; the ' dead shall be raised. I

C Am7 Dsus4- 2- 3 D.C. al Fine

let your trum - pet sound.
filled your soul with song.
know my Sav - iour lives.

Long ago, prophets knew

THEODORIC (PERSONENT HODIE) 6 6 6 6 6 with refrain

Em /C# Bm/D Bm

1. Long a - go,
2. God in time,
3. Ma - ry, hail!
4. Jour - ney ends!

D/F# D G /F# Em /D A/C# (Em/B) F#m/A D/F# G /B

pro - phets knew Christ would come, born a Jew,
God in man, this is God's time - less plan:
Though a - fraid, she be - lieved; she o - beyed.
Where a - far Beth - lehem shines, like a star,

D G D/F# D A/C# Bm Em9 /C# F#m A F#m Bm

come to make all things new, bear all peo - ple's
he will come as a man, born him - self of
In her womb, God is laid till the time ex -
sta - ble door stands a - jar: un - born son of

Em /D /C# /B F#m/A G F#m Bm A /G /F# /E

bur - den, free - ly love and par - don.
wom - an, God di - vine - ly hu - man.
pect - ed, nur - tured and pro - tect - ed.
Ma - ry, Sav - iour do not tar - ry!

D Refrain Em/D

Ring, bells, ring, ring, ring! Sing, choirs, sing, sing, sing!

D Em/D D Bm E

When he comes, when he comes, who will make him wel - come?
(last verse) we will make him wel - come!

Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-) Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582; harmony, Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934)

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