Kensington Presbyterian Church

Blessings

February 13, 2022

WELCOME, during these times of physical ing out these worship services that you can

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)

Contacts

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Announcements

Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

Re-opening: We are once again welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube and a printable PDF. If you have questions, please contact us.

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

Visits: If you would like to talk or have a prayer please contact Rev. Peter anytime.

'Messy' Church: March 1st

ALL AGES activities that will help us start lent - and be fun. We'll meet through Zoom and explore our Lent boxes together. If you are interested, please contact Kathryn kathryn.baldwin@mail.mcgill.ca or Rev. Peter.

Mission & Outreach Committee: Since COVID this committee has been on hold, but it's time to start back up again! We help create opportunities that show God's love by reaching out and helping those around us. We will connect with our local community, and organizations that support those who need it.

We need your help - in big ways or small ways! If you are interested, please send an email to kathryn.baldwin@mail.mcgill.ca or contact Rev. Peter.

- March for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, Trans, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWGT2S): Jill Foster is inviting us to join in this annual Valentine's Day march: February 14th at 6pm in Cabot Square (Atwater and St. Catherine).
- Metal Health: Grandview Church has made a list of several internet resources that you may find helpful. kckf.files.wordpress.com/2022/01/links-to-wellness-resources_updated-march-2021.pdf
- The Chosen: Thursdays Jan 13 to Feb 24 7pm video, 8pm study You are invited to join us over Zoom as we watch and discuss the series *The Chosen*. The discussion will be hosted by Rev. Peter.
- Annual Meeting: will be held March 20th after church. We will figure out how to all people to attend through Zoom and in person. The Annual Report will be available by March 6.
- walk-in Vaccination Clique Tuesday, February 15 & Wednesday, February 16 from 2:30 pm to 7:00 pm at the Walkley Community Center, 6650 Côte-St-Luc Road.

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



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 (Psalm 150:1-2, 6)

Hallelujah!

Praise! Praise God in the temple, in the highest heavens!

Praise! Praise God's mighty deeds and noble majesty.

All that is alive, praise!

Praise the Lord. Hallelujah!

Prayer of Adoration²

God of our wonder,

Heart of creation:

we are blessed when

we feast on your Word:

that Word which embraces us;

that Word which teaches us;

that Word which transfigures us;

that Word which grounds us.

Give us your Word this, and every, day.

Jesus Christ, Heart of God's children: we are blessed when we have your compassion:

that heart for the poor; for the hungry; for those who weep; for those left out. Give us your heart this, and every, day.

Holy Delight, Grace's Heartbeat: we bear fruit when we overflow with your spirit:



Trust in the Lord - Ivan Guaderrama

that spirit of generosity;

that spirit of pouring ourselves out in service; that spirit of bearing another's burden.

Give us your spirit this, and every, day.

God in Community, Holy in One, may our hearts beat as one with your heart, even as we pray as Jesus has taught 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.

by Rev. Thom Shuman. lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2022/02/liturgy-wcommunion-for-february-13-2022.html

Prayer of Confession

We confess what we are afraid to face, Blessing God, that the seductions of this world gnaw away at our hearts.

We have more and more to choose from at the market. and so we forget those whose only choice is hunger.

Our sense that we are your favourites causes us to cast aside those we are convinced are not.

We are so consumed with saving enough for the future, we overlook those who have so little this day.



too much and too little - Christine Kim

Please forgive us, Heartbroken God, for thinking we are the centre of your world.

Pour your living water into us,

so we might send down roots deep into your heart, and so become those people who are blessings to others, as we have received the gift of new life from Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Take comfort from these words spoken through Jeremiah³, I will cleanse them from all the guilt of their sin against me, and I will forgive all the guilt of their sin and rebellion against me.

Amen.



Listening to God

 □ Hymn: Open my Eyes, that I may see.....pg 9 (500) www.youtube.com/watch?v=71jExPuxRBY



3/10

Prayer for Illumination

Lord of heaven and earth pour out on us the abundant gifts of your Holy Spirit that we may be filled with your word and share your love.

Amen.4

Jeremiah 33:8, NRSV

adapted from Worship Sourcebook F.3.1.2

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

Jeremiah 17: 5-10

Psalm 1

2 Corinthians 9: 6-15

Luke 6: 17-26

Sermon: Blessings......Alex Plant

Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts.⁶ Amen.

Have you ever had a miserable day? Just a day filled with everything that could go wrong? A day where the sun didn't shine bright in the morning or where you were stuck in traffic on the way to work. Or perhaps the coffee machine broke and you couldn't get that hot steaming cup of coffee. I know a few people who swear that they cannot function without a cup of coffee in the morning. Or even worse, if you had a great plan for the day all set up, things planned out to take in an adventure or even to have an efficient day to accomplish many things, and you end up having an accident that derails your entire plan?

I invite you to imagine that frustration in your mind. The pull of negativity that dampens the mood of the occasion. Sometimes it gets really serious and we have moments of deep despair in our lives which puts everything on hold. Sometimes its more than just a day of misery. It can stretch out for weeks, months, or even years. This struggle is something that we all face on some kind of level. Whether we have had a bad day or if we are struggling with life, it can be overwhelming even to the strongest of individuals. Through no fault of anyone, we can find ourselves suddenly cut

off from the routines of what we are used to. Sound familiar?

When we are cut off from the normal parts of our lives, when we are subjected to unusual circumstances, there is a moment of desperation that many of us face. Sometimes that moment is short, for others long. That moment of desperate prayer, a short message to the Lord, 'please just get us through this Lord', is about all we can muster when we immediately come face to face with a challenge. Our community of faith remains steadfast in the most challenging times, but we are not immune to the moments of despair. Like a desperate people, we pray to God in our hour of need.

When Jesus progressed through his ministry, he is often depicted healing or teaching to crowds of people. While we don't know the exact size of the crowd, we can safely assume that this crowd, like us, have moments of desperation. Some, like those who are sick or in need of healing, feel that desperation more intensely than someone looking for guidance. Their pain drives them to unimaginable places of darkness and desperation. When we look at today's Gospel reading, we see that the people in the crowd came from across the land. Like a pilgrimage of hope, they came to Jesus knowing that he could heal them. Their faith drew them into his loving care.

These people came desperately to be healed by Jesus. They knew that he had the power to heal them and to cleanse them from their impure spirits. They saw the mercy that Jesus showed to the people in his healing and through his teachings. They sought him out from great distances just to be close to him, to witness his glory for themselves. These people who are hurting and suffering saw the salvation that Jesus could bring to them, and if they had made that journey, pushed themselves just far enough, they could make it, they could be healed.

Seeking God's blessing and healing is what he calls us to do.

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

Psalm 19:14

He consistently wants us to rely on him and to communicate with him what our troubles are and to seek his guidance and wisdom to work in our lives. These blessings come in many forms, whether it is moments of kindness brought by others, or the gifts that God has seen fit to bestow upon us. Receiving blessings is one of the most awe-inspiring things that God does for us. He blesses us with salvation, he blesses us with healing, and with hope, all we have to do is reach out to God and he will work in our lives and in the lives of those around us. But Jesus does not simply heal the crowd, and much like the crowd, Jesus does not simply bless us and heal us whenever we ask for it. He teaches us, he reveals to us his wisdom.

"Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now. for you will laugh. Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven. For that is how their ancestors treated the prophets". ⁷ Isn't that just the most incredible thing you've ever heard? Imagine that you are one of those people.

You who are poor, who cannot afford medical care to tend to your illness, blessed are you for yours is the kingdom of God! You who hunger now, who don't have the opportunity to eat a proper meal, blessed are you for you will be satisfied. You who mourn the loss of a loved one, you will be blessed with laughter, blessed with the happy memories that you shared and that make you laugh at the silly moments that bring that fondness of love. You who are hated because of the Son of Man, because you believe in his healing power more than all the powers of humanity put together, blessed are you because great is your reward in heaven.

But then Jesus turns that teaching right around. Yes Jesus

blesses the poor and the hungry and the mournful and those who face hatred for their beliefs, because they are the ones who are upheld in Jesus' eyes. But how far does that blessing go? How much of a good thing becomes too much? Because right after Jesus blesses the poor and hungry and mournful and hated, we see Jesus give the crowd a very stark warning.

Woe to you who are rich. Woe to you who are well fed now. Woe to you who laugh now. Woe to you when everyone speaks well of you. What you are probably saying to all of these calls of woe is woah, woah, woah there, hold on a minute! Jesus just blessed the poor to help them become the opposite of poor which is rich right, is he to unbless them? Once the hungry have had their fill, does he subject them to hunger once again? Those recovering from loss, does he throw them back into the depths of despair? Does he persecute people who are well spoken of?

On the surface, this seems like a straightforward contradiction. Jesus blesses those who are in need and warn those who are blessed. But we have to stop and think to ourselves, what is Jesus telling us? This crowd of people came from far to be close to Jesus, to be healed by his touch, and to listen to his teachings. They seek guidance. All of us seek this guidance, for we are like those in the crowd. We are lost, confused, hurt, angry, all yearning to be closer to the one thing that can bring us healing and salvation. When we are in need, we seek God's merciful hand to deliver us, to set us on the right path. But once we are on that right path, it is up to us to keep walking on that path. We must not let our hearts be corrupted with greed and selfish desire. We must not think highly of ourselves. Rather, we must remain humble. It is not always easy to remain humble.

So when Jesus says blessed are you who are poor and also woe to you who are rich, he doesn't mean that blessings are to be taken away once they reach a certain level of healing. Rather,

Jesus is telling us, once you have been blessed and healed, you have received said blessing and healing. We then are called to take the next step. When we are in a hospital and the doctor says that we are stabilized and ready to go home, we do not continue to stay in the hospital bed, taking up resources that we don't need. We head home. We go out into the world and re-integrate ourselves back into the world that we live in. So too Jesus is telling us, when we have received our blessing, do not simply stand there and continue to ask for blessings that you have already received your comfort". 8

When we are able bodied, we are called to give thanks and to spread that Good News to other people. Of course, those of us who need healing, and I know, you know, that we all need healing in our lives for a variety of reasons, we must allow Christ to work in our lives in the pace that he sees fit. Only when Christ has brought us to a state of ability are we discharged from his healing power and placed in opportunities to engage in one another's healing. We may be receiving blessings for different things at different times. Christ never stops working in our lives, Christ never stops healing us in our lives, but when we have received the blessing of his healing, when he calls us to go forth, we must take that call.

"Woe to you who are well fed now, for you will go hungry". When one asks for something that one already has, they are going to be disappointed when they don't receive it. So too when we ask in a spirit of greed or wrongful desire. We must find that correct approach that Christ calls us to follow. He freely and openly calls upon us to rely upon him for healing and salvation, that will never change. But when we are blessed, when we are gifted with

his presence, we must rejoice, not ask for more. We must conduct ourselves in a spirit of love and compassion, to share the love of Christ with others, not the greed of selfishness. Let us seek the blessings of his healing power to work in the pain and fear in our lives, to transform it into courage and conviction. But let us also rejoice and share in what we are given. "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven". ¹⁰

Thanks be to God. Amen.

M M M M

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).

Values: How do you start your day?

Memories: Share about a bad day - either a recent one, or ridiculously bad.

Etching: Remembering one of those situations that left you feeling hopeless... how does despair (lack of hope) affect you? Does it affect your belly? your sleep? your temper?

Actions: What do you do about it (if you can)?

Actions: List with each other as many blessings as you can - small ones are great

How can you help others feel blessed?

8 Luke 6:24 (NIV) 9Luke 6:25 (NIV)

10 Luke 6:23 (NIV)

Spirit Sighting

I'm seeing the Holy Spirit at work in the excitment of some of our volunteers in helping a 'Messy Church' type of activity happen March 1st, when we'd normally have our pancake dinner. One activity for all ages filling in the space left by another.

This is another great way to share God's love, hope and healing with each other and our community. Please join us, and invite a friend. (and tell us ahead to get an activity box).

Maybe next year we'll have both?

╆ 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.

rayers of the people......Alex Plant

God of grace, we come before you bearing our burdens and carrying our hopes. We come before you knowing that as we bring our whole hearts to you, as we seek your strength and mercy, you will work in our lives to bring us guidance and love. We listen for you in this moment, giving thanks for the ability to hear us when we pray.

Faithful God,

Hear our prayer.

God of peace, we give you thanks for your presence among us. You who bring calm to the chaos and certainty to those moments of uncertainty. In the midst of challenge, you give us encouragement. We pray for those facing uncertainty around the world. For those in Eastern Europe, we pray that your Spirit descend upon the peoples there and bring peace. For those whose loved ones are in the hospital, we pray for your healing touch. For those who work in hospitals, as nurses, doctors, assistants, clerks, cleaners, and all the staff who work to serve others, we pray for your peace to rest upon the chaos that they face every day.

Faithful God,

Hear our prayer.

God of love, we give thanks for the gift of love. We thank you for the ability to love one another, and to live a life rooted in love. We pray for those who seek your love. For those who feel lonely, isolated, abandoned, betrayed, we seek your healing and love for them. During this special season, we especially pray for your love to inspire us and guide us as we both celebrate and remember those who we love. Be with your people Lord, let your love grow within them.

Faithful God,

Hear our prayer.

God of hope, when we are in prayer with you, we seek your promise in the New Covenant that you made with us in Christ Jesus. We give you thanks for seeking us out, for desiring our salvation to be right with you once again. In moments when we feel turned away, be with us. And in the silence of our hearts, we pray that you will hear the concerns and worries that we bring to you. (Silence). We ask that you receive all of our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and equip us to go out into the world to be your disciples. This we pray in your most precious name. *Amen.*

☐ Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling.....pg 10 (371)

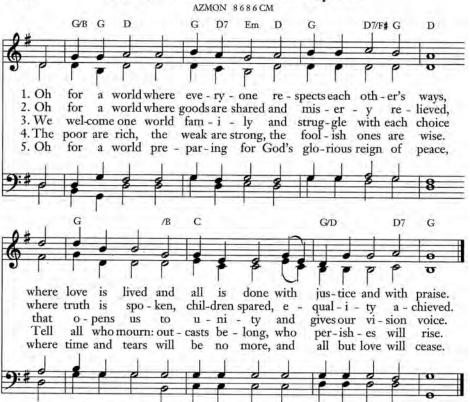
www.youtube.com/watch?v=9eb6xfRzjhg

* Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:!3)......Alex Plant

As we go forth from this place, let us remember the calling that the Lord has given us. He has given us his blessings and we are charged to go out and to be a blessing to others. And so, may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all, this day, and always.

Amen.

Oh for a world where everyone



Words: Miriam Therese Winter (1938–) Music: Carl G. Gläser (1784–1829); adaptation, Lowell Mason (1792–1872) in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Words: copyright © Medical Mission Sisters, 1990 Music: public domain

Rev. Peter Rombeek & Alex Plant for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 13 -

MISSION MOMENT

In Malawi, the Mulanje Mission Hospital provides care and support to orphans through its community-based program. Vocational skills, such as livestock farming, are taught to out-of-school children as a means for achieving economic empowerment. Brian lives with his grandmother. Through the program, he started goat farming, which has allowed his family to pay for food and other necessities and has also helped him establish a sustainable livelihood. "After the mother of the children died, things have been difficult. We had nothing to



depend on during hard times, but now things are becoming smooth as we can sell goats and buy grain and other basic needs," his grandmother expressed. This project is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 13 (Anniversary of the Publication of the Letter of Repentance) As the PCC continues on a journey of repentance for the harm done by homophobia and transphobia in the denomination, we pray for God's grace and love to guide the church in becoming safe and inclusive for all.

Monday, February 14 We give thanks for the care and support the church is helping provide to orphans in Malawi through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

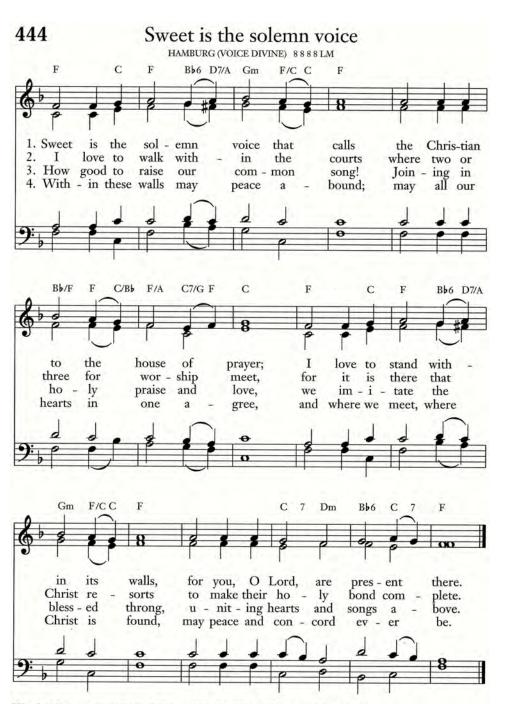
Tuesday, February 15 We pray for the members and work of the Committee on Church Doctrine.

Wednesday, February 16 We pray for Living Waters Mission, an inner-city mission of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough in Ontario, which brings hope and comfort to people struggling with addiction and mental health.

Thursday, February 17 We pray for the safety and well-being of children.

Friday, February 18 We give thanks for the programs of Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry in Saskatchewan that provide a sense of belonging, care and inclusion for people of all nations while upholding Indigenous cultural practices.

Saturday, February 19 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Winnipeg in Manitoba.



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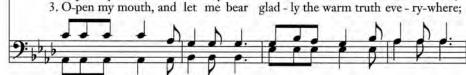
for Kensington Presbyterian Church



Ab Eb7/Bb Eb7 Ab6 Ab

1. O-pen my eyes, that I may see glimps-es of truth thou hast for me;

2. O-pen my ears, that I may hear voic - es of truth thou send-est clear,





place in my hands the won-der-ful key that shall un-clasp and set me free. and while the wave-notes fall on my ear, eve - ry-thing false will dis-ap-pear. o - pen my heart and let me pre-pare love with thy chil-dren thus to share.





Si-lent-ly now I wait for thee, read-y, my God, thy will to see;





o - pen my heart:



Words: Clara H. Scott (1841-1897) Music: Clara H. Scott (1841-1897)

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