

Kensington Presbyterian Church

hate love relationship

February 20, 2022

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)

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559info@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 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.

Guest Preacher: We would like to welcome the Rev. Victor Gavino while the Rev. Peter will be away the next two Sundays.

Visits: If you need a visit, please contact your elder or the church office. Rev. Lara Scholey is available if needed.



corner of Kensington & NDG

'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

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.

WMS Shamrock Tea: Here's something different for you to do; a way of gathering together too. The tea we'll send, and napkin neat; now sit right down and rest your feet. Remembering the work we're trying to do; for your kind donation, we thank you. Contact Kay or Howie if you'd like to join in.

The Chosen: Thursdays Jan 13 to March 3rd 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.

1/13

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 worship²

Let us worship God, our light and our salvation.

The Lord is the stronghold of our lives.

We desire to live in God's house and to seek God in his holy temple.

We have come with shouts of joy, to sing and to make music to the Lord.

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

Teach us your ways and make straight our paths in this time of worship and always.

☐ Hymn: Come, let us sing of a wonderful love.....pg 11 (706)

www.youtube.com/watch?v= hyicnAV1Ow



Unwavering in your power, Unflagging in your zeal, Uncompromising in your position,

It is good for us

past Christmas and heading into Lent to awaken to your constant love for your world.



We pursue our projects, depart to our private dreams, invest in our deepest hopes.

They are fragile and flimsy at best,
at worst, they are devious and destructive.

Either way, they pale before your constant love.

We gladly affirm - past our own inclinations that you will well-being among us,
that you intend justice for the vulnerable,
that you command mercy and compassion among us.

Turn us, before the day is out, from our will to yours,
Wean us, before we sleep, from our petty hopes,
Relocate us in your eternal resolve,
that the earth may be fully your realm,
that the world may be soaked in your shalom,
that we ourselves may find our true freedom
in your sovereign purpose.

because Yours - not ours - is the Kingdom, the Power, and the
Glory . . .
and we are grateful.

We are grateful for your consistent will, and the guidance you give us to live with you. Including 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.

Worship Sourcebook 1.2.5 based on Psalm 27; John 4:23

³ adapted from Walter Brueggemann. Awed to Heaven, Rooted in Earth pg. 18.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours

Amen.

↑ Assurance of Pardon⁴

Hear these words of comfort,

To ll who turn from sin in sorrow, to all who turn to God in hope, this is God's Word of grace:

We are accepted, we are forgiven, we are loved.

This gift we have from God.

Thanks be to God.



Listening to God

☐ Hymn: Saviour, teach me day by day.....pg 12 (698)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPySPIOksBw (organ only)

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.⁵

Intro to the readings

 Genesis: This Joseph isn't the one from Christmas, but the one with the technicolor dreamcoat. As the arrogant favoured son of his father his brothers finally had enough of him and sold him into



slavery. After some rough spots, Joseph was made governor of Egypt. During a long drought his brothers showed up begging for food. This is when Joseph reveals who he is.

- Psalm: acknowledges some darker aspects of the world, and gives some advice.
- Luke: continues on from last week.

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible, or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

Genesis 45: 1-15

Psalm 37: 1-11, 39-40

<u>Luke 6</u>: 27-38 (or keep going to 49)

Sermon: Blessings

This sermon mentions situations of abuse. If you would like to talk or pray, please contact me anytime. I'll be available.

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

Do you have enemies?

It's possible you do, but I don't think I've heard anybody talk about their enemies since I was in the elementary school yard. Maybe we develop a more complicated vocabulary, or we see life as less black and white.

Today's gospel reading starts with Jesus talking about enemies. Now, this passage isn't a stand alone story, it's the middle part of a sermon. In the first part Jesus talks about how those who are hungry, crying, hated will be blessed, and those who are top will

adapted from Worship Sourcebook F.3.1.2

⁶ 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

⁴ Worship Sourcebook 2.4.39

suffer. Does this define the good guys and bad guys? Are the enemies those who are full and laughing while others suffer?

Perhaps;

but it's not a call to revolution - or at least not to take those people down.

This section of the reading actually starts with a "but". I wonder if Jesus was worried the crowd would become a lynch mob. Instead of ending his sermon with a simple description of good news for some and bad news for others, Jesus challenges people to change their perspectives. He says, "But I say to you that are still listening, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

This sounds generous; this is generous.

What does this look like?

Jesus says, "Do to others as you would have them do to you."

You've heard this before. Most people have (and had). It doesn't start with Jesus. Aristotle said it. I've seen a poster that shows that all the common world religions, and others as well, have this.

Is this what it looks like to love? To treat people as we would like to be treated.

Well, no. This isn't where Jesus ends the sermon either. He goes on to say, "Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful." This may not be the Golden Rule, but it is the one we are challenged to live into.

It raises questions - as any challenge does.

How do we love like God? and what about justice?

We should start with God's love and grace, because that's where God starts. God's love isn't a reaction to something we do. God doesn't love you because you're endearing or cute. God doesn't love you because you're well behaved. God loves you period. And you're not alone in this. God loves everyone.

Is this extreme? Yes.

It is extremely generous.



Feeding 5000 - Annie Vallotton

Which is part of the big picture in Luke. There are warnings along the lines of, "woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry," but there are also many stories of abundant generosity. Take the story from a few weeks ago with Simon-Peter catching so

much fish that two boats started to sink. In a few chapters Jesus will feed 5000+ people, and have more leftovers then he started with. And there's the last example we heard today. It's about flour. "A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap." We buy flour by weight, but imagine when you would buy it by volume. Packing it down wasn't normal, but if the person giving it to you packed it down you'd receive a lot more... and then to pack it and fill it so that it ran over - that's literally overflowing generosity.

So, God is very generous.

Does that mean we can just do anything we want? What about justice?

It doesn't mean no boundaries. There is a tension between grace/mercy and justice. Mercy without justice and some people can get away with anything. Justice without mercy leads to cruelty.

One of the TV shows popular with my boys is *Paw Patrol*. It's about a collection of talking puppies with techno-gadgets who help the helpless adults in their community. A frequent nemesis is Mayor Humdinger from a neighbouring town. Despite the trouble he causes, the pups cheerfully help him out of his own predicament by the end of the adventure. This may seem like an example of loving as God does, but it's not. Mayor Humdinger doesn't face any consequences or change his ways. This is just the pups acting out the 'Golden Rule.'

A much better example is Adam and Eve. They want to decide what's good and evil instead of trusting God, so they eat the forbidden fruit. Justice is delivered and they are kicked out of the garden... but God is also merciful. God blesses them and makes sure they have everything they need to survive. God even stays

with them. This shows accountability and compassion. This shows God's love.

Now, how do we live that?

One thing that must be acknowledged is that love means being vulnerable. It's impossible to love without the risk of being hurt. This is true with those we want to love. Here Jesus challenges us to love our enemies - those we don't get along with, those who oppress others, those who hurt others.

There are all sorts of situations where this comes up. What do you do about someone who hurt you but has changed? Perhaps a family member who was an alcoholic but realized the problem and has dried out. They hurt you. How do you love them?

Some churches have faced similar issues where somebody who hurt society, served their jail time and has shown up at church. How does the congregation show God's love? Like with Adam & Eve, it's okay to set up boundaries as trust is built up. If their crime was in accounting, don't allow them to do the books. If their crime was with children, don't allow them to help with Sunday School. But include them in the life of the congregation. Greet them like any other - like we are all on a level plane - like where Jesus is preaching the sermon in Luke, because we are all equal before God.

What about if the person has not repented yet?

This week I heard about somebody's friend who had her husband of decades arrested. Though rarely physical, this was after years of abusive behaviour. Calling the police was being merciful like God is. While the abuser may not appreciate it at the time, it is the only step available to get them help. It is also

the only way to love the victims.

Is the victim required to "turn the other cheek"? In Biblical times that would have been taking control of the situation. Depending on the situation now, this may include helping the person to a psychologist, or an AA group, or involving the police. The situation may involve victims stepping back to receive healing while other members of the community

step forward to help heal the offender. In our society we sometimes forget how important community was in Jesus' day and still should be. It's not just children that need a village to looked after them.

What about the part of the passage that says, "'Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; give, and it will be given to you." We aren't following the playground mentality that was common in the ancient world (and in some places now) where if somebody hurts a member of your family you hurt their family - going back and forth for generations. We aren't following the limited version of that that is "and eye for and eye" - and then it stops. This part describes what will happen if you aren't judgmental. If you offer forgiveness. If you are generous.

Think of someone you know who doesn't judge anyone, who forgives easily, and will freely give the shirt off their back. How do other's treat them? I suspect with

(Jacob's Ladder - Judah)



some puzzlement, but also without judgment and with generosity. This series of phrases is descriptive, and also a guide for how to live. It helps, as the psalm put it, "not to fret because of the wicked." Fret comes from an old English word about being consumed. Offering forgiveness and living generously helps neither the victims nor their 'enemy' to be consumed by their pain.

In not letting the cycle of pain continue, this is what it means

to "Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you."

Unfortunately we didn't get to hear the end of the passage, because Jesus makes some good points. One is that we all have flaws that we don't see. The example given is of trying to take a speck of dust out of your neighbour's eye with a log in your own eye.

And there's the ending.

This passage is serious about living out the love and mercy of God being an action. It ends with Jesus exclaiming, "Why do you call me "Lord, Lord", and do not do what I tell you? ...the one who hears and does not act is like a man who built a house on the ground without a foundation."

How will you live it?

Who can you offer love, hope and healing to? (and who has God placed around to love you?)

The good news in the Gospel According to Luke is that all are equal before God. We all sin, in different ways, and that God's abundant mercy is reaching out to help us all experience healing.

God's Spirit is also reaching out to help us do our part, because our actions matter.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.

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).

Actions: Psalm 37 is an alphabet poem - each section starts with the next letter of the alphabet. Using the theme of love or grace or the challenges of this world, try writing your own (it's good to help each other).

Memories: Do you remember having an enemy?

Wonder: What would it be like if movies with enemies ended modeling God's gift of justice and mercy rather than

violence?

Etching: Share a memory of offering forgiveness for

something that hurt you. What did it feel like?

Wonder: Who do you need to love? bless? pray for?

Actions: Who can you be astoundingly generous to today?



embrace 23 - C Aust

Spirit Sighting.....Alex Plant

As a student, I often rely on a number of resources and technology to do my school work. Sometimes it works wonders, letting me do the work efficiently and effectively. Other times, spending time in a library or in the quiet of my own thoughts allows me to work through a problem. One assignment that we had to do for a course at the college was to write a stewardship moment to discuss the financial needs of the congregation. One thing that I am not the most comfortable with is talking about money. Yet, I managed to push through and write what I thought was a pretty decent attempt. The day of class, I am called to present my piece to the rest of the student. To my shock and disappointment, I had failed to save it to my email account so I had no chance to pull it up to read. I wasn't going to rush to my dormitory to get the file. Rather, I asked to delay my presentation

to allow other students to go ahead. I took a moment of desperate prayer to God, just give me the words I need to put something together, anything at all.

I felt the Holy Spirit literally work through my hands as I put together a series of rough notes to keep me on track, and I felt compelled to speak as the spirit led me. What I ended up producing was a bit of a mess, but it got the point across. In that moment, I put my trust in the Holy Spirit to guide me in that moment of forgetfulness. God uses the unexpected moments to inspire us. Even in the small and seemingly insignificant moments, the Holy Spirit can move within each of us. So, when you are in a moment of panic or concern, just say a little prayer. God will hear you, and he will guide you through. It may not end perfect, but he is loving and guides us amongst the chaos.

╆ 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 peace and love, we give you thanks for your presence in creation. You desire a special relationship with us, you gave us the breath of life and have placed goodness in all of us. You have drawn us closer to you and one another, in families and neighbourhoods. In our community of faith, you call us to show the love you have for us to others. We ask for your Holy Spirit to

work in our lives, to inspire us to love in the face of anger, to show kindness in the face of hatred, and to show compassion to the lost and frustrated. We pray for mercy and understanding for those who are compelled to protest, who feel that their voices are not being heard. May your righteousness compel them to show your peace and love for all.

God of faith and understanding, your people cry out for your guiding hand. In the midst of pressures and problems, many feel restricted and confined to the fear that surrounds them. We pray for your light to burst forth from the clouds of doubt, to bring the peace that they seek. Guide us all through the dark times, lead us from the obstacles that are before us, the pain of the pandemic, and the conflicts here at home and abroad. Bring us to a place that is centered in your presence. Inspire us to seek the solutions that you bless us with, to live the life that you call us to live. Help us to share in the hope that we find in your presence with others.

Most Holy God, we give thanks for your everlasting love. We give thanks for the wisdom and knowledge you reveal to us through your word and through the life of Jesus Christ. You sent your son to be the essence of your goodness sacrificed for us out of pure unconditional love. Please grant us cleansed hearts so that we may reflect that goodness within ourselves, to love you with every part of us, and to love one another fully and joyfully. Help each one of us find the calling and to follow that calling in the mission and ministry that you have gifted us with.

Be with us in the prayers that we offer you today, those spoken, and those in the silence of our hearts (silence). Be with those we pray for and those we hesitate to pray for, as you minister and show mercy to all those who seek you and to those who are isolated from your love. Reveal to them your presence, and may they feel the love that you have for your people. Help us to build a better world for all people, to bring your justice and peace to all, filling them with your goodness and grace. This we pray in your most precious name.

Amen.

* Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

Amen.



Sunday, February 20

MISSION MOMENT

ARISE Ministry is a Toronto-based ministry that offers outreach, case management and spiritual care to individuals involved in the sex trade.

In response to the explosion of the online sex trade in recent years, the staff and volunteers at ARISE have expanded their outreach ministry online through an app



called "Freedom Signal," which has allowed them to communicate and establish relationships with victims of online sex trafficking and exploitation. This type of virtual outreach has meant that staff and volunteers have been able to connect people to resources and support in a way that is not always possible in street-level outreach. ARISE Ministry receives support from Presbyterians Sharing.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 20 (World Day of Social Justice) We give thanks and pray for human rights defenders and organizations, like KAIROS, which support them.

Monday, February 21 We give thanks and pray for the staff and volunteers of ARISE Ministry in Toronto, Ontario, who provide meaningful outreach and spiritual care to victims of sexual exploitation.

Tuesday, February 22 We give thanks and pray for the new members of the Cutting Edge of Mission Committee: Dr. Rick Allen (St. Andrew's PC in Toronto, Ontario), the Rev. Dr. Nancy Cocks (St. John's PC in Medicine Hat, Alberta) and Elizabeth Phillipson (St. Andrew's PC in Ottawa, Ontario).

Wednesday, February 23 We pray for PCC mission staff as they look for new ways to safely help our partners around the world.

Thursday, February 24 We thank God for the staff and volunteers of Tyndale St-Georges Community Centre, who create a safe, loving and empowering space for the community of Little Burgundy in Montreal, Quebec.

Friday, February 25 We pray for the members of the Canadian ecumenical working group for the United Nations International Decade for People of African Descent (2015–2024).

Saturday, February 26 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca.

Sunday, February 27 -

MISSION MOMENT

Binda Devi lives in Karbola, India, with her husband and four kids. A year ago, the family was living a comfortable life, relying on the income from her husband's job as a labourer in a cement factory. However, one day, there was an accident that left him unable to work. With no income, the family was very worried. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) partner staff met with the family and, together, they came up with a plan for Binda to start a small cosmetics business. With support from the program, she is now selling cosmetic items from village to village. The business is going well, and Binda provides for her family. This livelihood initiative is supported by PWS&D.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, February 27 (Transfiguration Sunday) God of Glory, whose son was wonderfully transfigured, give us the strength to hear and ponder the good news of his life, death and resurrection.

Monday, February 28 We pray for empowered women in India, who are taking control of their futures by saving together and starting small businesses, with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Tuesday, March 1 We pray for those who have chosen a discipline to follow in the season of Lent.

Wednesday, March 2 (Ash Wednesday) Loving God, you hate nothing you have made, and your grace knows no bounds. You created us for yourself, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you. Create in us clean hearts and turn us around to follow you more nearly.

Thursday, March 3 We pray for courage and grace to help establish politics that reflect God's reign in our life and the world.

Friday, March 4 (World Day of Prayer) We pray for all those who work for peace and unity in the world.

Saturday, March 5 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Prince Edward Island.

Sunday, March 6

MISSION MOMENT

The Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, has been struggling to recruit and retain pastors to serve in poor, rural churches. To encourage seminary students to return after studying abroad, the church started the Nest Program, which offers pastors a safe place to live.

Bishop Zán-Fábián was overjoyed when The Presbyterian Church in Canada offered

The Presbyterian Church in Canada offered financial support to renovate a vacant parish house for the Rev. Sándor and his wife Noémi, who have agreed to serve in the small village of



Tiszaújhely. With financial assistance from Presbyterians Sharing, Sándor and Noémi have furnished their house with basic appliances and furniture and can now concentrate on their ministry in Tiszaújhely and give thanks to God.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, March 6 (First Sunday in Lent) Dear God, help us to order our lives in faithful obedience to you so that we may come to know our weaknesses and appreciate your grace at work in our lives.

Monday, March 7 We pray for the pastors of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, Ukraine, who faithfully serve people of Hungarian descent.

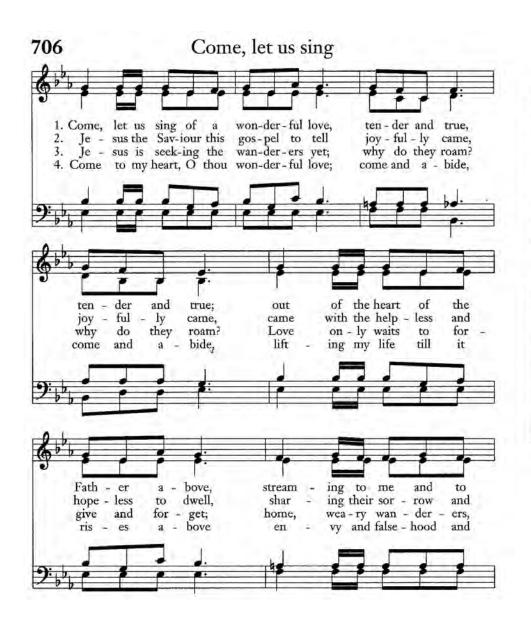
Tuesday, March 8 (International Women's Day) We pray for the women of the Women's Missionary Society as they continue to support women in marginalized countries.

Wednesday, March 9 We pray for the members and work of the Assembly Council.

Thursday, March 10 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Place of Hope Indigenous Presbyterian Church in Winnipeg, Manitoba, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

Friday, March 11 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Quebec.

Saturday, March 12 We pray for the ministry of Rockland Community Church near Ottawa, Ontario. May their congregation feel a strong sense of God's presence as they find new ways to share the gospel of Christ with neighbours.





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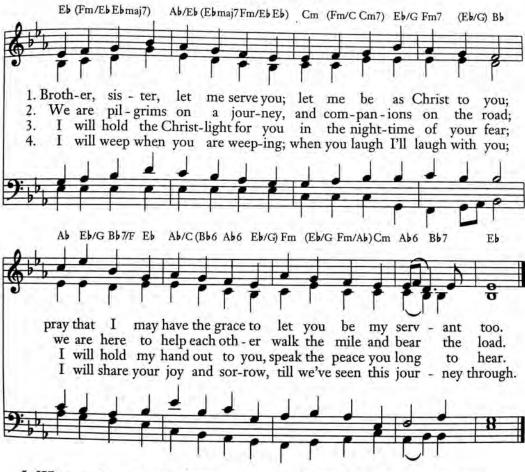


Words: Fred Kaan (1929-) Music: Doreen Potter (1925-1980) CCLI #4440603

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Brother, sister, let me serve you

SERVANT SONG 8787



- When we sing to God in heaven, we shall find such harmony, born of all we've known together of Christ's love and agony.
- 6. Brother, sister, let me serve you; let me be as Christ to you; pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant too.

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