### Kensington Presbyterian Church

# Being a chick

March 13, 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

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#### Ukraine:

This Presbyterian website contains a prayer and links to other information. <a href="mailto:presbyterian.ca/2022/03/04/praying-for-ukraine">presbyterian.ca/2022/03/04/praying-for-ukraine</a>

If you would like to support relief efforts, you can connect with the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) presbyterian.ca/pwsd/2022/02/28/ukraine-crisis or the Red Cross www.redcross.ca



### **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.

**Prayer Group:** Thursdays 9 am at Benny Farm 3500 Benny Ave. Common Room beside central courtyard)

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

The Choir: has started again. 

We practice Sunday morning.

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.

The Chosen: Thursdays Jan 13 to March 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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.

Annual Meeting: will be held March 20<sup>th</sup> 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.

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<sup>2</sup>

During Lent, we remember God's justice is being established and the oppressed are set free.

Let us submit our lives to Christ and be liberated from the patterns and sins that keep us captive.

God's grace brings justice and is at work within us, encouraging our relationships and challenging the flawed systems we are part of. Sometimes, change is gradual and sometimes change happens quickly.

All things are possible with God.

Let us pray.

Liberating God, you call us to seek that justice in the world which reflects the divine righteousness revealed in the Bible.

When it is difficult to see your grace and justice at work, let us feel a strong sense of your presence and you at work in the world.

Keep us focused on the one who is the way, the truth and the life, Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

☐ Hymn: Far across the desert......pg 10 (188)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=waGx -TTJHq (organ only)

**Prayer** of Approach<sup>3</sup>

God of mercy,

you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.

We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way.

We are misled by pride,

for we see ourselves pure when we are stained and believing that we can know best or do it ourselves.

We have built armour from our fear, hiding from your challenges.

We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.

To help us return to your paths you teach us to pray. Let us come together and say *The Lord's Prayer*.

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.

<sup>2</sup> from the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

adapted from Worship Sourcebook j.2.2.8

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

#### Amen.

Assurance of Pardon<sup>4</sup>

Hear these words from through Isaiah,

Can a woman forget her nursing child,

or show no compassion for the child of her womb?

Even these may forget,

yet I will not forget you.

As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you, says the Lord.

#### Thanks be to God.



Love you Forever Robert Munsch & Sheila McGraw



## Listening to God

☐ Hymn: Softly & Tenderly.....pg 11 (640)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUgE0KEfYng

www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qf glkmbNbQ (choir)

Prayer for Illumination

Send your Spirit among us, O God, as we meditate on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

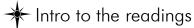
Prepare our minds to hear your Word.

Move our hearts to accept what we hear.

Purify our will to obey in joy and faith.

This we pray through Christ, our Savior.

Amen.<sup>5</sup>



- This snip-it of Paul's letter can make him sound pretty full of himself, but that's not what he's trying to say. What is he trying to say?
- Jesus has been heading towards Jerusalem healing some people, calling others hypocrites, and telling parables like the yeast the changes the whole nature of the dough. How is Jesus going to challenge, change things, and bring healing in today's passage?
- Like many psalms, this one chronicles many emotions. In this case around the theme of fear. Which parts do you relate to?

Isaiah 49: 15, 66: 12-13

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

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

Philippians 3: 17 to 4:1

Luke 13: 31-35

Psalm 27

Sermon: Being a chick

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

I will fear no one.

I will never be afraid.

I will not be afraid;

...lines from today's psalm. They remind me of the movies where the character is walking down a dark hallway or tunnel muttering under their breath, "I will not be afraid; I will not be afraid; I will not be afraid; ..." and we all know they are terrified.



from The Goonies

We also all know what it is like to be afraid.

Two years ago the pandemic was declared and we were told to be very afraid, and so we did. Some of us became afraid of dying if we were around others (or accidentally infecting someone), some were afraid of the government taking too much control, some of vaccination side effects, some of not being vaccinated, some lost work and were afraid they won't be able to pay for housing and food, ...and many other fears became our companions. None of these fears were baseless - and they still live with us.

Recently there's the added fear of what is happening in the Ukraine. The pictures look like they could be here. What will Putin do next? How will the world respond? Will there be chemical weapons, or even nuclear ones?

If you can remember before this war, and before COVID, there was growing fear for the environment, which has been suppressed by more pressing concerns.

And there's our everyday fears. Will we slip on the sidewalk if we go outside. Will we be liked or shamed at school?

Fear isn't new.

Our Gospel passage starts with urgency and fear. "At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

If I was told somebody wanted to kill me, I'd be afraid. But before we get into that, there's something odd about this verse. Did you notice who it was who delivered the warning and how it was delivered? It was brought by Pharisees. I don't know about you, but in my Sunday school lessons and camp experiences they were the enemy. There's even the fun song 'I don't wanna be a sheep' with the verse 'I don't want to be a pharisee, cause they're not fair you see.' It's a funny line, but is it

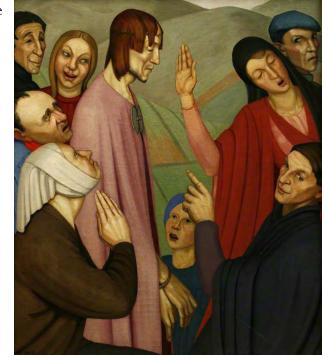
If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963 or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

fair? Jesus did debate with them - although debating was a normal way of learning then. He also criticized them. This verse doesn't come across as from enemies; it isn't delivered as a threat, but as a warning. It seems like life wasn't quite so clear cut into good guys and bad guys.

I do wonder about why they had the disagreements and why the Pharisees are remembered as bad guys. I wonder if there was fear involved. We know that Pharisees were well respected around the country. They were teachers and considered experts in how to live a Godly life. Could they have been afraid that Jesus was teaching people wrong and that would bring God's punishment? We know the Pharisees and early Jesus followers believed a lot of the same things. Perhaps there was fear on both sides of losing numbers to the other side. Fear is a powerful motivator, but here

some Pharisees are trying to help Jesus.

This makes me think about the danger of stereotypes - and Jesus' comments about Jerusalem. "Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!" Yes, there were a lot of prophets who had



Christ mocked - Annie Fearon Walke

a rough time in Jerusalem. Some were even killed. But Jerusalem was the centre of both civil and religious government. Prophets were often sent to remind the leaders to do their part in the covenant relationship with God; where else would they go? We believe Jesus is fully human and fully divine. Is this the human part of Jesus falling for a prejudiced stereotype? or is it the divine part of Jesus recalling all the previous attempts to invite Jerusalem and the chosen people back into the safety of the fold? Is it a combination of both natures?

As for the reception of the prophets, would they do better in Québec city? Montréal?

Think about the message Jesus was delivering. It wasn't one of rebellion against Rome. He doesn't use the threat of Herod to rally his followers to take Herod's head. He is challenging the order and values of society. The verse before the warning Jesus is telling people, "Indeed, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last." This is nice if you are not doing well in the social order, but what if you are? And just before that Jesus tells a story about people being locked out even though they had eaten with the Lord of the house in the past... a harsh message for early Christians whose central aspect of worship was the Lord's Supper. It suggests that just attending isn't enough. You need to commit your life.

That said, it's important to remember where Jesus goes with this. Yes, Jesus talks about exclusion. Not everyone will be at the table, but this isn't God doing the excluding. This isn't God punishing Jerusalem. God is like a mother hen, trying to gather her brood under her wings. Trying to protect them - to save them.

What from? Well, from foxes like Herod. There are people in this world who hurt others in a variety of ways. We can always find examples of this in the headlines. But it's not Herod that Jesus is heading towards - it's Jerusalem. And he's taking his time stopping to heal and teach all sorts of people along the way. Jesus is focused on The People - ordinary people and excluded people. People who all need saving from their own (our own) inclinations to run around looking for the best bit of food. As Paul put it to the Philippians, "Their end is destruction; their god is the belly."

The psalm helps us out here. It starts with those attempts at not being afraid. In doing so it acknowledges some of the things the singer is afraid of. Then it shifts to what the singer wants. "to live in the Lord's house all my life" and asks for shelter and guidance. This is similar to advice I heard in a leadership course. The researcher Brené Brown, observed that all the successful CEOs she talked to admitted to having fear; to the need to acknowledge their fears and recognize how they react to it - and then to work towards the goal.

The psalmist wisely asks for help. Their goal is to be with God. What's your fear?

What's your goal?
Who do you ask for help?

Getting back to the Pharisees' warning, I would have been afraid. A death threat from Herod was something to be taken seriously. Was Jesus afraid? We don't know, but if he was it doesn't slow him down. He knows what he needs to do and where he needs to go. He is heading to the greatest gathering of people - the Passover celebrations in Jerusalem. He is going to share the freedom found in choosing to live under God's care - in trusting God to know what's good for you and to provide ways for you to find this. Jesus is going to commit his life to this - knowing it will kill him. The divine part of Jesus knows that that is not the end. As Jesus says here, "on the third day I finish my work."



Hosannah! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord

In the face of fear Jesus doesn't stop. He goes on - not because he trusts God to prevent him from coming to harm, but because he trusts that this will lead people to trust in God - to save them from foxes around them, and in them.

Jesus does this not just for Jerusalem, but for you and for me, for your loved

ones and those you don't love. Because we also have foxes around us, and in us. But if we're willing we can stop doing what we think is best and allow our mother hen to guide us where we need to go then we will know God's love, hope and healing.

In the name of God our father and mother,
Jesus the son,
and the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

# Part was fire a factor of

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: With international women's day this past week, reflect together on Jesus using a mother (hen) to

represent God. How important is it to remember female images of God? What images can you come up with?

Wonder: What stereotypes have you found need challenging? Memories: How have you seen fear drive somebody's actions?

Values: What's your fear(s)? What's your goal(s)? Who do

you ask for help?

Etching: How do you feel fear? How do you react to fear? Actions: Pray for those who are afraid, for guidance, and to know

peace with God.

## ☀ Spirit Sighting

• Ukraine: Something I haven't noticed in previous conflicts is the proactive actions by non-governmental groups. There are numerous corporations that are pulling out of Russia as a way of not supporting the war. Yesterday I read a report on the BBC about a group of Norwegian volunteers who found 90 million Russian emails and developed a program so that volunteers to connect with them and share concern about Russian aggression. I wonder if these are ways that the Spirit has shifted the world to promote peace?

 Closer to Kensington, I heard this week from Markus Arseneault (who worked with your children a few years ago while at Presbyterian College). After a few years doing family ministry in Richmond BC he has become the



minister of Lakeview Presbyterian Church in Thunder

Bay. Also, he and his wife (Jess) are expecting their first child in June.

## 🔺 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.

## **F** Prayers of the people

Today we are going to use the following Lenten hymn as our prayer. I invite you to pause between the verses and allow topics to pull on your attention - and to pray for them.

Some of the topics I'll be praying for include the war in Ukraine, and that Putin will stop being afraid and lead with peace. I'll praying for ongoing issues with stereotypes, especially antisemitism and gender issues. I'll be praying for healing for our bodies, minds and souls - from COVID and other issues. I'll also be celebrating the return of the choir, the easing of restrictions, and Ruth & Elizabeth's birthdays.

We lay our broken world......pg 13 (202)
 www.youtube.com/watch?v=kvmXNG6VXJU

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.





Hen and Fox - Peter Koenig

#### Sunday, March 13

#### MISSION MOMENT

# In Afghanistan, Fatima had always dreamed of attending school.

However, most schools were far from her home and, as a girl, it was unsafe for her to travel to them. At the age of 10, Fatima's dreams finally came true. She learned about a school near her village and persuaded her father to enroll her. "After completing my studies, I will become a teacher and



become a role model for other girls and women in our village," Fatima shared. Though the current political situation in Afghanistan has left many children uncertain about their futures, Fatima prays that she will be able to continue her education beyond primary school. This education project is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, March 13** (Second Sunday in Lent) Loving God, nurture our faith so that we may love you and trust you more fully.

**Monday, March 14** We give thanks for programs the church supports through Presbyterian World Service & Development that empower girls to rise above disadvantage and discrimination to pursue their goals.

**Tuesday, March 15** We pray for those in the Order of Diaconal Ministries who are called to serve the church in the areas of Christian education, pastoral care and social ministries.

**Wednesday, March 16** We pray for professors and students at the Vancouver School of Theology in British Columbia.

**Thursday, March 17** We pray for those who receive and count our offering. May they feel God's blessing as they do these important tasks for God.

**Friday, March 18** We give thanks for the support the church provides through Presbyterian World Service & Development to facilitate access to clean water and sanitation training sessions that help communities stay healthy and prevent the spread of disease.

Saturday, March 19 We pray for church planting initiatives in the church.

Rev. Peter Rombeek & Alex Plant for Kensington Presbyterian Church

## New Technique, New Hope

To Memory Nthakomwa, a young farmer from Malawi, it seemed like the upcoming farming season would be as difficult as the rest.

She had witnessed what climate change had done to previous crops—with inconsistent weather and floods, crop production had drastically decreased, yielding very little.

Then, Memory was introduced to a new farming method known as conservation agriculture. She learned the importance of rotating crops and how to intercrop seeds so that even when the effects of climate change did occur, she would be better prepared.

Memory was very hesitant to try the new technique. But after learning more at a workshop hosted by PWS&D's local partner, she grew more optimistic.

Today, she has not only increased the amount of land she farms using conservation agriculture, but Memory is equipped with the tools and techniques she needs to combat the effects of climate change and recurring hunger.

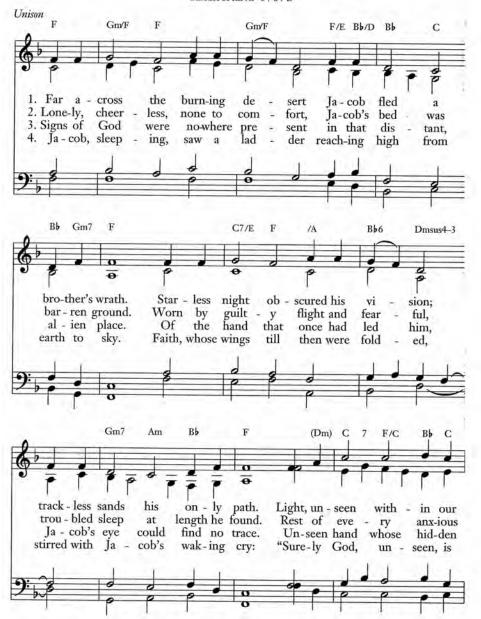
This Lenten season faithfully respond to Christ's call to serve the poor. Through support of PWS&D, we can help vulnerable families better address the impacts of the climate crisis.

WeRespond.ca





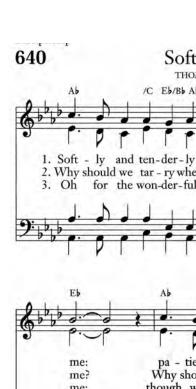
BEACH SPRING 8787 D





Words: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr. (1923–) Music: attributed to Benjamin Franklin White (1800–1879) from Sacred Harp 1844, harmony, James H. Wood

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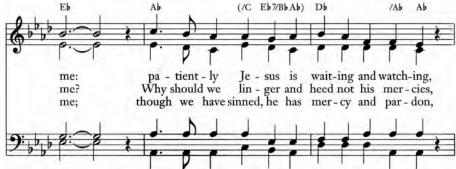




1. Soft - ly and ten-der-ly Je-sus is call-ing, call-ing for you and for 2. Why should we tar-ry when Je-sus is plead-ing, plead-ing for you and for

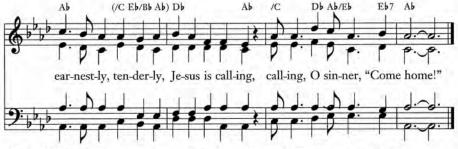
3. Oh for the won-der-ful love he has prom-ised, prom-ised for you and for







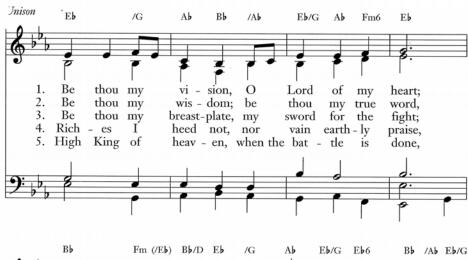


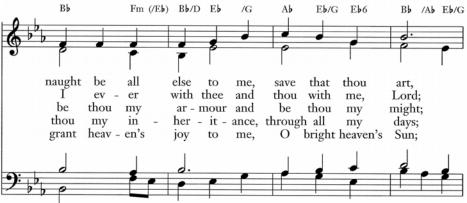


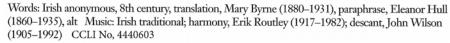
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### Be thou my vision

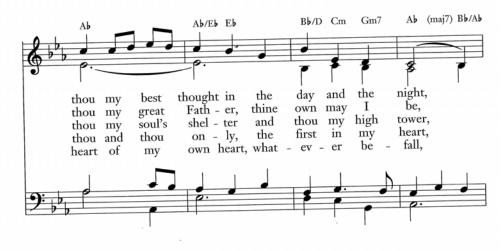
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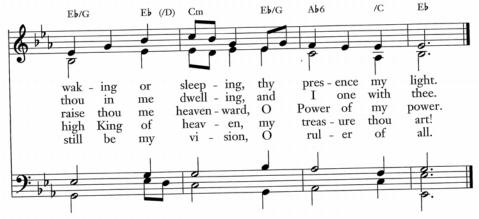






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#### 202

# We lay our broken world in sorrow at your feet

GARELOCHSIDE 6686SM



- We bring our broken selves, confused and closed and tired; then through your gift of healing grace new purpose is inspired.
- O Spirit, on us breathe with life and strength anew; find in us love, and hope, and trust, and lift us up to you.

Words: Anna Briggs (1947-) Music: Kenneth G. Finlay (1882-1974)

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## The Presbyterian Church in Canada joins in prayer for the people in Ukraine as they face war, danger and uncertainty.

God of the Powers, and Maker of all creation;

God of justice, and

Lover and Maker of peace,

we are distressed by the violence and the threats of violence and destruction in the world,

and especially by acts of war and brutality that people experience in Ukraine.

In solidarity with them, we pray for those

who are suffering and in danger,

who live in fear and anxiety,

who fear what tomorrow will bring,

who are anxious for their lives and the lives of those they love and care for, and who mourn the dead.

We pray that

those with power over war

will lay down weapons, and that

those who have power to accomplish peace

will have wisdom and compassion.

God of Grace, the

Giver of Life, send your

Comforter, the Spirit of Truth,

who is everywhere present and fills all things,

to sustain the hope of all those who seek justice and peace and

to inspire the leaders of nations to do what is right.

Glory to you, O God,

Creator, Christ and Holy Spirit,

now and forever;

in the strong name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace, we pray.

Amen.

THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA IS ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR LIKRAINE THROUGH PRESBYTERIAN WORLD SERVICE & DEVELOPMENT.

READ THE APPEAL AND DONATE HERE:

PRESBYTERIAN.CA/UKRAINE-APPEAL



The Presbyterian Church in Canada