

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Palm Sunday - King of Peace

April 10, 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. presbyterian.ca/2022/03/04/praying-for-ukraine

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 still 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: There is Sunday programming for children. Currently, we are also inviting children to join their parents in worship on Easter.

Easter Scavenger Hunt: April 17 after worship. Please invite people.

Visits: If you need a visit or prayer, please contact your elder or Rev. Peter.

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

The Chosen: Join us for this Bible study to explore what Jesus was about, and what it's like to be a follower of Christ. We'll be basing this on Season 2 of *The Chosen*. While you can join anytime, the series is good and worthy of catching up on.

Thursdays April 21 - July 9

7 pm viewing of video over Zoom 8 pm discussion

Ask Rev Peter for the Zoom address.

Visits: If you need a visit or prayer, please contact your elder or Rev. Peter.

Black Cloth: We would like to borrow some large black cloth to use Easter weekend - perhaps a table cloth. Can you help?

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

During Lent, we remember that when life seems to change direction, God is offering a new way of being.

Jesus entered Jerusalem on a donkey as the Messiah.

Instead of entering triumphantly as a victorious king, he came humbly offering peace.

The crowd would change from shouting, "Hosanna" to "Crucify."

They hoped that the Messiah would come to defeat the Romans.

But Jesus came to defeat sin and death itself.

Let us pray.

Holy One, blessed are you for you come among us offering



Palms Sunday - P Koenig

new life.

We recognize that we can be blinded by our expectations and are too often unwilling to see your different and better ways.

Open us to the truth that there is more to your reality than we can see or understand. In the name of Christ, who is able to accomplish far more than we can ask or imagine, Amen.

Prayer of confession

Jesus, saviour and servant,

you journeyed here to be with us,

walking hard roads and teaching hard lessons.

Your Spirit called to us, and we have come here to be with you.

Loving God, we remember we remember that going to Jerusalem cost Jesus his life.

Jesus, we come before you,
conscious of the way
words and phrases
can slip so easily from our lips
and our hearts.

What do we really know of you;

of your mountainous truth, your rock-hard integrity, the depth of your suffering for the love of us all?

from the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

Forgive us for our shallow faith, and our timid following: forgive us for the excuses we make when we try to create our own peace and claim it is yours...

May your Holy Spirit, active within us and among us, turn us round again, we pray.

Show us how to be open again to your faithfulness and to your freedom, that we may live new lives,

and again be bearers of the seeds of the Kingdom of Jesus.

Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

To all 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.³

The Lord's Prayer

To help us repent together, let us join in 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.

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



☐ Hymn: Filled with excitement.....pg 12 (215)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=3mmin4VkSfU



Entry into Jerusalem - Brink

Prayer for Illumination

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

Prepare our minds to hear your Word.

Move our hearts to accept what we hear.

So that we may join with the multitude of disciples in singing your praise. Amen.⁴

Worship Sourcebook J.3.1.1

🗼 Intro to Text

- The lectionary leaves out part of the psalm. I suspect this was partially to keep it short and focus on aspects that feel more like Holy Week. What you won't be hearing this morning is about the singer feeling surrounded by enemies, but safe with the Lord at their side.
- We're back into Luke's account of things this week. While I'm sure you've heard the story before, there are some details that aren't in the other Gospels. Listen for what catches your attention this time.

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible,⁵ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

<u>Luke 19</u>: 28-46

Sermon: Palm Sunday King of Peace

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

The scripture reading was a little longer than is normal on Palm Sunday - but that's the way the story happens in the Gospel According to Luke.

There's a lot of good parts to this passage. Please feel free to let me know later what your favourite bit is.

- Perhaps it's the multitude of disciples praising God joyfully for what they had seen.
- Or that this shows the disciples not just observing, but participating. They get the colt. They lift Jesus up. They even do it well.

Perhaps you're moved by Jesus weeping over Jerusalem.
 Normally somebody riding in a victory parade will be happy, but Jesus weeps.



For me, it was the weeping... and then it was the lines about peace. The crowds sing,

"Blessed is the king, who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!" and Jesus says,

"If you, even you, had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace!"

Jesus is entering Jerusalem for the last time. He's taught and performed deeds of power. The disciples seem to be getting it. Jerusalem, however, is not. 'If only you recognized the things that

⁵ 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

make for peace,' Jesus laments.

What are the things that make for peace?

This is an important question for us. We live in a world in need of peace: peace between countries; peace between people within countries; peace between neighbours... there's even a need for peace between friends and family.

What if we follow the multitude of disciples and remember what Jesus has shown?

One thing that is obvious is that the peace that Jesus shows is not through military might. The Roman leaders, and so also the Jewish leaders, might have been concerned about anyone who could gather a multitude of followers, but Jesus did not rally them to revolution. We've all been in groups before. We've felt the pull of the group ideas and actions... not all of which is bad. There used to be the pull to smoke, now there's the pull not to. We've all seen how a charismatic star or leader can rally people. Jesus could easily have turned the crowd into a revolutionary army... but he didn't.

For that matter, Luke tells of the Heavenly Host appearing when Jesus was born. Despite our Christmas Pageants, this wasn't a choir of cute little angels. This is the term for an army. Jesus could easily have called them in to overpower any opposition... but he didn't.

Jesus enters Jerusalem on the back of a humble working animal, not a mighty horse. His riding in on a colt links back to King David and leadership, but also to those who serve others.

The peace Jesus shows doesn't come from might.

And this idea is revolutionary. Then and now. Might is not right. It challenges the need for an arms race - and so much more. It challenges the stories we tell - all those stories where the good

guys resorted to violence like the bad guys.

What would happen if we stopped using violence and might to make things right? I imagine it would be pretty horrible... but is it a step towards peace?

Another attempt at peace is being vigilant against threats. Internationally this can mean spies and espionage, but it comes up in other ways. There's the way the Québec government is concerned with Québec losing it's identity, and so is on the lookout for any threat to the language or culture. Is vigilance the way to do that? Is this what will bring peace?

Jesus didn't practice vigilance. In a world where honour and shame were very important, he interacted with anybody. He would have dinner with sinners and with the honourable leaders. He even helped Romans, such as the servant of the centurion. More than that, he let Judas be one of the twelve. Judas, who would turn him over to those who wanted to kill him.

Jesus doesn't use vigilance as a way to bring peace.

Science tells us there are two instinctual responses to a threat. Fighting and vigilance are different levels of the first. Flight is the other - and it also comes in degrees.

One stage of flight, as an attempt to create peace, is avoidance. Often this is done because it's uncomfortable to bring up a problem. The person causing the problem may not take it well. It could upset the status quo. They may attack in some way. They may leave. I've seen this in schools and churches. I'm sure you've seen it too.

Another way I've seen avoidance is with seniors in residences, but it came happen to anybody. In the case of seniors, they move in and make the effort to get to know some people. It's hard work to come out of themselves to start new relationships... and then the other person dies or gets moved to a different level of care. It's painful, so they avoid others. But does this really bring peace, or just isolation?

With younger people it's more often about being hurt by what somebody else has said or done, and avoiding them to not be hurt further. Sometimes this is appropriate. Sometimes avoiding the source is acknowledging the problem. Sometimes the problem is a misunderstanding, and avoiding the person just buries the problem, causing it to fester - which doesn't bring peace.

Jesus didn't avoid problems. We heard a few weeks ago about some Pharisees warning Jesus not to go to Jerusalem. He acknowledged this, and went anyway. Today some Pharisees are warning him that the disciple's shouts will bring trouble. Jesus doesn't avoid the issue, but also doesn't give in to it.

Avoidance isn't the way to bring peace.

Sometimes our efforts to find peace will take this even further. We will try to isolate ourselves, or even run away. There's a good reason why this is an instinct. We've seen it on nature shows. The animal that doesn't run away, and some who do, are consumed. We'll see this in the Gospel readings over the next week. Jesus doesn't run away... and is killed.

That said, Jesus as a role model here has a dubious history. As Christianity was spreading, some people had an enthusiasm for martyrdom that wasn't healthy - for the person, or the sharing the Good News. This led to something called 'white martyrdom' that encouraged abandoning everything, but not looking for death. Basically, some people ran towards trouble thinking it was a way to follow Jesus - which isn't what Jesus was doing.

The other way this idea has been used wrongly is to encourage people to stay in abusive relationships. This is a more extreme example of the one I mentioned earlier. Avoiding the abuser is not avoiding the problem, it's acknowledging it.

Sometimes though God calls us to certain tasks or situations. I have a friend who spent a few years as the minister in a congregation. She really did not enjoy it, but she also knew it was a call from God that she couldn't run from. She got them through a series of hard conversations and decisions - things that needed to stop running from - that brought the congregation to a place where they could live again.

Running is not a way to bring peace.

So what is?

If fighting, vigilance, avoiding, and running are not ways to bring peace...? What is Jesus talking about?

Following God

and what's that look like? Love.

a 'give it all' kind of love a love that follows God through anything.

What's this love look like?

Well, not martyrdom. That is far too easy a way out.

It's also not passive or a push over. Love sets boundaries. Luke takes Palm Sunday right into the Temple where Jesus drives out those who were selling the sacrifices. Why? because they had crossed the boundaries and were cheating people.

Boundaries have come up for me in a variety of ways recently. In a discussion on raising children the analogy was given that boundaries are like the railings on a bridge. They contain you, but also help you cross the bridge. In a workshop on arts and worship it was pointed out that it's easier to be creative when you have boundaries. In a series of leadership workshops I took last November love came up in a variety of ways. One catchy one is the phrase, 'Clear is Kind; unclear is unkind.' This means having clear boundaries and being prepared to talk about them. It means not assuming you understand why somebody did or said something, but asking them to be clear. It means being prepared to have those hard conversations. These may not be nice, but they are loving - and they will help build peace.

Now, you may be thinking that Jesus isn't always clear... such as all the parables, but I think there are some clear patterns. We are to look after each other... and that includes everyone. We encourage everyone to love everyone. (Which doesn't mean approve of everyone.)

How does this solve the problems in the world? What about the Ukraine? I don't know. I wish all the Russian fighters would just say no. I'm glad that the espionage agencies have been releasing their information to help bring clarity to what is going on. I don't know how to help Québec politics, except that the current way of trying to smother threats is creating lots of hostility.

That said, in both the 'fight' category and 'flight', you can do things on a personal level. You can't look after everyone, but can help someone - perhaps a neighbours, or colleague, or a letter through Amnesty International. Also, we are to spend time in prayer and study with God - this includes the Bible, but also how God relates to other issues like the environment... or peace.

Will it be easy?

No. Jesus never promises easy.

I'm reminded of a story in which Mahatma Gandhi is asked by a reporter if he would have fought Hitler. He said no. The reporter pushed with the statement that he would be killed. To which Gandhi replied, "Probably yes. but if nobody co-operated with him Hitler could do nothing."

Peace, love, striving to serve and bring clarity and understanding... none of this is easy.

And I'm reminded of another story. The story of Jesus, riding into Jerusalem and ending up descending to the dead... and returning to lead us to, as the disciples sang, "Peace in heaven, and glory in the highest heaven!"

Glory to God in the highest



Amen.

Responding to God

- ☐ Hymn: Make me a channel of your peace.....pg 13 (740) www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBMfohH94-a
- FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Etching: What part of the Palm Sunday reading attracted your attention this time?

from Brené Brown, Dare to Lead

Values: How do/can we recognize "the things made for

peace"?

Memories: What stories were you taught about how to respond

to others? Did they include violence? avoidance?

running? How do you navigate what is the

Godly/righteous response?

Wonder: What would it be like if everybody not only didn't

resort to violence, but also acknowledged and shared everyone difficulties and pain? Would that

be the peaceable kingdom?

Actions: Identify some way you can help bring peace into this

world this week - and hold each other accountable.



Elizabeth M brought me a Spirit Sighting this week.

She has been going to the pool with one of her neighbours. As Andrew's left side was paralyzed by a stroke some years back, he quite enjoys the freedom of the water.

A few weeks ago a mother and her two children started coming at the same time. The mother approached Elizabeth to ask if her son could ask Andrew some questions. This curiosity has led to not just learning about each other but a friendship across the ages... not to mention some games of tag.

As Elizabeth says, this is a blessing brought about by the Holy Spirit working around us.



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

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.

God of grace and mercy, we come to you with our hearts filled with your spirit, carrying both the joys and the challenges in our lives and in the lives of others. We give thanks to the season of lent as it comes to a close and Easter approaches. Continue to remind us of the true nature of Easter, and may you grant us your wisdom as our salvation through Christ's death at the cross draws us closer to you.

We pray for those who find themselves in challenging times during this season. For the homeless and the poor who find themselves without the love and support they seek, may your love and strength be with them, and may you inspire your people to continue to reach out to those in need. For those who feel isolated from loved ones and for those in isolation due to the pandemic, be with them we pray.

We turn to you seeking your perfect righteousness, as we pray for those in conflict. For those who still fight in Ukraine, we pray for the leaders on all sides of the conflict to turn from their destructive ways and instead turn to the peace that you so freely offer us. The gift of peace that you call us to take on for ourselves, may we carry that gift to all that we encounter, whether in times of peace or times of conflict. We pray for those who mourn and suffer in conflicts, both personal and international. We pray for those who suffer the misjudgment or mistakes of others, may your steady hand guide each of us as we seek your will in our lives.

Lord Jesus Christ, we seek your healing hand, and we pray for those who have both turned toward your example, and for those who live their own path. For those who live carelessly, for those who abuse their trust and power over others, may your spirit drive them away from their selfishness and turn them to your perfect example. As we approach the final act of your sacrifice on the cross, may your openness to God's will inspire us to take on the humble task of being servants of one another, and of you. Grant us the courage to stand for you and to live the Good News that you have given us. May your mercy and grace reign with the perfect justice that you render in our lives.

We take this time to gather together those people in our hearts in whom we wish to pray for, and we offer those people to you now. (Silence) Be with us and those we pray for; may your word speak through the words and actions that we do onto others. This we pray in your most precious name.

Amen.

☐ Hymn: Come let us sing of a wonderful love.....pg 14 (706)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=_hyicnAV1Ow

Sending & Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.



the entry of Christ into Jerusalem - Louis Felix Leullier

Sunday, April 10

MISSION MOMENT

Penjani Sichinga holds a special place in his heart for the David Gordon Memorial Hospital (DGMH) in northern

Malawi, where he has worked since 2004, though not everyone shares this passion. DGMH is a rural mission that serves a population of 120,000; and due to its remote location, poor accommodation and few incentives, the hospital sees a high staff turnover rate, especially among doctors. Penjani received



encouragement and support from the Synod of Livingstonia Health Department to pursue medical studies to become a certified doctor. He finished his studies in 2021, and thanks to support from Presbyterians Sharing, is now working on completing an internship at the Livingstonia University Teaching Hospital in Zambia. After Penjani completes his final medical training requirement, he will return to work at DGMH—but this time as a fully certified doctor!

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 10 (Palm Sunday/Passion Sunday) As we enter Holy Week, we pray that God will stir up within us gifts of hope, love, faith and understanding so that we can serve and praise God in our lives.

Monday, April 11 We pray for Penjani Sichinga and the hardworking staff of the David Gordon Memorial Hospital as they serve the rural population of northern Malawi.

Tuesday, April 12 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Cedar Tree Ministries on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

Wednesday, April 13 We give thanks and pray for those involved in the Women's Missionary Society "Come Together" online events, allowing WMS members to worship together for Easter.

Thursday, April 14 (Maundy Thursday) We pray that God blesses the church with a renewed and greater awareness of Christ's commandment to love one another as he loved us.

Friday, April 15 (Good Friday) We pray for the church and that God will keep it faithful in worship, humble in service, gracious in spirit, grounded in truth and persistent in proclaiming the good news of the gospel.

Saturday, April 16 (Holy Saturday) On this day, Jesus rests in the grave. We pray for trust in the resurrection and the power of new life.

Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church

Shining Hospital Provides More Than Medicine in Nepal

It had been three years since Devika visited the hospital close to her home in Rukum district, Nepal, to get her leg checked out.

"These don't work," she would think, day after day, about the medicines the doctor had prescribed to her without giving her a diagnosis.

One day, after noticing more problems on her skin, Devika visited another clinic. Then she tried a traditional healer. As her symptoms continued to worsen, the answer seemed impossible to find.

After a friend praised the help she received at the PWS&D-supported Shining Hospital, Devika decided to visit.

The professionals at the Shining Hospital helped Devika understand she had leprosy and provided her with the medicine she needed.

Reflecting on her experience, Devika said, "[The hospital] has helped me a lot to detect my disease and I am very pleased to receive all the treatment and support. I am really grateful."

This Lenten season faithfully respond to Christ's call to provide care and restore hope to those who are suffering. Through support of PWS&D, we are helping people build healthy lives.

WeRespond.ca





The development and relief agency of The Presbyterian Church in Canada

2103123311

All glory, laud and honour

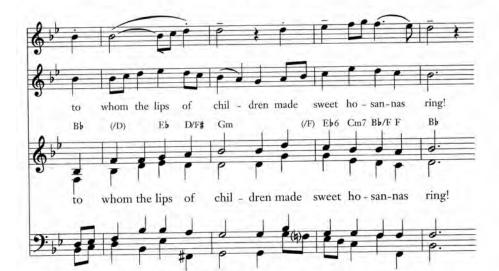
Choral Descant

4. All glo-ry, laud, and hon - our to thee, Re-deem - er, King,

Bb (/D) Fb D/F\$ Gm Eb6 Cm7 Bb/F F Bb

(1.-4.) All glo-ry, laud, and hon - our to thee, Re-deem-er, King,





Words: Latin, Theodulph of Orleans (750–821); translation, John Mason Neale (1818–1866) Music: Melchior Teschner (1584–1635); harmony, J.S. Bach (1685–1750); descant, Randall De Bruyn (1947–)

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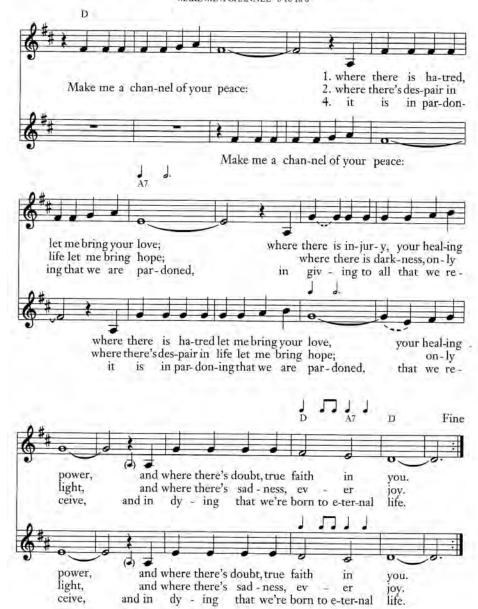
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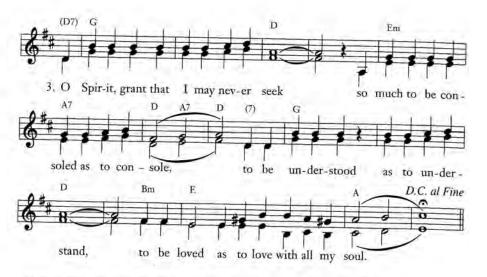


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Make me a channel of your peace

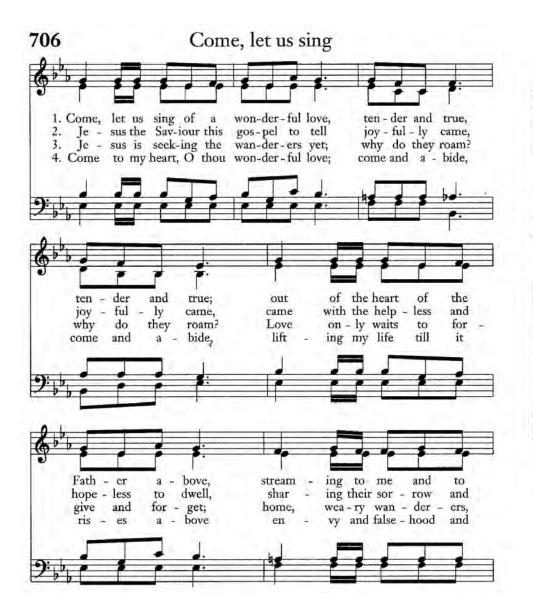
MAKE ME A CHANNEL 8 10 10 8





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