



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Following the rules

July 10, 2022

WELCOME, to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ If this is how you are worshipping, know that you are not alone... and if you like, you can invite those who live with you to join you, or connect with others through the phone or 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)



Announcements

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

Prayer Group: while we won't be meeting until July 28, we encourage you to continue to pray for Kensington and the daily prayers found on page 9.

Jesus & Java: Thursday, 7 pm at 2nd Cup on Monkland

Please join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

Drop Box: We are now accepting food donations to help the St. Monica's Food Pantry, AND items to help the young parents program at Head & Hands (ex. clothing, diapers, toys).

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



Good Samaritan c550 AD

Contacts

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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

Turn to God with confidence and expectation.

In you, O God, we place our trust.

Ask God to show us the road to follow.

Lead us, O God, in your truth and teach us your way.

Seek hope in the Lord who is our salvation.

All day long we will put our hope in the God who saves us.

We will worship God in faith, hope and trust.²

♪ Hymn: God is love.....pg 10 (314)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GFwnnIAjnAE



Graphitti on Kensington (north of Sherbrooke)



Prayer of Approach

Our Gracious Heavenly Father,

We come here to worship you

in our hearts and spirit.

² from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> - July 10th

Please help lift our eyes from the troubles that drag us down.
so that we may see your love and hope
alive in us, and the world.

In this hour,

help us lay our concerns at your feet,
and trust them to you.

Also, help us to realize when we are focused in the wrong direction
looking to ourselves

instead of giving you our all.

Not because that will earn us your love,

but because it is the best way to live.

And Jesus,

please forgive us when we look to ourselves

instead of helping others and the world,

or when we don't sacrifice the time from our schedule
to spend with you.

...

May we feel your Spirit wrap us in your love,
and help us walk the path with you.

In Jesus name

Amen.



Assurance of Pardon

Hear and believe the good news of the Gospel.

In Jesus Christ, God's generous love reaches out to embrace us.

In Christ, we are forgiven and set free to begin again.

Let us give thanks for God's mercy and be at peace with God,
with ourselves and each other.³

³ from <https://presbyterian.ca/worship/> - July 10th

🧑 The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with)
To help us build a solid foundation, you left us a prayer. Let us now say/sing 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.**



Listening to God

✧ Children's story

Do you ever know you should do something, but you don't want to? How do you avoid doing it?

In one of today's readings a man tries to get Jesus to help out of doing something he doesn't want to do. It's about helping people.

Should you help your parents?

Your friends?

Somebody who smells bad, or says weird things?

Yes, to all of them.

and the more you do, the more you'll see God around you.

Dear Jesus,

Help us to love you all the time,

and to help anyone who needs help.

Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Follow me the Master said.....pg 11(645)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yDc5SJox-DQ



Good Samaritan - Annie Vollotton

🧑 Prayer for Illumination

Blessed are you, Lord God,

King of all creation:

As you teach us by your Word.

Open our hearts to your Spirit,

that we are filled with your love to overflowing.

Amen.⁴

✧ Intro to the readings

- Deuteronomy is a book mostly of laws/rules/commandments
- Sometimes we feel lost. Today's psalm is one that acknowledges that, and suggests a way forward.
 - It's also interesting to know that this is an acrostic poem (in Hebrew) and that each verse is it's own prayer - and a part of the larger prayer.

- As promised last week, our Luke passage continues right where we left off. Jesus is still surrounded by the 72 followers who went out and came back after sharing the challenge to change how we live to bring healing to individuals and communities. Now somebody has a question.



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

[Deuteronomy 30](#): 9-14

[Psalm 25](#): 1-10

[Luke 10](#): 25-37



Sermon: Following the rules

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

We are all looking for something out of life. There are many things that people try. Some people seek more status through their house or car. Some want to feel better, and attractive clothing helps. Some people want security by having more money, or store food and other items 'just in case'. (Remember the toilet paper shortages early in COVID.) Some people want excitement to feel alive, others want peace. Sometimes what we want is in response to fear, and sometimes it's a longing for something more, or better. Right now as we are exhausted by COVID and world events, I think many of us are looking for peace, security and meaning.

There are many ways to look for a good life, or try and find meaning, ...or just to look for God.

One common way to make sense of the world is by having a set of rules. Your foundation rules are formed as you are growing up. They could be ones you figured out for yourself - like when hitting the bigger person with the snowball is a bad idea. Sometimes there are rules given to you - such as by your parents. What ones did you have growing up? Be home when the street lights turn on? Eat everything on your plate? No hitting? Give part of what you earn to the church? Say "thank you." Say your prayers at night?

And there are the more formal rules, or laws, that society has made. The legal ones, the ones given by your parents, and the ones you just figured out - they can all bring security to your life - not just safety, but comfort. You know what to expect of others, and what they expect of you. Rules can even help you solve the puzzle to a good life.

Our passage from Deuteronomy really reinforces this. We heard today, "*For the Lord will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, when you obey the Lord your God by observing his commandments.*"

That's an easy statement, but you might be tempted to ask, 'how exactly do we do that?' You wouldn't be alone. Sandra shared an observation with me this week. She's encountered people that when hearing the 10 Commandments start wondering if they've been following them... and exactly how much you really need to do to follow, or break, them.

It's the sort of question a lawyer might ask... such as the one we heard testing Jesus. He asks a question that he already knows the answer to.

'How do I get the good life?' he asks Jesus.

'What do you think?' Jesus replies.

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all

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

your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbour as yourself.” he replies (quoting Deuteronomy 6:5 and Leviticus 19:18).

‘That’s great,’ encourages Jesus, ‘now go and do it.’

‘Ah,’ continues the lawyer, ‘but what’s this mean exactly? Is my neighbour just the person I live beside? How much do I have to do to get the good life?’

to which Jesus tells a long story.

You know the story. Those who are expected to be helpful, aren’t. We don’t know why. No excuse is given. Sometimes people talk about them needing to stay ritually clean to go to the temple, except they are walking away from it ...and they would go through the ritual cleansing anyway ...and there is the commandment to help when somebody needs help.

This command goes beyond just the neighbour who is like you. The lawyer quotes, “*you shall love your neighbour as yourself*” from Leviticus, and just a 15 verses later it says, “*you shall love the alien as yourself.*”⁶ This isn’t Science-Fiction. Here aliens are just people who are not like you. They have different customs and beliefs. They probably have different assumptions and rules.⁷ So, while they are ‘just’ people, there’s nothing ‘just’ about loving them. This is hard. They may not appreciate your help - you may even help them in ways that aren’t helpful. The other day I helped Ines by bringing things upstairs... when they were meant to be left outside for somebody to pick up. I’ve heard of examples in which Christians have not shown love in how they interacted with their alien neighbours - or even their fellow Christian. I expect you have too.



Jesus brings this point home with an example people probably thought was a joke - at first. It’s a common story telling technique to have two wrong answers before having the right answer. In this case, a priest and Levite and a Samaritan. While I’ve talked about this before, it always needs repeating. Samaritans and Jews do not get along. They consider the other to be heretics - and their disagreements weren’t limited to words. Blood was been spilled. Now a Samaritan stops beside an injured Jew. The expectation would be to kick him when he’s down, but he helps.

While we don’t know why the expected people didn’t help - we are told the Samaritan is “*moved with compassion*”. I expect you’ve been moved by compassion before. It’s not something you think through. You’re not thinking about what the other person will do for you. You feel it in your heart - in your soul.

...like how Deuteronomy describes following God’s commandments. We not only heard about enjoying the good life

⁶ Leviticus 19: 19 & 34

⁷ In the case of the book of Leviticus, the setting is entering the Promised Land - so the Aliens are probably the people already living there.

when we obey the commandments, but that this is when we “*turn to the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul.*” This sounds hard. But then the passage goes on to assure us it “*is not too hard,*” and that “*the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.*” You feel it.

An example of this is when the Samaritan is moved by compassion to help somebody that nobody at the time would have wanted to admit was a neighbour. Now, I’m not saying that you should live only by your feelings. Doing whatever you feel like isn’t always about loving God and your neighbour. Sometimes it’s about loving you first - and that brings all sorts of pain into the neighbourhood.

An analogy came as I was thinking about this. Have you ever not been paying attention when walking somewhere? I remember once walking along a trail in the woods and finding myself staring up through the trees with stars twirling around my head. I’d been looking down and missed seeing a branch. The commandments are like a guide for your walking. They want you to look outwards to God and others - to look up when you’re walking. If you walk through life looking at yourself then you won’t have a good life. The secret to receiving goodness isn’t as a reward for obeying the rules. It’s because this is the best pathway to walk.

If you walk through life looking up to God with all that you are, and loving others as yourself, you can find yourself feeling that pull to help someone. It could be a neighbour, or somebody who’s motivations seem alien. You may find God leading you into unexpected relationships.

But that’s not the only way this looks like.

The lectionary stops here with the end of the story, but the next passage is also important. It’s the story of when Jesus visits

Martha & Mary. Martha is the good host and works hard to make her guests welcome. She is self-sacrificing. Perhaps she heard the story of the Good Samaritan. Mary shirks her duties and sits listening to Jesus. But in this situation Jesus praises Mary. Why? Because while sometimes loving God is helping others, sometimes it is spending time sitting with God.

So, love God with all that you are, and others as you’d want them to love you. This is the greatest commandment. Follow it not not because it’s the rules, and not because you’ll get a reward. Follow them because they are the best way to walk through the woods.

To God be all the glory

Amen.



Good Samaritan in Tibet - Frank Wesley



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: The love of God comes close.....pg 12 (474)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=BdNp80yi71Q

💬 FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies. Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: What is a rule you had growing up that you didn't like?

Memories: Share about a time you broke a rule, and regretted it

Wonder: Who in the Good Samaritan story do you feel most like (man beaten up, robbers, priest/Levite, or the Samaritan)?

Values: Which story do you relate to more, the Good Samaritan or Mary & Martha?

Values: Mr. Rogers said, "It's easy to say 'It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem.' Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes." Who are your heroes?

Actions: How could each of you try and live out the commandment to love God and others more this week? (or perhaps even today?)

Prayer: ...pray that you will become better at looking up and seeing God leading you.

Prayer: ...take a verse of psalm 25 and use it for the day (maybe write it on your hand).

✧ Spirit Sightings

We've all been feeling the drag of the world: with increased COVID, wars, assassinations, and cell phones failing. I'm sorry

to say that following the commandments isn't going to make your life easy or perfect. This does not mean that God isn't here. I'd like to share some advice from somebody who helped many people see examples of how to follow the commandments. The Rev. Fred Rogers, more commonly called Mr. Rogers, said, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" This is one way to see God in the world - to look for the helpers.

An example was shared at Jesus & Java by someone who had been unwell and received help from their neighbour - who was a Muslim. They believe in the same God we do, but in a very different way. There's been a lot of bad blood between Christians and Muslims. Are they our Good Samaritan?

Another way I see God at work is here at Kensington. The Jesus and Java group looks like it's going to be meeting weekly. We had new people join us this week, and we are sharing not just pleasantries, but thoughts about our faith inspired by questions such as those in the FaithTalk section. Please know that you are welcome to join us anytime - and if the timing is bad, let me know. That may be God suggesting something else to us.

✧ Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can now donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

Prayers of the people

Living God,
Thank you that you are active in the world
through Good Samaritans,
and neighbours,
and through us.

Lord, we take a moment now to think of somebody who helps
others. . .

Thank you Lord for the way your Spirit is active in them.

Jesus, you came to bring healing,
and healed bodies, minds, souls, and communities.
We ask for you to bring healing to those in need. . .

and may your Spirit give us all strength to live into your vision
of how the world is meant to be - how we are meant to be,
individually
and as a community. . .

We thank you for the community of Kensington,
and look forward to how you will grow this ministry
in us, around us, and through us.

We ask your blessing on the cities in which we live,
that they may show love for our neighbours,
regardless of who they are.

Lord, we know there are countries and families in the world
where there isn't the freedom to worship you,
or learn the skills at school that you have given to people.
Jesus, we pray for places where people are oppressed. . .

And we thank you for opportunities such as this,
to take time to be with you,
to listen for you,
and speak with you.

May we continue to grow in our ability to love you with all our
heart, soul, strength and mind, and others as we would want
to be loved.

With the help our your Spirit.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: God's Spirit is here.....pg 13 (tune 459)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jAsXLYk2XjQ>

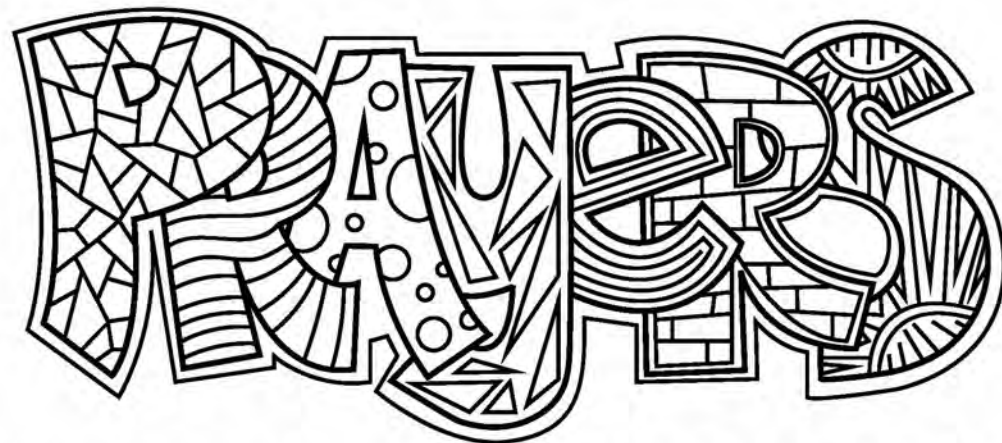
✦ Sending & Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

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

Amen.



"We left our home after a severe drought destroyed our crops and caused us to lose all of our livestock," shared Hodan Hassan, who lives with her husband and their three children in Somalia. As a result of not having enough food, Hodan's 14-month-old child Suheyb became severely malnourished. When a community nutrition worker performed a home visit and screened Suheyb and his siblings for malnutrition, it was confirmed that Suheyb's life was in danger and that she needed immediate treatment. Two weeks after enrolling in an outpatient program that provided therapeutic nutrition support, **Suheyb's weight was significantly healthier. "I am very happy to see my child's health improve," expressed Hodan.** This project is supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development in partnership with Canadian Foodgrains Bank.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, July 10 We pray for infants and children who suffer from malnutrition in Somalia, and we give thanks for the feeding programs supported by the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development that work to improve their health.

Monday, July 11 In this summer season of rest and renewal, we pray that people and families experience joy and love as they share special times together.

Tuesday, July 12 We pray for ministers and professional church workers struggling with stress, burnout, and physical and mental health issues after over two years of ministry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Wednesday, July 13 We pray for ministers serving in institutional chaplaincy positions, and for the Rev. Anita Siposne-Demeter, who serves as chaplain at Glen Hill Terrace, a long-term care facility in Whitby, Ontario.

Thursday, July 14 We pray for the members of the Canadian Ecumenical Anti-Racism Network, who are supporting church communities working for racial justice across Canada.

Friday, July 15 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Kamloops in British Columbia.

Saturday, July 16 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Hummingbird Ministries in Vancouver, British Columbia, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

God is love: come heaven, adoring

ABBOTT'S LEIGH 8 7 8 7 8 7

D /F# F#m/A Bm /A G /B C/D D Bm (/D) Bm Em 6

1. God is love: come heaven, a - dor - ing; 2. God is love, whose arms en - fold - ing all the world in 3. God is love, and though with blind-ness sin af - flicts all

D/F# Em/G Gmaj7 Asus4-3 G D/F# F#m/A Bm /A G /B C/D D Bm (/D)

earth, re - joice. Come cre - a - tion, voice - es soar - ing, sing ex - one em - brace. with un - fail - ing grasp are hold - ing eve - ry hu - man life, God's e - ter - nal lov - ing-kind-ness guides us

Em 6 D/F# Em/G Gmaj7 A C /B D7/A Em (/G) C6 (Am7) D7

ult - ing with one voice. God who laid the earth's foun - child of eve - ry race, and when hu - man hearts are through: all earth - ly strife. Sin and death and hell shall

Gsus 4-3 A (/G D6/F#) A7/E (D6 A9/C#) Bm/D F#7 Bm D/F# F#m/A Bm /D

da - tion, God who spread the heavens a - bove, God who breathes through break - ing un - der sor - row's i - ron rod, all the sor - row, nev - er o'er us fin - al tri - umph gain; God is love: so

C/E D/F# Bm/A Em/G B7/D# Em A7/E D/F# G D/A A7 D

all cre - a - tion— God is love, e - ter - nal love. all the ach - ing wrings with pain the heart of God. love for - ev - er o'er the u - ni - verse must reign.

Alternate tune: Hyfrydol

Words: Timothy Rees C.R. (1874–1939), alt Music: Cyril Vincent Taylor (1907–1991)

Words: this version copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: copyright © 1942, renewal 1970 by Hope Publishing Co.

Follow me, the Master said

FOLLOW ME 7 6 7 6 7 7 6

D G/D D A7/C# D D/A A



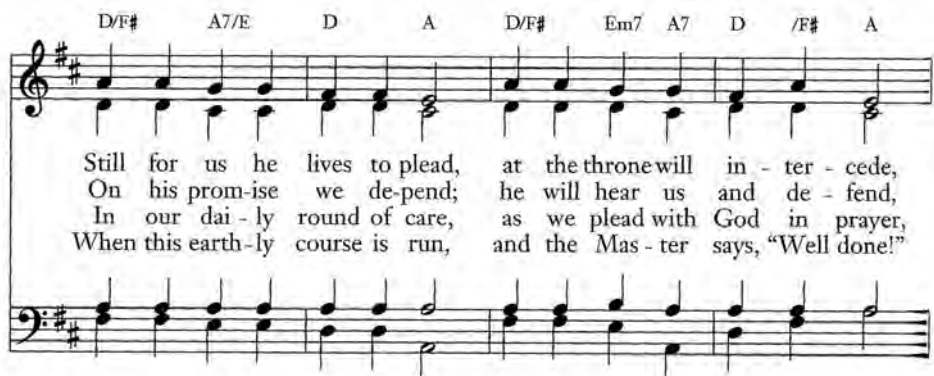
1. "Fol - low me," the Mas - ter said:
 2. Should the world and sin op - pose, we will fol - low Je - sus.
 3. Though the way may dark ap - pear,
 4. Ev - er keep that end in view;

D G/D D A7/C# D /F# A7 D



By his word and Spir - it led,
 He is great - er than our foes; we will fol - low Je - sus.
 He will make our path - way clear;
 All his prom - is - es are true;

D/F# A7/E D A D/F# Em7 A7 D /F# A



Still for us he lives to plead, at the throne will in - ter - cede,
 On his prom - ise we de - pend; he will hear us and de - fend,
 In our dai - ly round of care, as we plead with God in prayer,
 When this earth - ly course is run, and the Mas - ter says, "Well done!"

D G /B D A7/C# D /F# A7 D



of - fers help in time of need;
 help and keep us to the end; we will fol - low Je - sus.
 with the cross which we must bear,
 life e - ter - nal we have won;

Words: anonymous, alt Music: anonymous

Words: public domain Music: public domain



474 The love of God comes close

1. The love of God comes close where stands an o - pen door,
 2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
 3. The joy of God comes close where faith en - coun-ters fears,
 4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,
 5. The Son of God comes close where peo - ple praise his name,

to let the stran-ger in, to min - gle rich and poor.
 for - go - ing lives of ease to ease the lives for - lorn.
 where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears.
 when hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised and bent.
 where bread and wine are blest and shared as when he came.

The love
 The peace
 The joy of God is here to stay, em - brac-ing those who
 The grace
 The Son

love
 peace
 walk the Way; the joy of God is here to stay.
 grace
 Son

Words: John L. Bell (1949-), Graham Maule (1958-) Music: John David Edwards (1805-1885)
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God's Spirit it Here

LAUDATE DOMINUM 10 10 11 11

Bb /D Eb6 F Bb/D Eb Cmsus4 F7 Bb

1. God's Spir - it is here, that nev - er a - lone, the
 2. She ban - ish - es sin, e - rad - i - cates fear, lets
 3. She de - fus - es hate and rais - es the dead, be-
 4. So, seek out the lost and share out the pain, and

Gm6 F/A Bb/D C7/E F Adim Bb6 C7 F /Eb

fol - l'wers of Christ need face the un - known. The
 hes - i - tant faith af - firm God is here till,
 calm - ing life's storms re - mov - ing all dread. So
 love at such cost that all rise a - gain. God's

Bb/D Cm7 Bb7/D Eb Bb/D Cm Bb/D Cm/Eb F /Eb

fount of all liv - ing is lead - ing the dance, dis-
 liv - ing like Je - sus and blessed by his name, we
 that we might serve God con - firmed from a - bove, she
 lamp-light - ing spir - it is danc - ing the way from

D7 (Em7b5) D7/F# Gm Cm7 Bb/F F7 Bb

man - tling old sys - tems that earth might ad - vance.
 bind up the bro - ken and lift up the lame.
 tests us with fire and a - flames us with love.
 dark in - to dawn - ing, from night in - to day.

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Music: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918) Music: public domain



vanGogh

John Swanson

Comfort
Charlotte Smith