### Kensington Presbyterian Church

# Reaping and Sowing July 3, 2022

WELCOME, to worship. We are offering a variety of ways for people to gather. We are welcoming people to worship n person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF. 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

Communion this week: All who want to know our Lord better are invited to join us the Lord's Supper next. If you are celebrating from home you will have to provide your own elements. Those who come in person will be offered a pre-packaged package.

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

Jesus & Java: Thursday, 7 pm at 2<sup>nd</sup> 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).

Photos: Please send any photos you would be willing to share.



Frances' First harvest

### Contacts

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

# Approaching God

Lighting of the Christ Candle Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Call to worship (Psalm 66: 1-2, 4) Make a joyful noise to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name; and offer glorious praise! All the earth worships you; they sing praises to you, sing praises to your name.

www.youtube.com/watch?v=cevFGtOGnkg



Dance of Grace - Mark Keathley

Prayer of Approach God of life, You are the source of all goodness and the satisfaction of all our desires.

Our understanding of you is small please increase it. Our desire to do you will is weak; please enliven it. The seed you have planted in us still has fruit to bear please ripen them.

But first, create in us clean hearts as, in your sight, we unburden ourselves of guilt: of anger, of fear, or pride, of hard hearts, of weak intentions . . .

May your Spirit bring us strength and guidance as we journey towards you, and may you protect us from the worst.

In Jesus name. Amen.<sup>2</sup>

Assurance of Pardon

Hear the good news.

God pours the Spirit upon us, even when we sin. The Spirit which helps us recognize our sin, and encourages us to be transformed through God's grace.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

adapted from A wee worship book 5th ed Wild Goose Resources pg 52



# Listening to God

Children's story

What are some things you like to do? ...

Most likely you've thought of things that you can do just for your own enjoyment. Some examples could be: playing, gardening, BBQing, & visiting.

However, God doesn't want us just to do things for ourselves. God wants us to do things to help others - and you can do all these things for others too. You can create a garden just for yourself, or share it with others. You can play or visit with others just to make yourself feel good, but you can also listen to what they want to play or what they are concerned about.

This summer think about what you want to do, and how that can help others. This will help make the world more like God wants it.

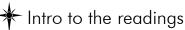
Dear Jesus,

Thank you for coming to live with us, to listen to us, and be with us. Please help us to listen to and help others this summer.

Amen.

rayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
by the power of your Holy Spirit,
that as the Scriptures are read
and your Word is explored,
the seeds you have planted in us will grow
to feed our love for you and the world. Amen.



- This week at 'Jesus & Java' somebody brought up last week's gospel reading and that Jesus said hard things to the people who were thinking of following him. Today's Gospel reading will continue on from last week.
- First we'll hear the end of Paul's letter to the Galatians. A few points here
  - It was common to have a scribe do the actual writing, and then the person dictating the letter signs off on it. You'll hear the transition.
  - A big theme in this letter is that the church in Galatia is being torn apart by the debate over whether males needed to be circumcised to become Jewish before becoming a Christian. Paul has been arguing that while it's in the Bible and considered law, it's not in the Spirit and not needed.
  - You'll also here him talk about flesh versus spirit. Paul doesn't mean flesh like your body. He is using 'flesh' to mean self-centred.
- Our last reading will be a Psalm with great advice

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible, 3 or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

<u>Galatians 6</u>: 7-16 <u>Luke 10</u>: 1-20 <u>Psalm 66</u>: 1-9

3/13

<sup>3</sup> 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

Sermon: Reaping and Sowing

Dear Lord, please bless these words

and the meditations of our hearts.<sup>4</sup> Amen.

Have you ever been told, "you reap what you sow"?

My impression is that it's a way of saying, 'I told you so', without saying those exact words. Today we heard Paul telling the Galatians "you reap whatever you sow," although in this case it sounds more like a warning. Maybe like a mother trying to advise her child before they do something.

I suspect that most of the time this proverb is used, it's at somebody doing something that they think is good for themselves, but will hurt others... and we think will come back to hurt them. The warning against selfishness is one of Paul's themes with the Galatians - and it's a timeless theme. It's been the central theme in many Christmas stories, at least since Dickens' *Chistmas Carol*. I'm sure you can think of your own real world example in a corporation, or friend, or yourself.



As I said, part of the way Paul argues this is to condemn things of the flesh and encourage fruit of the Spirit. I want to emphasize that this does not mean that flesh is bad. God created flesh. God designed flesh to experience pleasure. For example, many people would enjoy an ice cream after worship. God even became flesh in Jesus.

Paul is using 'flesh' to mean things that are self-centred. To build on the ice-cream idea. If you have some ice cream and it brings you joy, that's good. If you take all the ice-cream so that nobody else has any, that's bad and they probably won't trust or like you anymore. If you eat a tube of it, that's also bad - and you'll probably feel sick afterwards. Earlier in the letter Paul lists some physical and spiritual ways that we can be tempted to focus on ourselves - ways that damage relationships.

And Relationships are what this is about - relationships with others, yourself, and with God. It's a reflection of the Great Commandment. "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself" (which is actually the next chunk of the Gospel and we'll get into it more next week). If you're not living in a good relationship with your neighbour, yourself, and God - then it's not going to work out for the best.

While we tend to use the phrase, 'you reap what you sow' to imply something negative is going to happen, Paul means it more broadly. It can also be a good thing. He includes the idea of planting your seeds "to the Spirit." While I'm sure you get the idea, I want to bring out some of the subtlety.

This isn't you planting 'in' the Spirit. You aren't treating God like a nice field that you go plant what you want in good soil and

get a sweet harvest. This way of thinking has two problems. It suggests that you're in charge, and you're not. It also forgets about grace. This isn't a trade. You're not purchasing a good life by living a Godly way. We are made healthy through the grace of God. God's Spirit comes to you and you respond by turning 'to', or towards, the Holy Spirit and walk with God.

What's that look like?



Controluce - Gianluca Benini

Earlier Paul described the fruit of the Spirit as, "love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control." in ways that are good for others - even those who aren't part of your "family of faith" (as Paul put it). Look for these qualities in others and you will see the Holy Spirit. Also, try to always be loving, peaceful, gentle, generous, kind, etc.

If you live to the Spirit, will you have a good life? will you be safe?

No.

at least not always.

In today's Gospel reading Jesus sends out his followers to share the good news and bring healing into people's lives. He does so with a warning. They will be like lambs among wolves. We don't hear much about the troubles the disciples faced in the Gospels, but we can imagine family issues when leaving work to follow Jesus around. We can imagine that not everyone welcomed their revolutionary ideas. They were probably mocked, maybe spat at or had things thrown at them. We know that not all the crowds were receptive to Jesus, especially leading up to the crucifixion.

What can that look like now? Think of Jesus' comments on Tyre and Sidon. He's suggesting a generous and kind relationship with people who are not a part of the acceptable group; which may cause people to push you to the outsides. I know of families where parents have turned away from adult children became Christians. What about the other way? Can you think of splits in families because children choose a non-Christian way to live? How do we respond in the Spirit?

This can mean some hard words. That can be kind - more kind than hiding burying problems and hoping they'll go away. Usually when that's done the problems start rotting the roots around them. In this passage we again hear Jesus saying hard words. This time for cities and towns in his home region that aren't reforming their ways. His hard words are better than the consequences of not fixing their relationships. (I am curious if he originally said it in a kinder way and this is the edited highlights.)

But back to you. If you live towards the Spirit it's not a guarantee of safety, but it will be healthier. Also, we know that Jesus will stick with you no matter how hard it gets - because he did.

<sup>6</sup> Galatians 5: 22-23

Will you succeed?

No.

At least not always.

Jesus sent his followers out to bring healing into people's lives. This healing brings the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, faith, .... It also brings people into healthier relationships with others, themselves, and with God. When they returned they were excited about what they were able to do.

But we know Jesus is right when he warned them there won't always be success. In the last chapter Jesus sent out the twelve on a similar mission. They came back excited too, but shortly after couldn't help a sick boy. We also know that later Peter will deny Jesus - not that Jesus denies them. This is part of the Good News - Jesus will stay with us even when we fail to live towards the Spirit.

That said, there are times we succeed.

What does that look like?

For example: being kind and gracious would be welcoming and including unexpected people who are different than you in their background or beliefs. This week at the Jesus & Java meetup we were considering what sort of experience we wanted it to be. Several ideas were shared, but we did not decide quickly. Why? Because some of the people there were created to think things through in their heads before deciding, and so they need time. By the end of the evening we settled on a short term plan, and will adapt it as we go. Accepting people means creating space for the way people are comfortable.

Another example is in exploring how to make our building easier for all people to use (and not get lost in).

An example of being generous would be all the volunteers that

help the church work. We saw an example of this in our passage from Luke, where Jesus sent out his followers. They weren't paid for this. They didn't even have a degree in it. They also weren't going it alone - they went two by two. We also have volunteers helping with various aspects of Sunday morning, our other programs, the building, and leadership.

A different example of generosity comes from Michelle. I was visiting her recently and complimented her work table. She replied that it's one of two pieces of furniture they actually bought. How does she have a house of furniture that she didn't buy? Because she is generous. She is always giving things to people who need it... and others respond to her generosity by giving things to her that she needs. This isn't why she does it. It's not her



John helping our garden

planting 'in' the field to get what she wants, but planting 'to' the Spirit because that is what builds relationships and brings healing to the world.

Paul started his description of the fruit of the Spirit with lovewhich is a central theme for the whole Bible. It is key to relationships. What's it look like? Taking time with someone. Listening to them. Being vulnerable with them - allowing for deep conversations and deep support. Praying for them, whether they believe in it or not. ...which leads us to the Greatest Commandment to love God and our neighbours.

Now, aren't you looking forward to seeing what we reap with what we sow?

To God be all the glory Amen.

# WIN WIN

# Responding to God

☐ Hymn: There's a Spirit in the Air.....pg 13 (764)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=YsvUXGnPck4

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: Share an example from your life when you 'reaped what you sowed'. It could be negative or positive (or one of each).

Actions: Identify where you see the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control).

Etching: Where do you experience the fruit of the Spirit? Share an experience that touched your soul.

Wonder: Wonder about into what situation or person's life God is sending you - and who your partner is? (remember: sent two by two)

Prayer: ...that we might grow closer to the Spirit together

### 🛴 Spirit Sighting

This week Elizabeth shared two experiences.

Last week she was coming to the church for a program with New Hope and a woman stopped 'out of the blue' in front of the church and commented to Elizabeth what a nice looking church it was. Elizabeth agreed and shared that they were friendly too. Why did she stop? and why when Elizabeth was there? ...the Holy Spirit was arranging an experience.

She also shared about the great effect prayer had with her cousin's fight with cancer - in the peace that she felt, and the eventual remission.

### 🚸 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.



#### Communion

Communion Hymn: Let us talents and tongues employ pg 13 (563) <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aGWmCan-40">www.youtube.com/watch?v=7aGWmCan-40</a>



#### Invitation to the table

It's summer time when we usually take a break from celebrating the Eucharist, Rose pointed out that God doesn't take a break. With the disposable servings this is easier to do, so this summer we will continue to share the Lord's Table.

While we are not gathered at one table, or even at one time, we have all been gathered by one Lord, the creator of Heaven and Earth.

C'est la volonté de Dieu que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus devraient partager ce repas.

So, come,
you who have much faith,
and you who would like to have more,
you who have come often
and you who have not joined for a while,
you who have tried to follow
and you how struggle.<sup>7</sup>

As we come together to share the Lord's Supper, we also come together with a statement of faith that we share with Christians of many types, around the world and through the centuries.

#### Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit

and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended to heaven
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.



Burning Bush - Butler

very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

**♣** Great prayer of thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise, for you have done awesome deeds among us.

Not just in the past

when you led your people in the Desert with a pillar of or fire, or Elijah found you in the silence,

or in the words of the prophets call us back to you,

but you do awesome deeds now,

in hearts of volunteers,

and those who reject the myth that money brings happiness and instead work to help others live better lives,

and whenever somebody listens to a person who is different.

your awesomeness is revealed

when we have the courage to share the fruit of your Spirit.

Therefore, we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.<sup>8</sup>

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

Showing what it means to follow you,

and showing us that extent of your grace.

That you stay with us when we succeed and when we don't.

That you celebrate in the good times, and walk with us in the hard times.

Even to the point of our sins trying to snuff out your light so that we can't see the problems.

...Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.9

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

As we wait for your to come again,

may your Spirit continue to bring the seeds you planted in us to a wonderful harvest.

Leading us to loving relationships with ourselves, our neighbours, and you.

As we wait, there are things that concern us.

We pray

for nations:

for Canada: that we become a country that shares the Fruit of your Spirit with all who live here.

One of the reasons we lift our praise to the highest is that you came down low. taking on flesh and living as we do.

<sup>8</sup> adapted from Worship Sourcebook Q.8.2.2.1

and for the U.S. as they celebrate tomorrow. May they find a way to listen to each other. we thank you for those who have been sick, and their improved health, and we pray for those who still need your healing in body, mind, or soul . . .

We thank you for your continued presence, in special times, hard times, and ordinary times. As we share your bread and your cup, we pray that your Spirit will make them alive so that we may be closer to you and be strengthened by you until you come again.

As we approach this table, let us come together and pray the prayer that you taught us.

Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation) 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 now and forever. Amen.



The Last Supper Painting 2 - Ivan Guaderrama



Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God he broke the bread and shared it, saying "This is my body; it is broken for you."

"Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour vous"

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said, "This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me."

"Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon saunt; faites ceci en mémoire de moi"

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.

[take and drink]

## rayer after Communion

Amazing God, you come alongside our ordinary lives and set a holy table among us.

Jésus, tu nous invites toujours à te rejoindre.

We thank you for bring us together with you, and each other, through your echo of the feast to come.

Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.

Help us to feel your love, hope and healing, and to share it for all the world.

# In Jesus name Amen.

# Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. <sup>10</sup>

Amen.



#### Sunday, July 3 -

#### MISSION MOMENT

Millions of people are in need of humanitarian assistance due to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Larysa, her husband and her daughter escaped Kharkiv after spending four nights in the basement of their home due to bombings in the city. "Everyone wanted to travel out of Kharkiv. There were many people at the train station," shared Larysa. The family found shelter in a refugee centre supported by the ACT Alliance. "We are happy to have a place to sleep and where it is warm. It is safe here. I am glad our children are alive." Presbyterian World Service & Development is



supporting Hungarian Interchurch Aid with an appeal issued by the ACT Alliance to provide emergency food assistance, essential non-food aid, health and emergency mental health support to refugees and internally displaced people.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, July 3** We pray for peace; and we give thanks for the life-saving aid and support Presbyterian World Service & Development partners are providing to families suffering the terrifying consequences of war in Ukraine.

**Monday, July 4** Spirit of gentleness and peace, we pray that you rescue us from cynicism and the acceptance of war as normal. May your peace get traction in your world today.

**Tuesday**, **July 5** We pray for the people who gather and serve at Winnipeg Inner City Missions, and we give thanks for their mission and ministry.

**Wednesday, July 6** We pray for summer camps and their staff as they work to foster safe environments for gender-diverse children.

Thursday, July 7 We pray for summer ministry students.

**Friday, July 8** We pray for the members and work of the Life and Mission Agency Committee.

**Saturday, July 9** Show us your ways, Lord, teach us your paths. Guide us in your truth and teach us, for you are God our Saviour, and our hope is in you.



Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual; arrangement, Wendell Whalum (1932–1987) Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © the estate of Wendell Whalum CCLI# 4440603

#### 764

#### There's a spirit in the air



- 1. There's a spir it in the air, tell ing Chris tians eve ry-where:
- 2. Lose your shy ness, find your tongue, tell the world what God has done:
- 3. When be-liev ers break the bread, when a hun gry child is fed,
- 4. Still the Spir it gives us light, see ing wrong and set ting right;





"Praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv-ing, work-ing, in our world!"

God in Christ has come to stay. Live to-mor-row's life to - day!

praise the love that Christ re-vealed, liv-ing, work-ing, in our world.

God in Christ has come to stay. Live to-mor-row's life to - day!



- When a stranger's not alone, where the homeless find a home, praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.
- 6. May the Spirit fill our praise, guide our thoughts and change our ways. God in Christ has come to stay. Live tomorrow's life today!
- There's a Spirit in the air, calling people everywhere: praise the love that Christ revealed, living, working, in our world.

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