Kensington Presbyterian Church

City Livin'

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.

Thanksgiving Photos: Do you have any summer photos you would like to share? Please send them to Rev. Peter.

Refreshments: Next week we will be restarting our refreshments and conversation time after worship. To reduce the spread of germs, we will be serving people - which means we are looking for some people to help serve. If you can help, please speak to Rose or Carol.

Sunday School Teachers: are needed to help our children know and celebrate God better. If you may be able to help crafts, storytelling, singing or caring, please contact Antoinette.

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith. Thursday, **3:30 pm** at Maté Latte, 5837 Sherbrooke @ Regent Thursday, **7 pm** at 2nd Cup on Monkland

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).

Contacts

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514-773-4620
Antoinette (families).....Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca
Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

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 (Psalm 122: 1-2, 9) I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord!" Our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem. For the sake of the house of the Lord our God, We will seek your good.

☐ Hymn: Praise the Lord, the ground of goodness.....pg 13 www.youtube.com/watch?v=FdAbmeZGFOY (tune only)



Prayer of Approach

Almighty God, you have called us here.

Here to Kensington

Here to worship

Here to our city.

Inviting us to create buildings and communities that can share your love and hope with everyone.

May your Holy Spirit fill our souls with your vision so that we can make Montreal into a reflection of your love, grace and hope.

Amen.



Listening to God

☐ Hymn: What Does the Lord Require.....pg 13 (720) www.youtube.com/watch?v=0QYMwr5z3K8 (hymn book) www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqY5U zl3GY (our tune)

Prayer 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, vour light will fill us

and light up the whole city. Amen.

Intro to the readings

Jeremiah: At this point in the story his years of depressing warnings that if the Israelites don't change, God will force a change on them have come to pass. Even after being shamefully dragged off into exile, God sends them messages through Jeremiah.

- Matthew: Familiar words from the Sermon on the Mount.
 Jesus is trying to change the way people see the world, and live in it.
- Psalm: ...good things to remember.

Reading: Please look up the passages in your own
Bible,² or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

<u>Jeremiah 29</u>: 1-7 <u>Matthew 5</u> 1, 13-16 Psalm 66: 1-12

★Sermon: City livin'

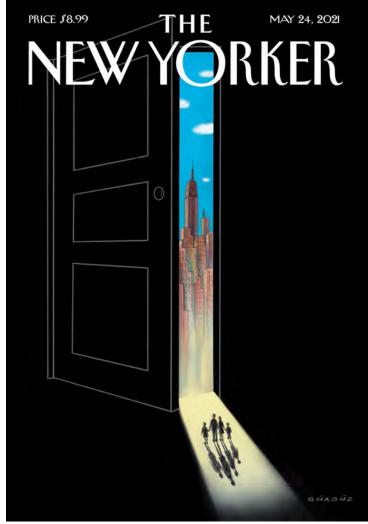
Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts.³ Amen.

Have you thought about where you live? I suspect a great deal of thought went into the apartment or house you live in - along with quite a number of compromises, but what about on a larger scale? What sort of thoughts went into living where you live?

I suspect you would agree with Aristotle. Almost two and half thousand years ago he said that cities were great places to live. The reason I think you'd agree is because you've chosen to live in one. (Well, at least the people physically gathered. You reading this may have chosen elsewhere.)

If we were to look at how cities are often portrayed in stories, it's a wonder anyone chooses them. Cities are big. In stories they either are so big they don't notice us wandering around in them, or are places where evil lurks - in the shadows or behind the white-wash. These stories are birthed from the real news about

accidents & attacks that are tragic and horrible. Adding to these are stories of people who are oppressed by the struggle to meet their family's needs, or isolated in a claustrophobic mass of buildings & people, or lost in their mental illness and living on the streets. Cities have real issues. They can dominate the stories we tell. Thinking that way, it's a wonder we live here.



New Yorker 2021-05-24

² 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

³ Psalm 19:14

But there are other stories. Bringing together so many people allows for wonders to happen: cradling the arts that can nourish our souls, providing economic opportunities, centres for learning & healing, allowing you to find others like you - and experiencing diversity to stretch your imagination. Cities can be bright lights.



Monkland Grill - Carole Spandau

Often when we think about God we think of nature. This includes passages from the Bible. There is nothing wrong with this, unless you lump cities into the opposite. Not only is there no such thing as a God forsaken place, but cities are important God places in the Bible. The most obvious example is Jerusalem. It became the centre for Judaism in the Older Testament. This is where 'everyone' gathers for the special celebrations. It is where the ministry of Jesus heads. This is where the disciples are told to wait for the Holy Spirit to come (not out on a mountain). As the early church grows, the focus is on cities.

Cities are important.

Cities have dark aspects, and are places of light.

Cities are where most people on the planet live - including us.

T.S. Eliot asks a good question in his poem Choruses from the Rock. "What is the meaning of this city?"

What's the point of a city?

What story does it tell about us?

What would we like it to say?

Another poet, Wallace Stevens, writes that we always "live in the description of a place and not in the place itself." This raises interesting possibilities. Despite the city being so massive, it reminds us that we can shape it.

It's not by happenstance that you are here. You might feel that you just live here because you've always lived here, or it just kinda happened, or you had nowhere else. God calls us to where we live. Yes, you do have a say, and you can resist, but you will end up where God feels you need to be because you will feel it too.

Then the question comes, how much are you shaped by the city, and how much will you shape it?

Today's passage from Jeremiah is a message from God to the leaders who didn't listen earlier. They are now in exile. It sounds like they don't feel like it's where they should be - living in a different city - one that is not their own. They have the chance to be lost in it, or to find out who they really are. They can be apathetic about the city, tell stories against it, or "seek the welfare of the city". God tells them to do the last option.⁴

This is a message that is true for everyone, particularly those who are a minority - like us. We aren't to wall ourselves off in our

⁴ Given that the city is the capital of the empire that defeated and shamed them - it's probably the last thing they want to do.

own little community. We aren't to look down on others. We aren't to play favourites. Well... that's not quite true. We are to look out for people who need help - regardless of who they are. We are called to be salt, blending in while helping the whole dish to shine - not to mention helping things not to go bad.

Kensington does a good job of this. We have chosen to let our building be used by groups that help people in the city God has placed us. Meeting here is a congregation that ministers in Korean. There are various groups to help people, including: AA, NA, AlAnon, Over Eaters, and a group that uses Cognitive Therapy. There are two seniors centres offering programs, including meals on wheels. All these groups, and others that meet here, help people out of isolation and into community. They help people learn more about themselves and others - who are also children of God. These relationships are very important.

Are we seeking out the welfare of the city where God has placed us?

I hope you said yes, because we are, and this is good.

I also hope you're prepared to reach for more. While God tells us to rest on a Sabbath, we aren't to stay there forever. We can do more.



Prayer is the best place to start. Learn your neighbours names and pray for them. When you see them, share struggles and joys. It will be hard at first, so start with, 'Bonjour/Hi, my name is ____. Have a nice day.' As you share your stories, they will come to trust you with their stories too. Pray for them, and the city.

We can also be advocates. This week I read a number of articles by Christians reflecting on cities - mostly American ones. Their cities have evolved slightly differently than ours, but our city development suffers from a similar issue - separation. It seems that when we build homes separate from work places, separate from shops, separate from public spaces and services. When we separate economic groups, and allow people to only go to school with others like them... then society doesn't do well. (We've even noticed the challenges of that within Kensington as we've been separated by COVID isolation safety measures. They were good and necessary, but created other issues.) In any context, people



living in separation from others stop understanding others needs and concerns. They stop living for the welfare of the city, and live

just for their own. A fun analogy is that a city should be like a pizza, with each neighbourhood a slice that has a bit of everything scattered around it.⁵ As members of the city, we can advocate for better living. It need not be limited to urban planning, but can include resources. There's increased talk about the importance of mental health, but can that be made available? Can we help the city to meet the needs of the residents?

This is also seeking the welfare of the city. Is meeting other people's needs the 'meaning of the city'?

No.

A city and our lives in it are about more than that.

Another aspect of being salt is that it doesn't do much just sitting in the container. There needs to be relationships with things different than itself. This is what the Bible is about: relationships between us and God, and with each other. Think about what Jesus did. God came down and lived with us, understood us, helped us to tell a new story about how to live. It was the answer to Coolio's Gangsta's Paradise. That song starts with a reference to the 23rd Psalm, then describes being trapped in the cycle of being "raised by the street." In the last verse he writes:

They say I gotta learn, but nobody's here to teach me If they can't understand it, how can they reach me I guess they can't, I guess they won't but God did, and invites us to as well.

One article I read was by Andrew Young, who was the Mayor of Atlanta. He talked about the importance of reaching out to everyone in the city: to the rich white businessmen, the marginalized, and even the drug dealers - they might have an 'Amazing Grace' moment.

Living in the city can be hard.

God tells the exiles through Jeremiah not to be exiles, but to make Babylon their home. To settle there.

Part of what made it hard was that they wanted to be elsewhere, and probably resented being there in the first place. It's hard to care about the welfare of the city that challenges your way of life.

The other hard part is remembering that your way of life isn't written by the city - it's the other way around. We are called to live in the city, *and* under God's reign - God's way of living. To share God's love and grace with those who also live here.

There a good poem I'll put on facebook & on page 12, but to end here's a bit more from T.S. Eliot.

What is the meaning of this city?

Do you huddle together because you love each other?

What will you answer? 'We all dwell together

to make money from each other'? or 'This is a community'?

To God be all the glory Amen.

apparently from Léon Krier, an architect and urban planner



Responding to God

www.youtube.com/watch?v=daGWdbrSGBM

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 cities have you lived in? Have you lived not in a city?

Memories: Share something inspirational that a city has done.

Values: What do you like about living in the city?

Values: Go through <u>Psalm 66</u> and create your own version. Wonder: In an ideal world, how could a city be that would be

healthy for everyone?

What could be done to move us towards that now?

Actions: Write to a leader (political or otherwise) about a

change you would like to see, or something you

appreciate.

Prayer: ...for the city: its people; its leaders; its welfare.

-Spirit Sighting

I heard a sad and encouraging thing on the radio. While the station didn't normally do this sort of thing, they shared what was a bit like a classified ad or a personal listing in the newspaper. It was about a man, and I don't have the impression he was elderly, who was walking with his wife when she fell while crossing the street. She bumped her head and was bleeding. He admits to being somewhat flustered, when somebody swooped in and helped them to the sidewalk. After turning down further offers of help, the person went away... only to come back with napkins for the blood. They were shocked that somebody would do that; that a stranger would stop and help somebody in need.

They reached out to the radio station because they wanted to find the person who helped and thank them.

It's sad that this was shocking to someone. It's great that it happened. It also shows the impact one person can have in reaching out - the 'good Samaritan' revealed a whole new way of living to the couple, and everyone the couple witnesses to.



Monkland village - Carole Spandau

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: We come as guests invited.....pg 15 (524) www.youtube.com/watch?v=3fZXch9NHk0 (familiar tune)



Invitation to the 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.⁶

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.

♣ 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.

⁶ very adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

Creator of all: of light and freedom, of love and hope.

Since the beginning you have invited us to share in your creating a better world.

To help, you have sent guides to lead us through the wilderness, such as Jeremiah, Tommy Douglas, and people in our city.

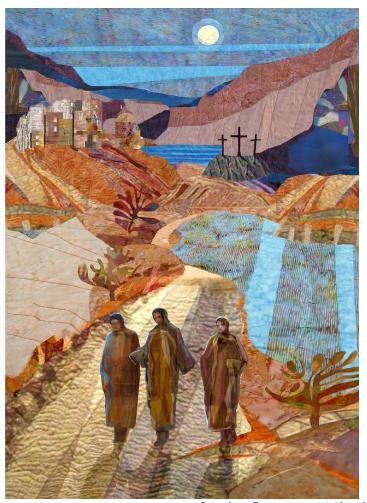
Along the way we have created amazing advances that help people and that hurt them.

Please forgive us
for the ways our creations hurt others
for the ways the hurt can be ignored or lost
for when we feel powerless to create a difference

and help us to celebrate when our creations do help your kingdom come because, you have plans for our welfare. (Jeremiah 29: 11)

Therefore, we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

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.



Road to Emmaus - Michael Torevell

We shout hosanna because of glorious things you have done.
in not just sending people, but coming yourself
to walk among us
teaching
healing
offering hope,
and life

and love.

Challenging us to live into your kingdom coming into the broken we are exiled in.

One that was so broken, that you were rejected and killed.

And will death seems like a final darkness, it isn't.

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

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

As we live in this city you have called us to, we are grateful that you continue to walk these streets with us

and with everyone else

We pray for our neighbours...

and for our leaders, political and otherwise...

and for those being elected tomorrow. may they be moved by your Spirit...

We also pray for places of turmoil throughout our global village...

We also pray for healing, for those drained by stress, or held back by mental or physical illness...

and we thank you for the light that shines here and Kensington and in Montréal.

Help us to see this

and celebrate the goodness that can be in this diverse community.

A goodness that can get lost in the ordinariness of everyday.

But you can transform that.

As you do when 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.

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]



liturgical table Jan Richardson

Prayer after Communion

Amazing God, you walk up and knock on our door, inviting us to a holy table open for anyone who will come

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.

☐ Hymn: To God be the glory.....pg 16 (350)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=-15v9iworAU

* Benediction

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. ⁷

Amen.



7 2 Corinthians 13:13

Babylon - by Ann Bell Worley

Not simply an evil territory
or a dirty word,
as we are prone to believe.
But a place where God's people were sent
in exile
on purpose
on mission
to offer their culture there
in love.
For God so loved the world.

Like Israel in exile, still we hope for our homecoming in the city of God, where there will be no more tears.

Let us hope not in closed communion in isolated sanctuaries apart from the Babylon-world.

Rather let us hope
in the fullness of God's love
in the life of the cities and towns
where we work
an love
and worship

And remember that God so loved not only us, but the world.

Let us hope for Babylon
as we hope for ourselves.

Let us embrace
its people
its buildings
its streets
and fill them with the beauty
of God's temple.

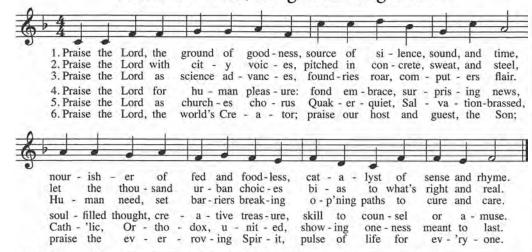
Let us hope
with doors wide open,
welcome the city in
and pour ourselves out.

For God so loves the world.



and plan.

Praise the Lord, the ground of goodness



Text: John L. Bell, b.1949 and Graham Maule, b. 1958; © 1989, WGRG, c/o Iona Community, GIA Publications, Inc., agent Tune: STUTTGART; Psalmodia Sacra, 1715 CCLI #4440603

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What does the Lord require

SHARPTHORNE 666666

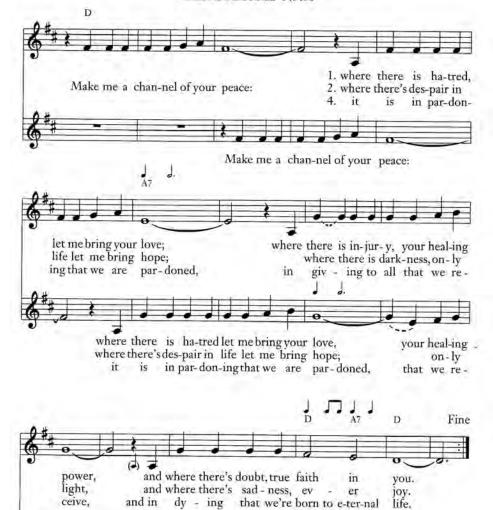


13/16 Words: Albert F. Bayly (1901-1984) Music: Erik Routley (1917-1982)

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Make me a channel of your peace

MAKE ME A CHANNEL 8 10 10 8



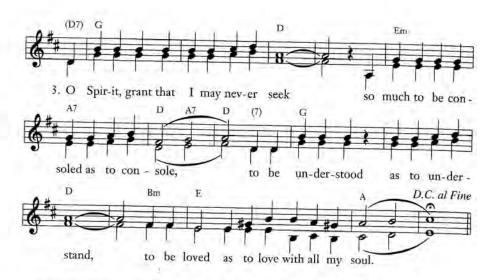
and where there's doubt, true faith

and where there's sad - ness, ev

and in dy - ing that we're born to e-ter-nal

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you.



Words: Saint Patrick of Ireland (372-466) Music: Sebastian Temple (1928-); arrangement, the compilers of Praise Ways

Words: public domain Music: copyright © Franciscan Communications Centre, 1968

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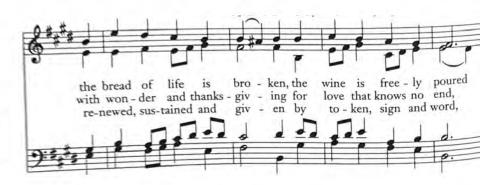
light,

ceive,





Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-) Music: Finnish hymn melody;





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