A TO

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Showing us the way

Decmeber 18, 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)



nativity - cameroor

1/14

Contacts

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Announcements

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

Advent Devotions: This year we have a lovely Advent devotional from Sanctified Arts. While it is daily, it also contains a variety of activities to invite you closer to God. Rev. Peter can print you a copy, or give you access to an online version.

Family explorations of Christmas around the world and Advent Calendars are also available.

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith. Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton Thursday, 7 pm ... Caroling from the church We won't meet (officially) on Dec 29.

Choir: would like you to join them. We practice Sunday at 9:15.

Advent Discussions: The Rev. Bob Faris, moderator of the General Assembly, will be hosting discussions with church leaders of other denominations through advent. For more information visit: presbyterian.ca/2022/11/01/ecumenical-advent

Hats, scarves, mitts, socks: We are accepting donations for people in the community.

Blue Christmas: a peaceful service: Wednesday, Dec 21 at 7:30 pm Christmas is not always an easy time. Please join us for this meditative service.

Caroling in the Community: Thursday, Dec. 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Eve: Saturday, Dec. 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Morning: Sunday, Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.m.

A fun worship for Jesus' birthday.

Dec. 18, 2022

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

NDG Christmas Dinner: Dec 25 from 1 pm to 7 pm The NDG Community Council is hosting a Christmas Dinner for everyone, free of charge. It will be held at St. Ignatius Church

Drop Box: We are 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).

Christmas Presents: Are you wondering what to get friends and loved ones who don't really need something more? We're setting up a Giving Tree that will allow you to donate to a ministry of the Presbyterian Church in Canada (including PWS&D and Canada Ministries projects) to a project that you think would be most appreciated by the person you are giving the gift for/to.

presbyterian.ca/donate/giving-tree-kensington-presbyterian-church-montreal

The Chosen Bible Study: Season 3 is coming mid January
This is a great TV show about the disciples as the discover
and follow Jesus. We watch an episode and share our insights
and explore the history and actual scripture.

In preparation, we're going to be binge watching on Saturdays Season 1: Dec 31 3pm first 4 episodes, 7pm last 4 Season 2: Jan 8 3pm first 4 episodes, 7pm last 4 P.S. would you be more interested in Thursday or Friday night?

Approaching God

Today I am reminded of how when Mary found out she was going to be pregnant, something that brought all sorts of uncertainty into her life, she went to visit Elizabeth. Elizabeth recognized how God was growing inside her. They celebrated.

Today we will see how God is growing in our Sunday School and their teachers. Let us celebrate and praise God.

Call to worship & candle lighting

Reader 1: We are people of love.

Reader 2: God has loved us so much that God has chosen to come as Immanuel, that means 'God who is with us'.

Everyone: We are free to love others, because God first loved us.

Reader 1: The fourth candle of Advent invites us to reflect God's love in our lives.

Reader 2: We light this candle so that we can see who we are called to love today.

(Light the candle of love)

□ choir

Reader 1: Let us pray:

Everyone: Holy One, help us to know we are deeply loved and to share that same unconditional love with others. May our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this flame. Make your church a place of love and acceptance in our community.

Amen.²



Comforting - Daphne Odjig

Dec. 18, 2022

² from the Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D)

rayer of Confession

There are many people involved in the Christmas story. They all help remind us of who we are and who we could be.

They remind us that we sometimes we do wrong and don't live out your love.

When that happens, it is important admit it and ask forgiveness. Together, let us ask God for forgiveness.

God of yesterday, today and tomorrow,
Together we are approaching Bethlehem.
but too often we are on our own journey.
We try our own flashlight,
instead of trusting the path you light.
We try to handle things ourselves,
instead of trusting you
We accept the gifts you give us,
and keep them for ourselves.
Instead of travelling together
we look out for ourselves
leaving people in the dust.

Please forgive us
and help us to remember
the prophets who show your light
Elizabeth who recognized you growing in Mary
the Magi who responded by sharing
May your Spirit help us to be like them,
and like you.
Amen.

★Assurance of Pardon

Friends, this is what I know-

God delights in us.

God throws open the door, just like Elizabeth, and says,

"Come on home. There is room for you here!"

And in that moment, we are blessed.

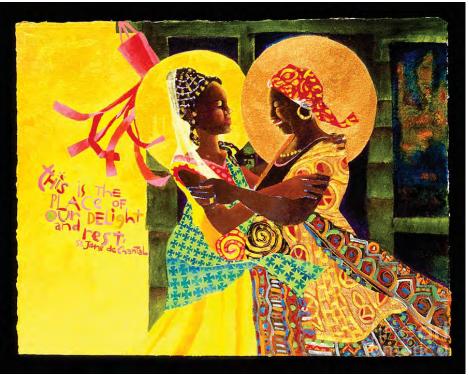
In that moment, we are forgiven.

In that moment, we are seen, healed, and welcomed home.

So rest in this good news: you are saved by grace.

Amen.³

3/14



Windsock Visitation - Br Mickey McGrath osfs

B by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Otales to a la Carl

Listening to God



Heavenly Host - M Moyers

🕏 Prayer for Illumination

Lord God,

as we listen to your word,

May your Spirit come to us like the shepherds so we can see the path to join you and share your love with the world.

Amen.

╆ Intro to the readings

- The next section will include several readings in a variety of different ways.
 - o One that will guide us to Bethlehem
 - A responsive psalm that praises God
 - o and version of the Christmas story, with local illustrations



This comes from a book that encourages people to reflect and imagine the Bible stories. It was written for young children, but is good for all of us.⁴ The parts in *italics* are instructions for the leader. The parts in **bold** are spoken. The other parts are spoken. It normally ends with several questions that start with "I wonder". We'll be having those a little later on.

Place the long white road in front of you. At the end of the road to your left. Place the square mat, white s1de up. Put the model of Bethlehem and the star on it. Then place the rolled purple underlay below the road to your far right, so that it will unroll to your left. Sit quietly while you feel the story forming in you. Then say:

This is the season of Advent, the time we get ready to celebrate the mystery of Christmas, the time we are all on the way to Bethlehem.

Point toward Bethlehem.

But who will show us the way?

Run your hand over the road to Bethlehem. Then unroll the purple velvet underlay to expose the first space.

The prophets.

Present the first card and say:

Prophets listen to God. So they can show us the way.

from Young Children and Worship by Jerome W. Berryman and Sonja M. Stewart 1989

Place the card on the underlay. Then present the figure of Isaiah and say:

Isaiah was a prophet who listened and spoke the word of God.

Place Isaiah on the road in front of the card

He said one day the Messiah would be born. The Messiah would be like a light shining in darkness. This is what Isaiah said: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shined."

Place a purple candle between you and the card

This is the candle of the prophets. It reminds us that prophets like Isaiah listen to God, so they can show us the way to Bethlehem.

Light the candle

Let us enjoy the light of the prophets.

After an appropriate time for meditating, move Isaiah ahead two sections. Unroll the second section of the underlay. Present the second card and say:

Mary and Joseph are on the way to Bethlehem. They can show us the way. They have a secret. An angel came to them and said, "Do not be afraid. Be joyful. You will have God's special Son. You will name him Jesus."

Place the card on the underlay. Then turn to the Nativity set on the shelf behind you and take Mary and say:

Here is Mary ...

Place Mary on the road in front of the card. Then present and place Joseph.

... and Joseph . . .

Present and place the donkey.

... and the donkey, who are on the way to Bethlehem, where Jesus will be born.

Take a second purple candle and place it between you and the second card as you say:

This is the candle of the Holy Family. It reminds us not to be afraid, but to be joyful on the way to Bethlehem.

Light the candle.

Let us enjoy the light of the Holy Family.

After an appropriate time for meditating, move Isaiah ahead two sections, and then the Holy Family, so the third section is clear. Unroll the third section of the underlay. Present the third card and say:

The shepherds are on the way to Bethlehem. They can show us the way. They have good news too. An angel came to them and said, "Do not be afraid. Be joyful. Today a Savior, God's special Son, is born in Bethlehem. You will find him lying in a manger."

Turn to the Nativity set on the shelf behind you and get the shepherds and sheep, one at a time, and place them on the road in front of the third card as you say:

Here are the shepherds . .. and their sheep ... who are on the way to Bethlehem to see the special child who was born.

Place a purple candle (or a rose candle, if this is your church's practice) between you and the third card and say:

This is the candle of the shepherds. It reminds us of the good news: a Savior, the special Son of God, is born.

Light the candle.

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Let us enjoy the light of the shepherds.

After an appropriate time for meditating, move Isaiah and the Holy Family to the Bethlehem square. and the shepherds to the end of the road. Unroll the fourth section of the purple underlay. Present the fourth card and say:

The Magi are on the way to Bethlehem. They can show us the way. The Magi saw a special star in the sky, a star for a king. They followed the star to Bethlehem, bringing gifts for the newborn king: gifts of gold. frankincense. and myrrh.

Place the card on the underlay. Then turn and get the Magi and the camel, placing them on the road one at a time.

Here are the Magi ... and their camel.

Place a purple candle between you and the card and say:

This is the candle of the Magi. It reminds us of gifts, of God's gift of Christ. the newborn king.

Light the candle.

Let us enjoy the light of the Magi.



Wise Men - R Cunningham

After an appropriate time for meditating, move the figures one at a time until they form a circle around the door of Bethlehem. (You will place the figure at the opening later.) Unroll the white section of the scroll. Present the last card and say:

Today is Christmas. the day we celebrate the mystery of God becoming a person. Today we are all at Bethlehem to meet the Christ child, the special Son of God.

Turn to the shelf and pick up the baby in the manger and present it.

Here is the newborn Christ child, lying in a manger bed ...

From behind the model of Bethlehem move the Christ child through the gate of Bethlehem and place the figure in front of the gate, surrounded by the others, and continue saying:

... Christ the Light. a Light for the whole world.

Turn around and take the Christ candle from the shelf. place it on the floor behind the white section of the underlay, and say:

This is the Christ candle. It reminds us that Christ is Light. The light shines in the darkness. and the darkness has not overcome it.

Light the Christ candle and say:

Let us enjoy the Light of Christ.

After an appropriate time for meditating, take the candle snuffer and say:

Now I will change the lights.

Snuff the first candle flame very slowly, catching the smoke in the snuffer cup and then releasing it. Watch the smoke wind upward into the room and disappear as you say:

The light of the prophets . . .

Snuff the second candle.

... and the light of the Holy Family ...

Snuff the third candle.

... and the light of the shepherds ...

Snuff the fourth candle.

... and the light of the Magi...

Snuff the Christ candle,

... and the Light of Christ can be with us always in many ways and many places all through the year. So we can keep Christmas all year around.



Psalm 96

O sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

Sing to the LORD, bless God's name;

Proclaim God's salvation from day to day.

Tell of the Lord's glory among the nations,

The Lord's marvellous works among all the peoples.

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;

to be revered above all gods.

For all the gods of the peoples are idols,

but the LORD made the heavens.

Honour and majesty are in God's presence,

strength and beauty are in God's sanctuary.

Ascribe to the LORD, O families of the peoples, ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due God's name; bring an offering, and come into the courts of the Lord.

Worship the LORD in holy splendour;

tremble before the Lord, all the earth.

Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns!

The world is firmly established; it shall never be moved. The Lord will judge the peoples with equity."

Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and everything that fills it; let the field exult, and everything in it.

Then shall all the trees of the forest sing for joy before the LORD:

who is coming, who is coming to judge the earth.

The Lord will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with truth.



Christmas Story in Pictures......Sunday School











╆ Invitation to wonder

There are many stories we share from the Bible. Some of them, like the Christmas story, we share every year. We do this because it reminds us of so much that is important.

What does the Christmas story remind you of? Why is it important to you?

Today the Sunday School has shared with us several people from the Bible who help lead us to Bethlehem: the prophets, Mary & Joseph, the shepherds, and the Magi. They've also told us the story (with their own illustrations).

The book where they found the candle liturgy ends each Bible story with some questions to encourage people to wonder about what's going on. They aren't questions that need to be answered. They aren't questions that have one right answer. That doesn't mean they aren't important.

In the spirit of this, I offer you these questions. I'll pause between each one, but there are still more than I should pose in one go. Don't feel bad if you don't work through them all. You can always get them later from the bulletin, YouTube, or just ask me.

- How can a little baby be the light of the whole world?
 - A baby is so helpless. They can't do anything. How is it darkness cannot overcome this Light?
 - Why would God come as a baby?
 - How would God come now? Could we tell?
- There were lots of people there. How many people noticed? Could you tell just by seeing baby Jesus?
- In the last couple of weeks we've explored this, but for those who didn't: why were Mary & Joseph afraid?
 Why were the shepherds afraid?
 - Are you afraid? Should we be?
- How did it feel to be the parents of Jesus (the Son of God, the Light of the world)?

- What gifts can we bring that would show how much we appreciate God?
 - What gifts could we give that would help?
- How did (does) God feel?

God created us to wonder and ask questions ...and to be a part of the story. Wondering and asking questions are part of being involved. Then God will invite you to have other parts to play.

If being a part of the story is a little intimidating or concerning, remember the words of the angels and prophets. "Do not be afraid; for see - I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, who is the Messiah, the Lord." or as spoken by Isaiah, "do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will make you strong and help you; I will protect you and save you."

Wonder, question, and join the journey to Bethlehem.

To God be all the glory.

Amen.

Responding to God



Today we have an example of the sort of project our special Thanksgiving offering supported.

Emmice is 16 years old and lives in Malawi.

Raising Emmice alone, her mother found it difficult to find jobs with only a grade eight education. Leaving Emmice with her grandmother, Emmice's mother moved to South Africa in search of work to help support her family. But, after an attack on her small business because she was from another place, she returned empty-handed.



Despite facing challenges during her childhood, Emmice was doing really well in school. She had started going to Neno Girls Secondary School. However, going to high school cost money. Emmice's mom couldn't afford it, and decided to withdraw her from school. Knowing how well Emmice's studies had been, the school selected her to receive a bursary. This allows her to continue going. This bursary is funded by the PWS&D - a ministry of our church.

Emmice will be able to earn her high school diploma, which will provide her with more opportunities for the future.

This is a way that God's Spirit is helping people live into who they were created to be.

🗼 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.



According to Luke - Rhonda Chase

£ Prayers of the people

God of yesterday and God of tomorrow,

We thank you for all the stories of your love.

We thank you for:

- Bible stories
- stories of people like Martin Luther King Jr, Tommy Douglas and Greta Thunberg
- and stories from our families

We pray for people who don't feel loved...

Holy Spirit, act through us, we pray.

We remember the Magi

who recognized your gifts, and responded with gifts.

Thank you for the gifts that we will receive this Christmas.

Help us to share, or give away, what we don't need.

Thank you for the gift of family;

please be with those who, like Mary & Joseph,

can not be with their family.

and those who are missing family...

Jesus, we especially pray for refugees...

We also pray for those who have difficulty getting along...

We remember Jesus being born in a barn and sleeping in a manger, and we thank you that we have places to live and stay warm.

We pray for those who need a place to live...

Thank you for the gift of food, and all its marvellous tastes.

Please help those who are having difficulty affording food...

Thank you for the gift of health.

We pray for those whose body or mind needs healing...

Holy Spirit, act through us, we pray.

Jesus, we remember people like Emmice and thank you for the opportunities we have to go to school.

We pray for the teachers and staff,

our classmates,

and for those who can't go to school...

Holy Spirit, act through us, we pray.

Jesus, the Christmas story is of changes, and the angels keep saying, "Do not be afraid" because while change can be exciting, it can also be scary. May your Spirit help us with changes: for those choosing new schools, and with Kensington exploring how to continue being your church.

Holy Spirit, act through us, we pray.

We also remember the story of your students wanting to know what to pray, and so we learn with them by singing The Lord's Prayer:

J Our Father... (Zoé)

The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with) 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,

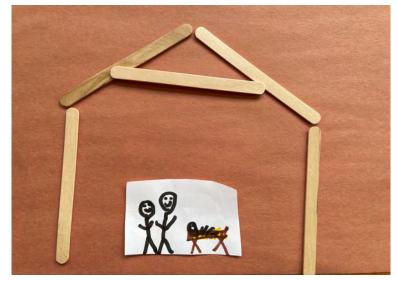
and the glory are yours Amen.

☐ Hymn: Go tell it on the mountain.....pg 14 (133) www.youtube.com/watch?v=b9o7bv7enYI www.youtube.com/watch?v=xfDUkWy3IW8 (gospel) www.youtube.com/watch?v=W GqZsUyzHA (banjo & fiddle)

Sending & Benediction

As you leave this place, may you go knowing that from generation to generation, we have been claimed and loved. From generation to generation, God has been by our side. From generation to generation, we are not alone.

The God of yesterday and the God of tomorrow knows you by name, loves you, and calls you forth, saying, "Go be the person you are called to be, love wildly, do justice, and come back soon." Amen.5



by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Sunday, December 18

MISSION MOMENT



Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Cyclical PCC supports many important outreach ministries in Canada. One such ministry is the Presbytery of Montreal's Communauté Rivière des Prairies, a new worshipping community in the city's east end. Rivière des Prairies embraces multilingualism in their church services and children's programming, providing an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada. Over five different languages and dialects are used by the ministry to connect with newcomers, both in the church family and in the wider community.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 18 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

Monday, December 19 We pray for church planting initiatives in the church.

Tuesday, December 20 We pray for refugees who have been displaced by war and famine.

Wednesday, December 21 We pray that LGBTQI2+ people whose families have rejected them will feel God's comforting presence as they find love and support in their chosen families.

Thursday, December 22 We pray for those who are prayerfully discerning a call to join God's mission around the world, to walk with, serve and learn from international partners.

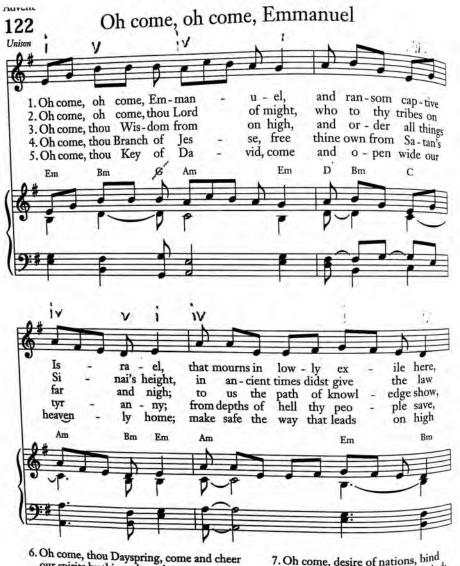
Friday, December 23 Christ who was born for us, help us to know you, worship you, serve you and be transformed by you.

Saturday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that God's love blesses and fills the world.

Rev. Peter Rombeek Kensington Presbyterian Church

God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen





our spirits by thine advent here; disperse the gloomy clouds of night, and death's dark shadows put to flight. Rejoice!...

7. Oh come, desire of nations, hind all peoples in one heart, one minds bid envy, strife and discord cease, and be thyself our source of peace.
 Rejoice!...

Words: Latin, 13th century; translation, John Mason Neale (1818–1866); French, H. Écuyer Music: Gregorian plainsong; arrangement, Healey Willan (1880–1968)

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Michael Willan, executor of the estate of Healey Willan



- Oh! viens bientôt, Emmanuel, nous délivrer du joug cruel, et du péché briser la loi; ton peuple entier s'attend à toi. Joyeux, levez les yeux au cicl, voici venir Emmanuel!
- Oh! viens bientôt, que ta clarté dissipe nos obscurités.
 Errants et tristes dans la nuit, nous appelons le jour qui luit.
 Joyeux, levez les yeux au ciel, voici venir Emmanuel!
- 3. Oh! viens bientôt, descends vers nous, Saint Fils du ciel, aimant et doux. Aux coeurs troublés apporte donc la paix divine du pardon. Joyeux, levez les yeux au ciel, voici venir Emmanuel!
- 4. Oh! viens bientôt, puissant Sauveur, nous réveiller de nos langueurs! Il n'est que toi, céleste Pain, qui puisse apaiser notre faim. Joyeux, levez les yeux au ciel, voici venir Emmanuel!



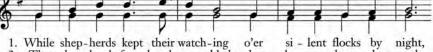
Go, tell it on the mountain





Go, tell it on the moun - tain, o-ver the mils and eve-ry-where.





G/B

D

Em D

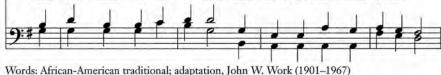
C/G G

2. The shep-herds feared and trem-bled, when lo, a - bove the earth 3. Down in a low - ly man - ger the hum - ble Christ was born,





be - hold, through-out the heav-ens there shone a ho - ly light.
rang out the an-gel cho-rus that hailed our Sav-iour's birth!
and God sent us sal - va-tion that bless-ed Christ-mas morn.



Music: African-American traditional; arrangement, John W. Work (1901–1967), alt
Words: adaptation, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 Music: arrangement, copyright © John W. Work, 1940 CCLI #4440603





Rev. Peter Rombeek Kensington Presbyterian Chi 14/14

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