

Decmeber 24, 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)



Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559info@Kensingtonchurch.ca Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor)......Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca 514-773-4620

Antoinette (families)......Antoinette@Kensingtonchurch.ca Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director)......zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com Clicking on or tapping blue text will take you to a web-site

Christmas Morning: Sunday, Dec. 25 at 10:30 a.m. A fun worship for Jesus' birthday.

Community Meals: 9 meals have been organized between Dec 23 and Jan 1. Contact ndgcc@ndg.ca or 514-484-1471 for more info.

Christmas Devotions: There really are 12 days to Christmas. If you didn't add an advent practice this year, consider one for the 12 days of Christmas. You could try the print Devotional (also downloadable). Another interesting one is from Biola University: ccca.biola.edu/advent

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith. We won't meet (officially) on Dec 29.

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

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).

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 6 3pm first 4 episodes, 7pm last 4 P.S. would you be more interested in Thursday or Friday night?

Announcements

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



Approaching God

Call to worship & candle lighting We are Christmas people.

We have heard the good news that a child has been born for us, a Son has been given to us, and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Almighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

We have seen God kindle hope, peace, joy and love in our lives and in our world.

The centre candle in our Advent wreath is the Christ candle. From this light, all good gifts come.

We light this candle remembering the One who is the Light of the world.

(Light the Christ candle)

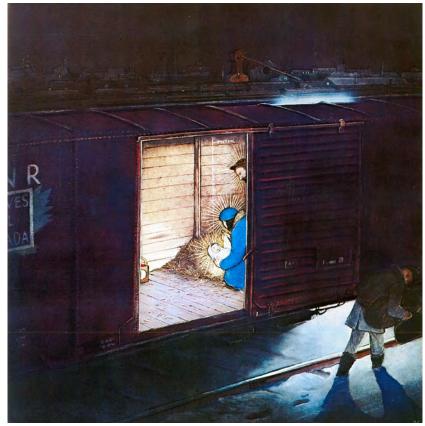
Let us pray:

Holy One, you sent your son as a baby born in Bethlehem. Give us a strong sense of his birth among us, so that our lives reflect the warmth and wonder of this Christmas flame.

Make your church a place that shines with the wonder of your love.

Amen.²

☐ Hymn: O Come, All Ye Faithful.....pg 8 (159)



W. Kurelek

\$ Prayer of Confession

I don't know how you feel about the prayer of confession. Some people feel it's a moment to make you feel guilty. But that's not it at all; the prayer of confession is an invitation. It's an opportunity to say, "This is who I've been, and this is who I long to be."

So let us pray together: truthfully and honestly before God - and remembering that we are surrounded by a God who delights in us.

Friends, let us pray:

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

Holy God,

We admit—we don't fully understand the Christmas story.

We have not experienced a sky full of angels singing. We have not walked miles to be counted in a census, and we don't always hear your voice in our dreams.

We don't fully understand the impact of this story

Forgive us for:

forgetting that all creation celebrates you, and we stop noticing...

forgetting that you were born a helpless baby and not trusting you to look after us

forgetting that you came homeless and not being content with the basics...

forgetting that you included those no-one else would invite people we still look past...

forgetting that your coming shows love and sacrifice for us and we are at a lose of how to share this...

Please forgive us.

Plant this story of love so deep in our DNA that we cannot help but share it from generation to generation.

Amen.³

Assurance of Pardon

Friends, repeat after me:

No matter where we go,

No matter where we go,

No matter what we say,

No matter what we say,

No matter what we do,

No matter what we do,

We are held.

We are held.

We are loved.

We are loved.

We are forgiven.

We are forgiven.

Amen!

Amen!4



Listening to God

★ Intro to the readings

Tonight we'll be following the pattern of a Lesson & Carols service. As we go through the Christmas story, think about what's going on - and feel the story.

How does God snuggle up to you this year? Do you find comfort? a sense of relationship? Hope?

Breath in the story.

Prophecy

Reading: Isaiah 11:1-10

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, you are human like us, and yet not like us. You are amazing.

That you can look at people and see beyond what we see. That you hear what is in the heart. That you judge not with vengeance, but with reconciliation and love. That through you, the miracle of peace will come.

Help us to be like you.

and to look for your Spirit, active in the world. Amen.

³ parts by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

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□ Hymn: It Came Upon the Midnight Clear.....pg. 9 (148)



Joseph and Baby Jesus - Jason Jenick

Human Connections

Reading: Matthew 1:1-17 [use Good News]

Prayer:

Thank you that Jesus was fully God and fully human. This is a mystery we don't understand, but do appreciate. Thank you for this list of Jesus' ancestors, his family. That it reminds us of Jesus' humanity. He didn't come out of nowhere.

And thank you for those in the list. That they are not all famous or perfect - that you value ordinary people like us. Amen.

□ Hymn: The hands that first held.....pg. 10 (158)

Do not be afraid

Reading: Luke 1:26-38

Prayer:

Thank you for Mary. That she was just a regular person. That when she heard your request, she asked questions - not because she doubted, but because she wanted to know 'how this could be'.

That you recognize the fear in us when you ask us to do something. Thank you that while you often ask us for things that challenge our ideas and dreams, or even sacrifice them. Thank you that you stick with us, and that they can make the world a better place.

Thank you for Mary, and involving us.

Amen.

□ Hymn: The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came......pg. 10 (156)

Choices

Reading: Matthew 1:18-25

Prayer:

Jesus, you know what it's like to make choices. To choose safety & comfort; to choose what we know... or not.

Thank you for Joseph; that he chose to take the risk in joining in your movement to change the world. Help us to be brave to take the risks in making this a better world.

Amen.

☐ Hymn: Long ago, Prophets Knew.....pg. 11 (121)

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Recognition

Reading: Luke 1:39-45

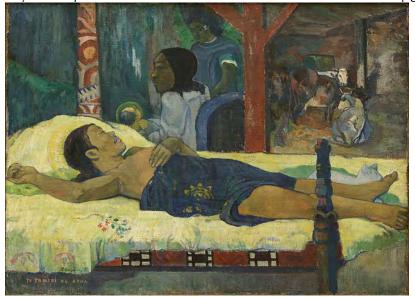
Prayer:

Jesus, thank you people like Elizabeth. People we can go to when we're unsettled; when our lives are in turmoil.

And thank you for people who can recognize your Spirit growing in us - who name it, and encourage us.

Lord, please help us to accept you growing in our lives; to see you in others, and to be able to encourage them in what we see. Amen.

∏ Hymn: My soul cries out.....pg.12



The Birth - Te tamari no atua - Paul Gauguin 1896

Grounded

Reading: Luke 2:1-7

Prayer:

Lord, sometimes it's you that intrudes in our lives, and sometimes it's others - like when the government told Joseph to take his family to Bethlehem. We know, and you know, what that is like.

We thank you for this story of Jesus' birth - for where he was born. While there's a palace and a king in the story, Jesus is not born there. Instead you come to the people, as one of

them - as one of us.

Help us not to put you on a pedestal, but to place you within our communities.

Amen.

□ Hymn: O Little Town of Bethlehem.....pg 13 (165)

Who?

Reading: Luke 2:8-20

Prayer:

Lord of the universe, sometimes we forget the scope of your work - that you don't forget anyone. That the people you chose to invite to witness the arrival of the Son of God where shepherds - and not even the day shift.

Help us to invite all people to experience your love, even those that society pushes to the margins.

Help us to feel the excitement of the shepherds, and to tell others what we find in you.

Amen.

□ Hymn: Angels We Have Heard on High.....pg 14 (147)

Gifts

Reading: Matthew 2:1-12

Prayer:

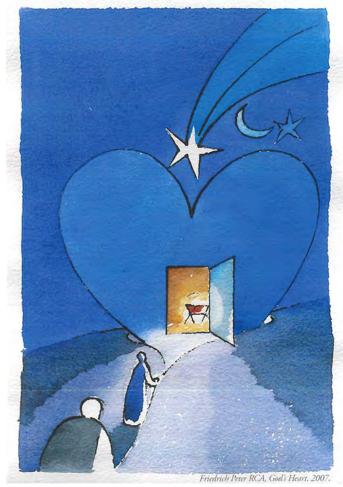
Wow, Jesus, your story is bazaar. You aren't born into royalty, but an ordinary family - who is away from home and family. Instead of inviting the priests and experts, you invite the people that no-one wants to be. Now it's Magi, priests from another religion, who come to recognize what a gift you are.

They honour you with their time, and gifts.

Please help us to honour you as well with how we live our lives, use the power we have, and give our talents - our gifts.

Amen.

□ Hymn: We three kings.....pg 15 (173)



F Peter - Gods hope

Prophecy

Reading: Isaiah 35:1-6

Prayer:

Dear Lord,

Sometimes we feel that our energy, our lives, have dried up. Sometimes we look at the world and wonder at all that is sucking the life and goodness from it. Jesus, we look forward to you coming again.

To the dry land blooming and rejoicing.

To all creation singing together with joy.

To healing coming to bodies, hearts, and relationships.

We look forward to your love breaking forth in all the wildernesses - and the blessing of your waters.

Amen.

☐ Hymn: Infant Holy, Infant Lowly.....pg 13 (143)



FaithTalk

Hopefully you will have much time to talk with people over the 12 days of Christmas. Once you've talked about the past year and the weather, try these questions. Answer the ones that feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Memories: What's your favourite Christmas tradition?

Etching: Share a favourite Christmas memory.

Values: What's your favourite Christmas Carol?

Wonder: What about the Christmas stories cause you to

wonder?

What about them do you find wonderful?

Value: Why do we tell the Christmas story every year? Why is it important?

Actions: Take some time to feel peace in this season.

Prayer: ...take time in prayer to 'meditate' on God coming as baby Jesus.

☀ Spirit Sightings

One of the great Spirit sightings for me this year has been the groups that have spring up here at Kensington. There was the group that watched The Chosen back in the spring, and the Jesus

& Java group which started in the summer.

What is so wonderful to see is the way people in the groups are reflecting on God's involvement in their lives, and in the world. They share the questions, the challenges and the joys.

This is the Spirit of the world birthing Jesus into our lives. (and all are welcome).

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.



Adoration of the Shepherds - Gerard van Honthorst

The Lord's Prayer (please use a version you are comfortable with) Another way we respond to God is through trying to live the prayer that Jesus left us. Let us say together 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.

Sending & BenedictionPeter

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 25

MISSION MOMENT

In Malawi, 13-year-old Selia was raised by her single mother after her father passed away. Her mother sold tomatoes to support Selia and her five siblings. When Selia was in grade nine, her mother's business no longer generated enough income to support the family. At the time, Selia was attending the Neno Girls Secondary School, where Presbyterian World Service & Development provides bursary support for girls from low-income families. The bursary allowed Selia to stay in school and successfully complete her studies. The benefits of education for girls extend not only to them individually, but also to their future families.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, December 25 (Christmas Day) We thank God for the gift of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ who brings salvation. May we receive God's blessings through our Christmas worship as we share the Nativity Story with those around us.

Monday, December 26 (Boxing Day) For Christ, there was no room in the inn; we pray for those who seek shelter. Christ had to flee his birthplace; we pray for those who seek refuge. Christ read scripture as a child; we pray that God's wisdom will enlighten our minds and direct our paths.

Tuesday, December 27 We give thanks for the tuition support the church is providing to students at the Neno Girls Secondary School in Malawi through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

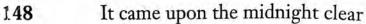
Wednesday, December 28 We pray for the members and work of the International Affairs Committee.

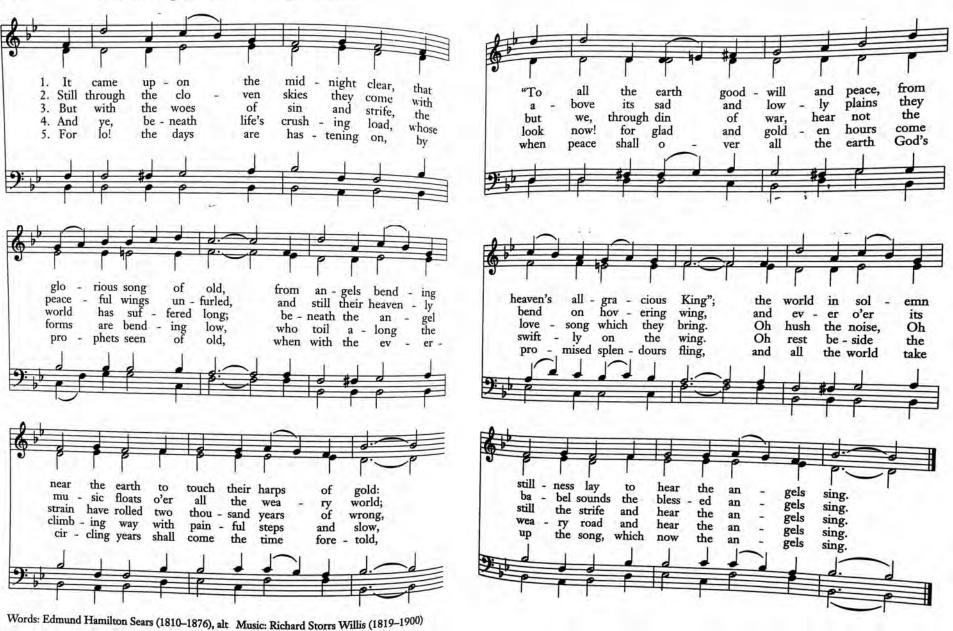
Thursday, December 29 We pray for the Rev. Dr. Robert (Bob) Faris, Moderator of the 2022 General Assembly, as he connects with members of the church this coming year.

Friday, December 30 We give thanks to God for the ability to learn from our past and those who have come before us in order to better our future for all those who will come after.

Saturday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) We end the year in praise for God's loving kindness and care, and we pray for peace in the world.





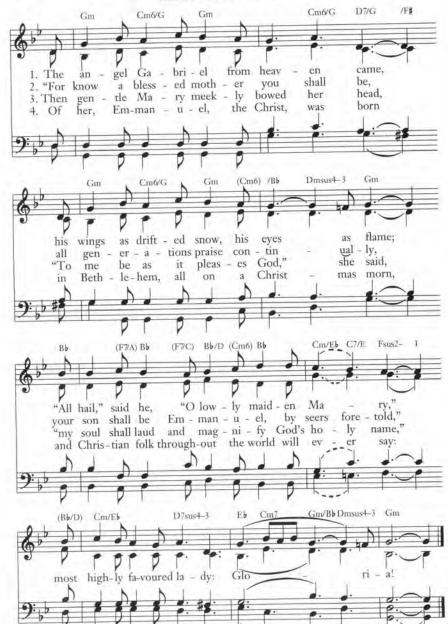


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Christmas

The angel Gabriel from heaven

GABRIEL'S MESSAGE 10 10 12 10



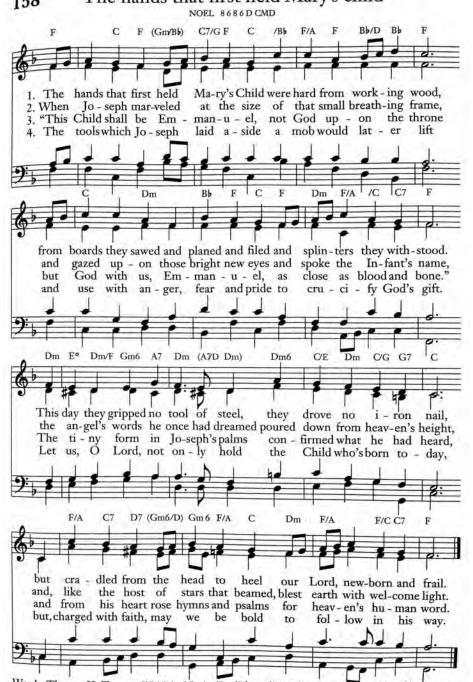
Words: paraphrase, Sabine Baring–Gould (1834–1924) Music: Basque traditional melody; arrangement, C. Edgar Pettman (1866–1943)

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Words: public domain Music; public domain

10/16

Sing the Story (Christmas Eve)



Long ago, prophets knew THEODORIC (PERSONENT HODIE) 666666 with refrain



Words: Fred Pratt Green (1903-) Music: Piae Cantiones, 1582; harmony, Gustav T. Holst (1874-1934) Words: copyright © 1971 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: barmony, copyright © J. Curwen & Sons, Ltd. CCLI #4440603





heart is great, and my spir - it ___ sings of the won-drous_ things in me, and your mer - cy will last from the depths of the left on stone. Let the king be - ware for your jus - tice_ holds us fast: God's __ mer - cy __ must de - liv - er __



things that you bring to the ones who wait. You fixed your past to the end of the age to be. Your ver - y tears ev - ery ty - rant ___ from his throne. The hun - gry us from the con - quer - or's crush - ing grasp. This sav - ing

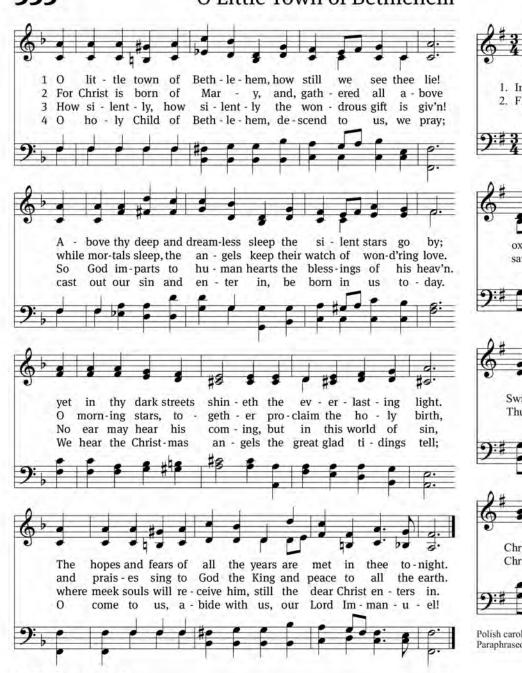


sight on your ser - vant's plight, and my weak ness you name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would shall ___ weep по more for the food they can word that our fore - bears heard is the prom - ise which

Words: Rory Cooney (b. 1952), based on the Mugnificat, © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.
Music (STAR OF COUNTY DOWN 8.6.8.6 D refrain 9.8.10.8): Irish traditional; arr. Rory Cooney © 1990 GIA
Publications, Inc.



Infant Holy, Infant Lowly





Text: Phillips Brooks, 1835-1893, abr., alt.

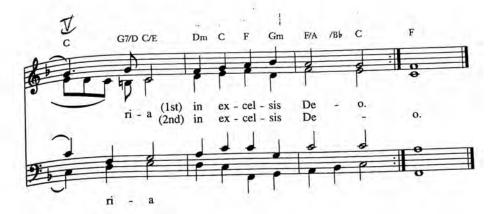
ST. LOUIS



Words: Luke 2:6-20; traditional French carol Music: traditional; arrangement; Martin Shaw (1875-1958) from Oxford Book of Carols

Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright @ Oxford University Press, 1928

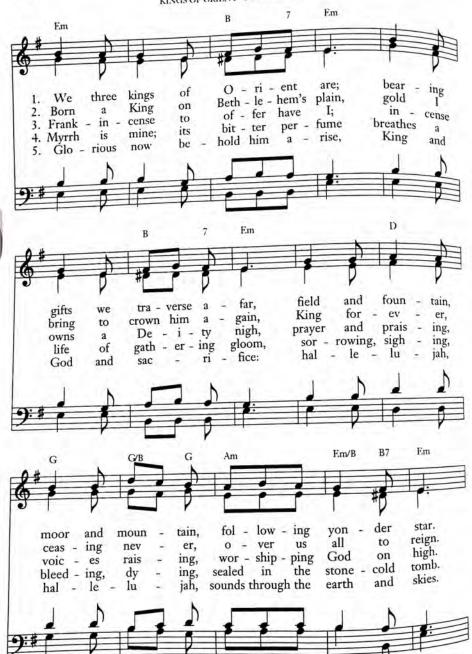
Rev. Peter Rombeek Kensington Presbyterian Church

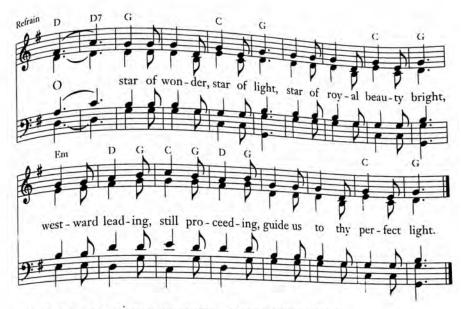


- Les anges dans nos campagnes ont entonné l'hymne des cieux, et l'écho de nos montagnes redit ce chant mélodieux. Refrain Gloria in excelsis Deo! Gloria in excelsis Deo!
- Bergers, pour qui cette fête?
 Quel est l'objet de tous ces chants?
 Quel vainqueur ou quel prophète
 méritent ces choeurs triomphants?
 Refrain
- Ils annoncent la naissance du libérateur d'Israël et pleins de reconnaissance chantent en ce jour solennel: Refrain

We three kings

KINGS OF ORIENT 8886 with refrain





Words: John H. Hopkins Jr. (1820–1891) Music: traditional carol; arrangement, John H. Hopkins Jr. (1820–1891)

Words: public domain Music: public domain









