## Kensington Presbyterian Church

# New Beginning?

January 1, 2023

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 in Townsville- Jan Hynes

# Rev. Peter Rombeek for Kensington Presbyterian Church

#### **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. If you are celebrating from home you will have to provide your own elements.

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

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 at 2<sup>nd</sup> Cup on Monkland

Ottawa School of Theology & Spirituality: has online opportunities for people looking for more in-depth Christian studies. They offer two sets with three options, from Jan 9 to Feb 6, and Feb 13 to Mar 20. Topics include: Judaism (from a Rabbi), evangelicalism, Jesus, gnostic gospels, ethics, and Bible & archaeology. <a href="https://osts.ca/courses.htm">https://osts.ca/courses.htm</a>

**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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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<sup>2</sup>

I have good news!

I have good news!

Christ is born!

Christ is born!

Joy is alive!

Joy is alive!

God is here.

God is here.

(Repeat 3x)

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Amen.

Amen.

www.youtube.com/@kensingtonchurchmontreal2543/streams (you should find it here after our service is posted)



Prayer of Confession<sup>3</sup>

God of manger straw and swaddle cloth, God of the peaceful moments, and those that are chaotic, we long to know you.

The hustle and bustle of this time of year can be more than distracting,

so for a moment, we pray, still our busy hearts. Quiet our minds.

Help us to feel your Spirit and to hear your Word.



Shine - M Moyers

Because too often we don't.

We look around at the state of the word, and feel as if change is hopeless. The problems of this world feel too big, the path forward is unclear, and we are not confident that we can truly make a difference. We give up hope.

Liturgist snuffs out the candle of hope.

Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing hope.

Too often we believe that peace is a thing of fairy tales. Our

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

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

spirits are anxious. Our bodies are weary. Our world is fractured. Instead of praying for peace—both in ourselves and in our society—we assume that peace is no longer on the table. We give it up.

Liturgist snuffs out the candle of peace.

Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing peace.

Too often we paint joy as naive — a luxury reserved for children and pets. We forget that you ate with friends, that you went to weddings, that you laughed and rested and hiked mountains. We forget that you knew joy, and that you want joy for us in this fractured world. Forgive us for turning away from your light.

Liturgist snuffs out the candle of joy.

Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing joy.

Too often we treat love like a vending machine. We put some coins in and assume that we'll get something back. However, in our wiser moments, we know that love is not meant for keeping score. Love is meant to overflow, to spill out to our neighbours, to transform our world. Forgive us for holding love so tightly.

Liturgist snuffs out the candle of love.

Together we pray:

Forgive us for extinguishing love.

We recognize our sins separate us from things like hope, peace,

and joy.

Fortunately for us, you have something else in mind.

Your Word came into this world so that we could see another way - that no matter how many times we turn our back on hope, or extinguish peace, or snuff out joy — no matter how many times we let love burn out — you continue to light our way.

Liturgist relights the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love from the Christ candle.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

☀ Assurance of Pardon

It's over - last year is gone. Our words, our thoughts, our deeds are in the past. Today, we begin anew. Today, and every day, God offers us life and hope.

Here, now, forever - we are forgiven and healed. This year, let us live as such people. Thanks be to God. Amen.<sup>4</sup>



rayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may be nourished by your Word.

Amen.

New Beginning?

<sup>4</sup> http://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2022/12/new-years-day-liturgy-wcommunion-years.html

## Intro to the readings

- Today's readings include two accounts of Jesus' coming. One is very narrative - easy to imagine. The other... has a different perspective.
- In between we have a psalm that considers what can happen when the Lord speaks.

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

Luke 2: 15-21 Psalm 147: 12-20 John 1: 1-18



Thanksgiving in Algonquin - Rombeek



Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts. 6 Amen.

Beginnings

something that's on many people's minds this weekend with the ending of one year and the start of a new one (in our culture).

It's also how the Gospel According to John starts, "In the beginning." This phrase would have been familiar to both Romans and Jews back in the day. Romans, with their Greek teaching, would be reminded that everything is grounded/rooted together. Jews would be drawn back to the first verse of the Bible, "In the beginning when God created the heavens and the earth." They remember that God speaks and creation happens. The Word of God, this expression of who God is, brings about creation - and it is good.

Word became flesh - St. John Bible

Now John starts with, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. ... And the Word became flesh and lived among us." To help us relate to that, Eugene Peterson translates it as, "The Word became flesh and blood, and moved into the neighbourhood." The power of creation became a human and moved into your neighbourhood - became your neighbour.

Have you ever thought about having God as your neighbour? ...and it doesn't matter which neighbourhood you live in. The Word became flesh, not a specific type. Everyone is blessed by this!

This is what the original listeners would have going through their heads when they first heard this book read. They might also

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

Psalm 19:14

have wondered what was coming up - and the beginning drops some pretty broad hints of that.

- The Word (aka: Jesus) is life the source of life & the way to eternal life with God.
- There's the irony that while everything was created through the Word, the people who are supposed to be closest don't recognize God when he's staring them in the face.
- In Jesus we see the light, or the glory, of God... and we are to share the light (as John does in this passage).

Thinking of what different people hear when they listen to this passage, I delved into some perspectives from other cultures. Central Kenya is traditionally a spoken culture. They respect the spoken word and the power it has - though that varies depending on who is speaking. God's words would be the most powerful - and that God's Word would come in the flesh is incredible.

An author from India wrote that this cosmic description of God coming into the world makes a lot of sense to people in his culture. Their perspective is less centred on humans and more on the cosmos. They easily relate to Jesus being the Word and part of creation before time, and here and now; that everything is related. The hard part is the Word becoming flesh. Do you have a hard time with that too? Do you find the traditional story we heard in Matthew easier? Or perhaps it's become too familiar and you see Jesus more as a human baby and less as the tremendous creative power of God revealed in a human body - who moved into your neighbourhood?

Does the traditional Christmas story trap your idea of 'when love came to town'?<sup>7</sup>

I came across an interesting script in which a poet takes the poetry of the first few verses and intersperses other poetry to help expand our appreciation. Elizabeth is going to help we with this people by Rev. Sarah Speed.<sup>8</sup>

#### Voice A:

Let us listen for God speaking to us through the ancient poetry of John 1, with contemporary poetic additions by Rev. Sarah Speed:

In the beginning was the Word,

Voice B:

way back, a long, long time ago,

before the stars,

before the day,

before the rivers were carved out of clay.

A: In the beginning,

B: way back in that beginning,

A: was the Word.

And the Word was with God,

And the Word was God.

Jesus, was in the beginning with God.

B: In other words, we cannot say

that love was born in a stable that day,

for love was born when the horizon was drawn.

It was born in the dark, long before dawn.

Love was born with the very first sea

and when God breathed life into you and me.

Long before Magi

5/16

or shepherds or dreams,

I was there when they crucified my Lord, I held the scabbard when the soldier drew his sword I threw the dice when they pierced his side, But I've seen love conquer the great divide When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that train, When love comes to town I'm gonna catch that flame Maybe I was wrong to ever let you down, But I did what I did before love came to town

<sup>7</sup> you may want to check out the U2 song 'when love came to town' with the lyrics

<sup>8</sup> by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

long before sheep or angels that sing, love was here—building a way, then and now, and on Christmas day.

A: For all things came into being through him, and without him, not one thing came into being. And what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

B: And so Jesus shined.

Like a light in the dark,
or a star in the sky,
Jesus walked into this world
and opened our eyes,
shining a light on social divides
and loving the scars we try to hide.
He lit up this world like it's never seen,
the light of all people,
Emmanuel, King.

A: The light shines in the darkness,

And the darkness did not overcome it.

B: Hatred did not overcome it.

Fear did not overcome it.

Greed did not overcome it.

A: A light shines in the darkness.

B: Envy did not overcome it.

Doubt did not overcome it.

Scarcity did not overcome it.

A: A light shines in the darkness.

B: Death did not overcome it.

Sickness did not overcome it.

Grief did not overcome it.

St. John Bible



A: For he was in the beginning with God,

B: way back, a long, long time ago,
before the stars,
before the day,
before the rivers were carved out of clay.

A: And what has come into being in him was life.

B: So we cannot begin with Magis and sheep, for this story begins at the brink—

A: of creation and light,

B: of you and me,

A: of beloved and love,

B: of being set free.

A: For in the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

B: He was in the beginning with God, and that light shines in the darkness.

It always has, and it always will.

A: That is where our story begins - with love for creation, from beginning to end.

Amen.



# Responding to God

☐ Hymn: Of eternal love begotten.....pg 14 (163)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=yy0T51psU2o

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

Memories: What are your new years traditions?

Values: What resolution/dream would you like help with this year?

Wonder: Bounce around the idea of God/Jesus living in the

neighbourhood. How does that affect you?

Value: Identify something that you value from the last year

(and describe why if you can).

Actions: Ask a neighbour what the hope for this year.

Prayer: ...Thank God for being in and through everything,

and for help in seeing that.

**←**Spirit Sighting

Although Taiwan has been governed independently since 1949, China views the island as a renegade province and has exercised political and military powers to isolate it internationally. In 2018, due to the rising geopolitical tensions, the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan established the Taiwan Ecumenical Forum (TEF) and invited ecumenical and church partners to journey with them in pursuit of justice and peace for the people of Taiwan and the Asia-Pacific. The Rev. Linda Patton-Cowie, PCC representative on the TEF Steering Group, encourages members of the church to pray, learn and advocate for justice for Taiwan. Through Presbyterians Sharing, the PCC stands in solidarity with Taiwan.

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

☐ Hymn: Jesus call us here to meet him.....pg 15 (528)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wvBGtFPd6TQ



Nativity - Rembrandt

╆ Invitation to the table

We gather again around the table of our Lord - a table that reaches into all neighborhoods - and a table that all are invited to.

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 try to follow
and you who wander.

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.

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.

Before there was time, you flowed over the waters and spoke

Through The Word order was brought to land and water, and everywhere life bloomed in creative ways we are still discovering.

You dreamed wonder into reality.

Our attention also flows, and words form in our mouths and thoughts. But unlike your focus that includes all the cosmos, our focus is too often on ourselves. You speak your dreams through prophets and angels

You speak your dreams through prophets and angels but we never listened for long.

We are sorry for forgetting about your Word

Now, though, 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.

In sending your Son, Jesus,
to be born of Mary,
your Word became flesh,
and we have seen a new and radiant vision of your glory.

Llie a reas is all sees a reason.

His name is above every name, the Prince of Peace and Savior of all.

In him we have been brought out of darkness into your marvelous light.

To do this, you entered into darkness, flowing into all the corners that hold us down.

Even ones that nailed you down.

But that is not the end.9



Refugees Holy Family - Kelly Latimore

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

<sup>9</sup> sections from Worship Sourcebook E. 8. 2. 2. 2

#### Christ has died. Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

While we wait for your return, we draw hope from your story at Christmas.

We hear about Mary & Joseph, Shepherds and Magi.

We hear how your coming as Jesus is not the first time of your coming, but rather an invitation for us to connect with you in a new way.

and we look forward to your return when your Word will bring peace throughout all the lands and into all hearts.

Today, we ask that your Spirit would flow into situations that need your Word. Here are some that are on our hearts:

- countries in conflict, such as Ukraine & Haiti
- families & individuals that are struggling
- the crazy weather, and what might come for the next generations
- for those needing healing in their bodies, minds o and for the families and care teams who help them

We bring these concerns to you, because you invite us to, and because while you see the whole cosmos, you also care about each individual living thing.

We come to you, because you came to us and invite us to join you.

and so we gather at your table. We pray that as we share your bread and your cup. 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 prepare to taste your story of good news, let us once again speak the words Jesus taught us to pray, saying:

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]



Mary Nursing - Barbara Februar

# Prayer after Communion

Jésus, il n'y a rien qui puisse te séparer de nous.

We thank you for uniting us with you and each other through your Word and your table.

Vous êtes ici maintenant avec espoir et amour.

Help us to feel this,

and to live it for all the world.

In Jesus name

Amen.

☐ Hymn: Good Christians all rejoice.....pg 16 (141)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUkw9qdwOvo

# \*

#### 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."

May it be so. Amen.<sup>10</sup>



<sup>10</sup> by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

#### Sunday, January 1

#### MISSION MOMENT

When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we express our faith. Together, we continue Christ's ministry by engaging in vibrant and faithful ministries in our communities, our country and around the world.

Together, we call for justice and act with compassion. We support ministries with Indigenous people, both in and outside



Canada. We send mission staff to accompany international partners. We support ministries that provide aid for refugees, people involved in the sex trade and all who are vulnerable to exploitation. We start and build new faith communities and encourage and support congregations renewing their ministries. Together, we are making a difference. Together, we are Presbyterians Sharing!

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, January 1** (New Year's Day) We give thanks for the start of a new year. May God give us hope, joy and peace for the year ahead.

**Monday, January 2** We give thanks for the faithful generosity of congregations across Canada as we share in mission and ministry together through Presbyterians Sharing.

**Tuesday, January 3** We pray for the Canadian Armed Forces and all military chaplains who bring guidance and support to our troops and their families.

**Wednesday, January 4** We give thanks and pray for Bishop István Csűry of the Királyhágómellék District of the Reformed Church in Romania as he retires after 12 years of faithful service.

**Thursday, January 5** We give thanks for the many contributions of migrant workers in Canada. We pray that decision makers will support legislation that opens pathways to permanent residency for migrant workers as well as better protection of their rights.

**Friday, January 6 (Epiphany)** Source of Wisdom and Creator of the heavens who led the Magi to worship the Christ child, guide us so that we may find our calling and journey's end in Jesus Christ.

**Saturday, January 7** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Newfoundland.



Shepherds J Swanson





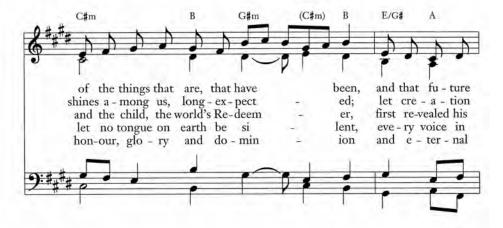
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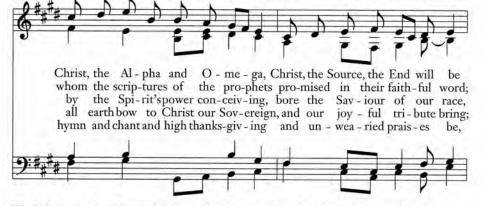
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### Of eternal love begotten

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Words: Latin, Aurelius Clemens Prudentius (348–413); translation, John Mason Neale (1818–1866), alt; v.3, The Psalter Hymnal 1987 Music: Plainsong, 12th century; arrangement, Healey Willan (1880–1968) Words: public domain Music: arrangement, copyright © Michael Willan, executor of the estate of Healey Willan CCLI #4440603





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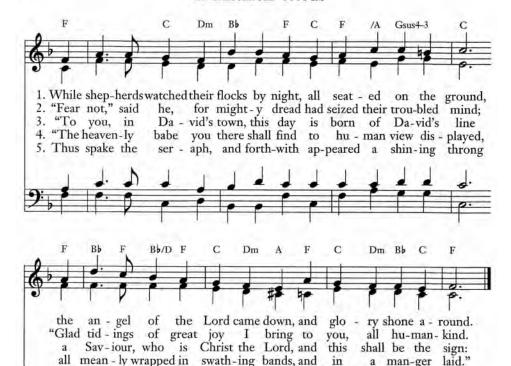
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## While shepherds watched

WINCHESTER OLD 8686 CM



6. "All glory be to God on high, and to the earth be peace; good will henceforth from heaven to earth begin, and never cease!"

an - gels prais - ing God, who thus ad-dressed their joy - ful song:

Words: Nahum Tate (1652–1715) Music: Este's Psalter 1592; descant, Alan Gray (1885–1935) Words: public domain Music: descant, copyright © Cambridge University Press CCLI #4440603



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