



Kensington Presbyterian Church

Easter Sunday !

April 9, 2023

WELCOME, during these times of physical isolation we are putting out these worship services that you can do at home.¹ This doesn't mean you have to do them alone. You can invite those who live with you, or connect with others through the phone or computer, or even in small groups 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

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

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

Pizza & Movie Nights: Fridays at 6:30

April 14: The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe

April 21: Nausicaä (anime with earth day theme)

Please let Rev. Peter know if you want to come.

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).

¹ note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Contacts

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Listening to God

✧ Introduction

Welcome to Easter Sunday. It's been quite a week. Most of us have literally gone through darkness to light.²

It's also been quite a week in the story of Jesus. There was the entrance parade into Jerusalem, teachings, healings, conflict, enemies plotting - all of which Jesus had warned his disciples about. He would be taken prisoner, killed... and rise again.

Normally our worship service has a nice order to it, however today it's being steered by the text - and the people in it are unsettled. Their world has been turned upside-down - especially when Sunday came... but let's not get ahead of ourselves.

On the Friday, he was abused and then killed. While the story doesn't stop there, it also doesn't skip straight to Sunday morning. There were things that happened - and the hollowness that follows a death.

🗨️ Call to worship

Come, let us join the disciples in the hollowness of death

Let us feel the shock and fear

Let us journey with the women

Let us journey into the world after the death of Jesus.

All Jews would have learned the psalms by heart. They would sing and recite them in times of joy... and when feeling lost. I wonder which ones the disciples would have said after the crucifixion. Perhaps Psalm 23?

Let us recite it, and then continue the story from Friday.

² There were wide-spread power failures due to an ice storm.



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

[Psalm 23](#)

[Matthew 27: 50-66](#)



mother and son - brink

✧ Reflection

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

Jesus died.

His last words in Matthew are from Psalm 22. "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

³ 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

God did not intervene to make the troubles go away. There is abuse and tragedy in life. In this instance, and perhaps you can relate, Jesus felt abandoned by his friends - and by God.

It's unsettling to think that.

But then, after Jesus had died, the world became unsettled. Everything went topsy-turvy. All sorts of barriers were broken.

The curtain separating the place where God supposedly resided was torn in two. There was an earthquake - in the ancient world always a sign of a god demanding attention. Death was reversed as numerous people came back from their graves. Jesus was declared God's son - not by a loyal student or priest, but by a Roman centurion. ...and the woman kept watch.

What's all this mean?

Jesus' death is big. It shattered boundaries - then and now.

God does not live behind a curtain in a temple or church. God is out for people to see - to know; active everywhere. Where do you expect to find God?

People who are not one of 'God's people' can speak to where God is. As came people who were considered less, like the women. How do you listen for God's presence in the world?

and nature: the earthquake. In storytelling, this is a sign to pay attention to God (though it wasn't for Elijah). I don't think the recent ice storm was a sign from God - but it can remind us about God. It can remind us that there are forces beyond our control. It can also remind us about our neighbours, and what a good community is like.

When Jesus died, there were signs that this was big; that the world had changed.

For the disciples, it seems that they focused on Jesus being dead... though I wonder about the women who followed and watched - from a distance.



Prayer

Dear Jesus,

Sometimes the world is very hard.

Sometimes it can feel like you are dead.

You know what this feels like;

it is one of the places you are.

Help us to see the signs of you in the world;

to hear the voices that witness you;

to remember that *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for you are with me;"*

Amen.

🎵 Hymn: Take up your cross.....pg 9 (211)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=XvFe-DVIXVA



women at the tomb - Bryans



Introduction

- and the story continues. Is it as you remember?



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Matthew 28](#): 1-10

[Psalm 150](#)



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est toujours la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is always the light of the world.

♪ Anthem

✦ Reflection

We've heard this story many times - though perhaps it wasn't quite as you remember it. Often the different gospels are mixed together, and they are each a little different. Each writer was trying to describe a different aspect of God at work in this world changing event. In Matthew it is a combination of huge & earth shattering, and personal.

Now, just in case you've found it all quite normal, let me just remind you - this story is impressive.

The earthquake and splitting of the curtain were impressive, but this is more.

I think the women are impressive. In this time women are not leaders, yet here they are leading the way. They go to visit Jesus' grave. In other gospels they go to prepare the body, but in Matthew this happened a few days earlier when a woman accepted what would happen and poured expensive perfume on Jesus' head. Perhaps they are going to mourn, or to remember Jesus.

Perhaps they are going *because* they remember Jesus, and that Jesus had said several times, 'I will be taken, killed, ...and rise

again.'

After seeing him die, are they expecting to see Jesus alive?

This is impressive faith.



the holy women at the tomb - William Bouguereau

Lighting is impressive. I can watch it for hours. In those days, it was a sign of the gods. An angel, who looked like lighting, is more impressive. As usual, the angel starts by saying "Do not be afraid."

The guards, representing those with impressive power in the world, are as good as dead. The women though, they have fear in

⁴ 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

their belly - like the world is shaking - and great joy. Can you remember having great joy? Can you imagine their joy at hearing that Jesus was alive: their teacher, their friend, their saviour, their healer, their Lord - was alive; just like He said he would be.

Now, they are asked, could they please remind those men of the plan to meet up in Galilee.

Perhaps it's because he's a man, but Jesus also didn't follow the plan. The women go to share the good news, and they meet Jesus. I suspect Jesus just couldn't resist dropping by to see his friends - those who watched and had faith in him.

This is a story of faithful living (and dying... and living)

This is a story of personal relationships.

This is a story that shakes the foundations of the world.

Which is what Christianity is about.

Faith (trust) that God is alive;

that God is there for us;

through fear and in great joy.

It's about personal relationships

with others who believe

and with Jesus, who will never abandon us.

And it's about how God's way/vision/kingdom,

is changing the world

so that everyone who goes looking

will live with our living God in peace, hope & love.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!



Approaching God

♪ Hymn: Jesus Christ is risen today.....pg 9 (243)

youtu.be/p2HSklHBHxw?t=43



Prayer of approach

Amazing God,

Nothing is beyond you.

**Not the horrors that people can do
or even that stage of life called death.**

Easter shows us

**that you will go through it all
so that people can join you.**

Nobody is beyond you,

we can always turn/repent

**and try to let your dream be our dream
try to follow you.**

We recognize that there are times

we turn away from where you go.

or we disbelieve the people

who say that they have seen you alive in the world.

There are times when we

**hurt others, or creation, by living in our kingdom
instead of yours.**

Please forgive us. . .

Jesus,

Thank you for coming to live with us,

then and now.

We thank you for the life that is possible because of you;

**for a life that can be without fear,
a life full of hope and love.
Please help us to live this life.**

Amen.

✧ Assurance of Pardon

Christ has died on the cross.
Christ has conquered death.
Christ is risen.

We are his forgiven people. Be at peace with God and with one another, through the unending mercy of our Risen Lord, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: The strife is o'er, the battle done.....pg 10 (257)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=jGVazuix9Lc



Responding to God

💡 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: Remember a time when you felt "great joy". Share the experience... and how it affected you. What did you do?

Values: Where do you expect to find God?

Values: How do you listen for God's presence in the world?

Value: For you, what is meaningful for you about Easter?

Actions: Share with somebody (other than the person your talking to now) why the Easter story is important.

Prayer: ...thank God for Good Friday & Easter Sunday

✧ Spirit Sightings

Stories this week of people checking in on each other while the power has been out.

I'd also like to share a story that I was reminded of when thinking of the women in today's story. It was shared by a woman here at Kensington. She remembers being taken to visit a shelter and serve a meal to the homeless... and that this was a key moment in her faith journey. What's the connection? She saw God at work, and she responded by becoming more engaged.

Praise to God for times when we see and are inspired by the Holy Spirit.



Christ Appears to Mary - Jesus MAFA

✧ 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.

♪ Hymn: I know my redeemer lives.....pg 10
www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCnytKwEW7c

Prayers of the people

Amazing God,
you are behind, in front, between and within us.
Nothing can stop your love
not guards and powers
not isolation and abuse
not even death.
You always come to us,
and so we come to you.

Thank you for festivals
when we can gather with family.
Thank you for the family we were born into,
and the families you have placed us in.
Jesus, we pray for those who are lonely,
whose family needs healing
and who need friends and neighbours to reach out.
May your Spirit guide them - and us,
to share your resurrection love.

Thank you for feasts
that we can share.
We pray for those who have no place to go
and no food to eat.
Please help the homeless


and the hungry.
and may we see a way to share your resurrection love.

We don't thank you for the ice storm
and the power outages.
but we do thank you that we the support there is.
And we pray for those who are suffering physically,
or who have had their property damaged.
May your resurrection love shine through.

We thank you for your resurrection
That because of this, we can take the angel's advice
and "be not afraid".
We don't need to fear death,
because you will lead us through to a great feast beyond
We don't need to fear that we are ever abandoned
because you will go anywhere, and live through anything,
to be with us.
May your resurrection love fill us with peace.

May your life,
and death,
and resurrection
fill us with fear - and with great joy.
And may we, like the women,
be filled to overflowing
so that we share your resurrection love.

As we turn towards you
and your way to healthy life
We say the prayer you taught your disciples. . .

 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: Christ is Alive.....pg 11 (251)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Rgr3E6dxlg

✦ Sending and Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)
As you go from this time,
remember Jesus.
Remember that God is always present with us,
that God cares for us - loves us - so much
and that there is hope.

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



Like many in Somalia, Farhan, his parents and younger sibling live in a camp for internally displaced people, having been forced from their home due to ongoing drought. At eight months old, Farhan became severely dehydrated and his life was seriously threatened.



He was admitted to a hospital and received urgent treatment. After two weeks of monitoring and treatment, **Farhan was discharged from the hospital and admitted to an outpatient clinic supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development, where he receives weekly health assessments and therapeutic and supplementary food as he makes his way to a full recovery.**

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 9 (Easter Sunday) God of new life and hope, fill us with joy and a desire to live in new ways guided by hope and reconciliation that reflect the good news of the gospel.

Monday, April 10 We pray for Somalia as the country faces famine. We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners who are providing emergency food assistance to those in need.

Tuesday, April 11 We pray for students at Knox College during exam week (April 10-13). May they feel reassured by God's presence.

Wednesday, April 12 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry in Ontario.

Thursday, April 13 We give thanks and pray for our mission partners as they serve and care for those in need during difficult times.

Friday, April 14 We pray for presbytery and synod clerks gathering in Mississauga, Ontario, today for a consultation that will help equip and encourage them for the important service they provide to the denomination.

Saturday, April 15 We give thanks and pray for the faculty and staff at The Presbyterian College in Montreal, Quebec, Knox College in Toronto, Ontario, and St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver, B.C. May God grant them wisdom to guide theological students.

Take up your cross

HESPERUS 8888LM

E /G# C#m A6 B E /G#

1. Take up your cross, the Sav - iour said, if my dis -
 2. Take up your cross; let not its weight fill fright-ened
 3. Take up your cross, nor heed the shame, nor let your
 4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, and eve - ry
 5. Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

F#m7 B E F#m/A B F# B/E#

ci - ple you would be; de - ny your - self, the
 spir - it with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
 fool - ish pride re - bel; for you the Sav - iour
 dan - ger calm - ly brave; 'twill guide you to a
 death to lay it down, for on - ly those who

F#7 B E 7 Amaj7 Bsus4 -3 E

world for - sake, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 spir - it up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 bore the cross, to save your soul from death and hell.
 heaven - ly home, and lead to vic - tory o'er the grave.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt Music: Henry Baker (1835-1910)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

JESUS CHRIST IS RISEN TODAY

1. Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day.
 2. Hymns of praise then let us sing,
 3. But the pains which he en - dured,
 4. Sing we to our God a - bove, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Our tri - um - phant ho - ly day,
 2. Un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly King,
 3. Our sal - va - tion have pro - cured;
 4. Praise e - ter - nal as his love, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Who did once up - on the cross,
 2. Who en - dured the cross and grave,
 3. Now a - bove the sky he's King,
 4. One true God by all con - fessed, } Al - le - lu - ia!

1. Suf - fer to re - deem our loss.
 2. Sin - ners to re - deem and save.
 3. Where the an - gels ev - er sing.
 4. Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it blest, } Al - le - lu - ia!

257 The strife is o'er, the battle done

Antiphon (at the beginning and end)

Chords: D, G, D, G, D, A, D

Hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah, hal - le - lu - jah!

Chords: D, G, D, F#m, Em, Bm, A, D

1. The strife is o'er, the bat - tle done; the vic - to -
 2. Death's might-iest powers have done their worst, but Christ their
 3. The three sad days have quick - ly sped; Christ ris - es
 4. Lord, from your wounds God's bless - ings spring: free us, we

Chords: Bm, F#m, D, Em, Bm, A, F#m, D, G, D

ry of life is won; the song of tri - umph
 le - gions has dis - persed: let shouts of praise and
 glo - rious from the dead: all glo - ry to our
 pray, from death's dread sting that we may live, and

Chords: F#m, Em, Bm, A, D/F#, D, A, D

has be - gun.
 joy out - burst.
 ris en Head!
 ev er sing

Hal - le - lu - jah! [Ant.]

Words: Latin, anonymous, c.1695; translation, Francis Pott (1832-1909), alt Music: Giovanni Pierluigi da Palestrina (c.1525-1594); arrangement, William Henry Monk (1823-1889) Words: public domain Music: public domain

Rev. Peter Rombeek
for Kensington Presbyterian Church

10/11

I Know That My Redeemer Lives 336

1. I know that my Re - deem - er lives;
 2. He lives, to bless me with His love;
 3. He lives, and grants me dai - ly breath;
 4. He lives, all glo - ry to His name;

What joy the blest as - sur - ance gives!
 He lives, to plead for me a - bove;
 He lives, and I shall con - quer death;
 He lives, my Sav - ior still the same;

He lives, He lives, who once was dead;
 He lives, my hun - gry soul to feed;
 He lives, my man - sion to pre - pare;
 What joy the blest as - sur - ance gives;

He lives, my ev - er - last - ing Head!
 He lives, to help in time of need.
 He lives, to bring me safe - ly there.
 I know that my Re - deem - er lives!

Text: Samuel Medley, 1738-1799
Tune: DUKE STREET, LM; John Hatton, c.1710-1793

April 9, 2022
Easter Sunday

* Christ is alive

TRURO 8888 LM

D A7/E D/F# D G A7/E D A7/E D/F# G/B A7/G D/F# A7/E D

1. Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands emp - ty to the
 2. Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant years in Pal - es -
 3. In eve - ry in - sult, rift and war, where col - our, scorn or wealth di -
 4. Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the Spir - it, hear the
 5. Christ is a - live and comes to bring good news to this and eve - ry

A /C# E A D/F# A/C# D A/E E7 A /G D/F# D

sky. Let streets and homes with prais - es ring. Love, drowned in
 tine, but sav - ing heal - ing, here and now and touch - ing
 vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet loves the more, and lives, where
 call, and find the way, the life, the truth, re - vealed in
 age, till earth and sky and o - cean ring with joy, with

G6 Em6 D/F# G6 D A7 D

death, shall nev - er die.
 eve - ry place and time.
 e - ven hope has died.
 Je - sus, freed for all.
 jus - tice, love and praise.



Bamford Beauty - Lee Howdle