

## Kensington Presbyterian Church

Growing in faith and sharing God's love since 1786

Life

May 12, 2024

**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).



Shin Maeng

#### Announcements

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

Youth Group: today with Kathryn & Ines

Pentecost Pot-luck: join us for lunch next week. You're encouraged to contribute something international (which includes Canada).

Choir: Sunday mornings at 9:45.

1/10

Zoom Prayer Group: Wednesday at 6:30 a.m. us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107? pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNlUrUT09

**Jesus & Java**: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith. Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

Friday's fabulously friendly food & film: pizza at 6:30 pm

Contact: Jodie Foster is an astronomer struggling with a mystery.

Is God an answer? RSVP with Peter appreciated.

## 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 (1 Peter 1:3-5) Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Iesus Christ.

Who has given us new life and hope. and raised Jesus from the dead.

God has claimed us as his own.

Bringing us out of darkness. Making us light to the world.

Alleluia! Christ is risen.

He is risen indeed. Alleluia!

☐ Hymn: All hail the power of Jesus' name.....pg 8 (363) www.youtube.com/watch?v=tmxCpX28-Gc

Frayer of Approach God of life, we praise you!

> We come to you, to your place, your time, and we choose to live!

The life we have comes from you; the life we have we give back to you in praise and adoration.

Praise your name! Praise your life! Praise this world for all its teeming variety.

New life is visible everywhere we look; green shoots; new born lambs growing and springing forth.

We praise you for showing us such abundance everywhere we go.

God of mercy and hope, even in this abundance we are aware that we do not always live up to that life-full promise. We do not always value what we have, what we see. We overlook goodness and grace, and we take for granted that we have breath.

Forgive us our complacent hearts, our neglect of living life to the full; forgive us when we take advantage of others, and abuse the potentials of living. Forgive us and renew our lives so that we may truly reflect life in all its variations today and always.

Amen.<sup>2</sup>

2/10

<sup>2</sup> from Spill the Beans #18

As we come to worship God, let us sing together the prayer Christ teaches:

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.



## Listening to God

\* Children's Time
What in your life is 'life giving'?

prayer

Dear Lord, our God, King of the universe Thank you for everything you've placed in our lives that is life giving.

Amen.

J Hymn: Abide with Me......pg 8 (794)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=deJDkU6giGE

Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds

through the power of your Holy Spirit,

so we can we can trust our lives to you.

Amen.

☀️ Intro to the readings

Our main passage today still comes from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth - the cosmopolitan city on the west coast of Greece opposite Athens. They were big on ideas, the arts,



and trade. Debating philosophy was a common pastime, and according to accounts in the book of Acts, differences of opinion weren't limited to words. Fights could break out.

Last week we heard chapter 13. In that section Paul declared that the greatest action/feeling/ability is love. This challenged other priorities, such as money or social standing - and still does. The Corinthians would have found this odd, but interesting.

This week's passage strays beyond odd and into embarrassing or crude: resurrection. Then, and now, death was a topic avoided. Resurrection was a hard and uncomfortable topic easier to avoid... except the bit with Jesus.

Do you think about it?

3/10

Personally, I don't dwell on it much. My focus is much more on the here and now, leaving afterwards to God. Still, this is good to think about - and today's lectionary reading takes us there.

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Last week we heard about love being the greatest gift and action of them all. Today we'll hear about the foundation that gives it meaning.

Accompanying this is Psalm 5, which picks up on the theme of where our focus is... or should be.

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

1 Corinthians 15: 1-26, 51-57 Psalm 5:



Sermon: Connecting & Clashing

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

I remember ministers that always started their sermon with a joke. I think Reader's Digest was a common source. In today's passage Paul is getting near the end of the letter and tries a bit of humour. He makes fun of death.

"Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?" I'm not convinced it's funny. It's hard to laugh in the face of death, because death is very real.

Death is uncomfortable and awkward for almost everybody because it means an end. Many people try to ignore it, but when pushed everyone will admit death is real.

Paul doesn't deny that, but writes that death isn't the end.

This, not everyone would agree with, and even more would disagree with the details. The Greeks believed that after death you would go live in the underworld (not hell, but gloomy), so the idea of life after death was fine. The idea of resurrection was... unpleasant.

Now, it's not the first thing in Paul's letter that didn't make sense. As we heard last week, a little before this he wrote that being loving was the greatest thing someone can be. It's better than prophecy, wisdom, or generosity. This would have been strange, but not as much as resurrection.

Why, because resurrection isn't just a spiritual thing. That would have been okay. There were Greek philosophies about the spirit going on and leaving the depressingly imperfect anchor of a body behind. This isn't what Paul is talking about. He's talking about the resurrection of the body.

It's this resurrection of the body that the Corinthians would have found rude, embarrassing, or just plain crazy. Actually, if you started talking about it now, what would your friends think?

...what do you think?

Now, resurrection of the body isn't a foreign topic in churches. Every Easter we talk about how Jesus' tomb was empty; that he was up and visiting people in the flesh. But what about everyone else? Will we all come back in our body?

Perhaps this will bring a laugh as you remember a bad zombie movie. Or perhaps it's unsettling. In one of Flannery O'Connor's stories a character complains that "Jesus was the only one that ever raised the dead... and he shouldn't have done it. He thrown everything off balance." Perhaps the idea of resurrection of our body is scary - especially if you have to wrestle with your own

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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

From A good man is hard to find and spoken by a man who is slowly killing off a family.

body, or you had a loved one who suffered. This isn't funny. Can it be good news?

Yes.

Two thoughts I came across this week can help. In reading for today I came across the idea of our body being like a seed. Instead of it crawling out of the grave like a zombie we will grow into a body like ourselves, but so much more.

The boys and I also finished the last of the Narnia books: The Last Battle. In it our heroes think they've ended up in Narnia, except that their bodies are all nicer versions of themselves. As they look around they realize it's not Narnia, but like it. Except it feels so much more real and beautiful that the old Narnia they visited feels like a shadow of this new one. Later they find out that they have died, and that this is just the start of a glorious life.

#### Does that help?

Because Christians are invited to believe in the resurrection of the body - but not a body that suffers from, well, anything really. Because we will be living in a new reality. As we heard in Paul's letter, "Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed." 5

...which raises a question. Why not hurry it up? Why don't all Christians just kill themselves? The simple answer is because we've been told not to - though this gets a little muddy with our modern skills at preventing bodies from dying. A better answer is that God has placed us here to learn to trust God and to help each other get ready - to join the Holy Spirit in bringing light to the world.

But for now, we live in the shadowlands. There is much joy

and love, but still much suffering. Death awaits us, but this isn't the end. And we can hope - even trust - that after everything has become aligned with Christ we will also be resurrected into wonderful lives - bodies included.

It's not a joke, "Death has been swallowed up in victory."

To God be all the glory Amen.



# Responding to God

☐ Hymn: Shall we gather at the river......pg 10 (797)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=8ViUhzSH\_rc

<sup>5</sup> The part about not 'all' dying is because Paul believed Jesus was coming back 'soon'. In hindsight this helps show what he said in Chapter 13 about only understanding a small fraction of it all.

FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.

Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Wonder: Describe do you feel about death?

Values: Do you have confidence in life after death?

Values: Do you agree with Paul that if Christ was never

raised, then what's the point?

Etching: How does this impact how you live?

Wonder: What have you imagined life after death and the

resurrection of the body to be like?

Actions: Look over Chapter 15. Can you find a better way to

say it?

Prayer: ...that we will worry less about our mortality and be

able to focus more on living into God's reign.

## Spirit Sightings

Somalia faces an acute hunger crisis, worsened by the most severe drought in four decades. With failed crops, widespread water shortages and reduced livestock productivity, Nafiso Hussein's family and thousands more had to abandon their homes in search of relief. Hunger and extreme conditions affected Nafiso's son



Hadi, whose health had deteriorated critically. In the displaced persons camp where they had sought refuge, Hadi was quickly referred to the stabilization centre for treatment, and under this initiative, his health significantly improved. Nafiso is grateful for her son's recovery, "He is well now, and I am happy to see him play and laugh like before." PWS&D, with partners at Canadian

Foodgrains Bank, provides funding to train community nutrition workers who identify and screen severely malnourished children.

## → Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: <u>kensingtonchurch.ca</u>. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also 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.

rayers of the people God of life.

creator of the Universe

Mother of us all.

We thank you for the way you nurture us, quietly guiding us bringing people into our lives who can help us know you better and who we can help.

inviting us to be a family.

We know that there are people in the world living in darkness without hope or love.

We pray for your presence to be felt

by everyone

6/10

...for them to know they are part of the family and to be treated like they are loved.

#### God of justice:

touch those who have the power; let them see each person as an individual, loved by you with a life that is valued.

Enable those who can to bring light and hope into dark lives.

God, who formed bodies,

We heard about the resurrection of bodies today.

Lord, we pray for those whose bodies are abused by others for those who have been sold into slavery or sweat shops and for those who have to sell themselves. . .

We pray for those whose bodies are ill bringing pain and sapping strength and hope. . .

We pray for those facing death for themselves or with somebody else.

May your Spirit help them to find hope.

That death has lost it's sting, and is but a door to a new and better world.

God of life,
We pray for others,
and for ourselves.
may we value ourselves;
love our lives;
live out your promises,
today and always.

Amen.

☐ Hymn: How great thou art......pg 9 (332)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT8vkjEZSzs

Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)
As you go from this time with God,
know that God is with you.
Try not to worry about things like death,
because God will be with you then too.
and inviting you into a glorious resurrection.

In the mean time:

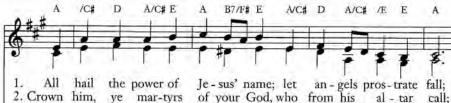
The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Amen.

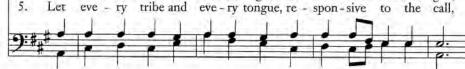


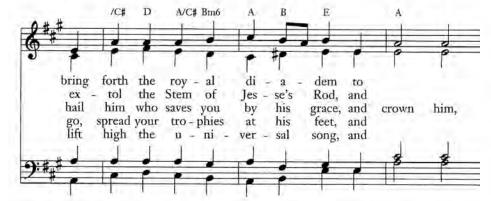
#### All hail the power of Jesus' name

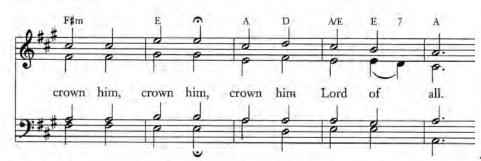
MILES LANE 8686 with repeat



3. Ye seed of Is-rael's cho-sen race, ye ran-somed from the fall,
4. Sin-ners, whose love can ne'er for - get the worm-wood and the gall,







Words: v. 2, 4, anonymous; v. 1, 3, 5, Edward Perronet (1726–1792) Music: William Shrubsole (1760–1806); fauxbourdon, Edgar C. Robinson

Words: public domain Music: fauxbourdon, copyright @ Oxford University Press, 1931



- 4. I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight and tears no bitterness: where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still if thou abide with me.
- Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies; heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

Words: Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847) Music: William Henry Monk (1823–1889)
Words: public domain Music: public domain

## 332 O Lord my God! / How great thou art





Words: Carl Gustav Boberg; translation, Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989); Music: Swedish folk melody; harmony, Stuart K. Hine (1899–1989)

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MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, May 12



- Ere we reach the shin-ing riv er, lay we eve-ry bur-den down:
- 4. Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



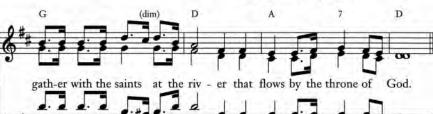


with its crys-tal tide for - ev - er flow-ing by the throne of God? we shall meet, and sor - row nev - er 'neath the glo - ry of the throne. grace our spir-its will de-liv - er, and pro-vide a robe and crown. soon our hap-py hearts will quiv - er with the mel-o - dy peace.





Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv - er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful



Words: Robert Lowry (1826-1899) Music: Robert Lowry (1826-1899)

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#### DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, May 12 (Christian Family Sunday) All Christians are members both of a human family and of the church, the household of God. We honour our parents who gave us life, and also the church which has nurtured us in faith.

Monday, May 13 We pray for those living in poverty in a world where the gap between rich and poor continues to grow.

Tuesday, May 14 We pray for families rising above poverty with educational opportunities and vocational training offered through PWS&D's support.

Wednesday, May 15 We pray for the members of the Women's Missionary Society, that they will connect with former friends and make new friends at the 110th Anniversary Celebration and that these friendships will continue for many years to come.

Thursday, May 16 We pray for Winnipeg Inner City Missions as it works to build a brighter future where individuals, children, and their families in Winnipeg's inner city have greater opportunities to break the cycle of poverty.

Friday, May 17 (International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia) We pray for an end to hatred and discrimination that targets LGBTQ12+ people. As a church, we commit to working for the flourishing of all people.

Saturday, May 18 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Superior.