



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 in person (with singing), as well as through Zoom, YouTube, and this printable PDF.¹ 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.

Zoom Prayer Group: Wednesday at 6:30 a.m.

[us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)
[pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNIUrUT09)

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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¹ 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 Jesus 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



Prayer 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.²

² 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.

♪ Hymn: Abide with Me.....pg 8 (794)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=deJDkU6qiGE

✠ 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?

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.

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,³ 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."⁴ Perhaps the idea of resurrection of our body is scary - especially if you have to wrestle with your own

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

⁴ 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

5 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.

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=8VjUhzSH_rc

🗣️ 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: kensingtonchurch.ca**. 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.

🧎 Prayers 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

...for them to know they are part of the family

and to be treated like they are loved.

♪ Hymn: [How great thou art.....pg 9 \(332\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IT8vkjEZSzs)
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.



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.

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All hail the power of Jesus' name

MILES LANE 8 6 8 6 with repeat

A /C# D A/C# E A B7/F# E A/C# D A/C# /E E A

1. All hail the power of Je-sus' name; let an-gels pros-trate fall;
 2. Crown him, ye mar-tyrs of your God, who from his al-tar call;
 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,
 5. Let eve-ry tribe and eve-ry tongue, re-spon-sive to the call,

/C# D A/C# Bm6 A B E A

bring forth the roy-al di-a-dem to
 ex-tol the Stem of Jes-se's Rod, and
 hail him who saves you by his grace, and crown him,
 go, spread your tro-phies at his feet, and
 lift high the u-ni-ver-sal song, and

F#m E A D A/E E 7 A

crown him, crown him, crown him Lord of all.

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

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Abide with me

EVENTIDE 10 10 10 10

1. A-bide with me! Fast falls the ev-en-tide;
 2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit-tle day;
 3. I need thy pres-ence eve-ry pass-ing hour;

the dark-ness deep-ens, Lord, with me a-bide;
 earth's joys grow dim; its glo-ries pass a-way;
 what but thy grace can foil the tempt-er's power?

when oth-er help-ers fail and com-forts flee,
 change and de-cay in all a-round I see:
 Who like thy-self my guide and stay can be?

help of the help-less, oh a-bide with me.
 O thou who chang-est not, a-bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun-shine, oh a-bide with me.

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.

5. 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

O STORE GUD 11 10 11 10 with refrain (10 8 10 8)

Bb F7/C Bb/D Eb Em7b5 Edim

1. O Lord my God! when I in awe-some won-der con-sid-er
2. When through the woods and for-est glades I wan-der and hear the
3. And when I think that God, his Son not spar-ing, sent him to
4. When Christ shall come with shout of ac-cla-ma-tion and take me

Bb/F F6 F7 Bb

all the worlds thy hands have made, I see the stars, I
birds sing sweet-ly in the trees, when I look down from
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross, my
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in

F7/C Bb/DEb Em7b5 Edim Bb/F F6 F7

hear the roll-ing thun-der, thy power through-out the u-ni-verse dis-
loft-y moun-tain gran-deur and hear the brook, and feel the gen-tle
bur-den glad-ly bear-ing, he bled and died to take a-way my
hum-ble ad-o-ra-tion, and there pro-claim, my God, how great thou

Bb Bb7/D Eb Ebdim Eb Bb

played, breeze, then sings my soul, my Sav-iour God, to thee,
sin, art!

/F F7 F F7 Bb Bb7/D

How great thou art! how great thou art! Then sings my soul, my

Eb Ebdim Eb Bb F7/C Bb/D Eb6 G/D Cm F7 Bb

Sav-iour God, to thee, How great thou art! how great thou art!

Words: Carl Gustav Boberg; translation, Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989); †

Music: Swedish folk melody; harmony, Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)

Words: English translation, copyright © Manna Music Inc., 1955, 1981. All rights reserved. Used by permission (ASCAP), Ojibway, copyright © Stanley Williams Music: harmony, copyright © Manna Music Inc., 1955, 1981. All rights reserved. Used by permission (ASCAP)

D A7 A

1. Shall we gath-er at the riv-er, where bright an-gel feet have trod,
 2. On the bos-om of the riv-er, where the Sav-iour King we own,
 3. 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;

D A 7 D

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 of peace.

Refrain G (dim) D A7 D

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

G (dim) D A 7 D

gath-er with the saints at the riv-er that flows by the throne of God.

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

MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, May 12

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.



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 LGBTQI2+ 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.