

### Kensington Presbyterian Church Growing in faith and sharing God's love since 1786

# Just another ordinary day June 9, 2024

WELCOME, we come to you from the un-ceded lands of the Kanien'kehá:ka Nation.

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. 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).

### Announcements

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

Choir: Sunday mornings at 9:45.

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

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

Final Friday's fabulously friendly food & film: of the season pizza at 6:30 pm followed by

Willow: A movie about what can happen when you help somebody in need... in a world of monsters and evil queens. RSVP with Peter appreciated.



Holy Ground - M Moyers

**Drop Box:** Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry, diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands, and clothes & accessories for the New Hope Boutique.

# Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559.....info@Kensingtonchurch.ca Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor)......Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca 514-773-4620 Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director).....zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

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



# Approaching God

A L

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>

In Christ, the God of heaven has made God's home on earth.

Christ dwells among us and is one with us.

Highest of all creation, he lives among the least.

He journeys with the rejected and welcomes the weary.

Come now, all who thirst,

and drink the water of life.

Come now, all who hunger,

and be filled with good things.

Come now, all who seek,

and be warmed by the fire of love.

☐ Hymn: Sing praise to God......pg 10 (327)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aoyCWqCxGW4



GA 2024

Prayer of Approach<sup>3</sup>

Merciful God, lover of all humankind, through the revelation of your word,

by the guiding of your spirit,

we find ourselves in the midst of your story.

Your story is one of attentiveness to the cries of your people.

Your story is one of justice

for those who are oppressed and enslaved.

Your story is one of liberation from bondage and hope for the future.

Your story is the story of love breaking into the brokenness of our world.

Because the world is broken in ways we see, and in ways we don't, ...and so are we.

Please forgive us for the ways that we break relationships, and carry on the pain of the past...

May your Spirit help to heal, and to become a means of healing for those who are broken and the brokenness in creation.

Lord, please shape us into the prayer Jesus gave us:

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

<sup>2</sup> Worship Sourcebook 1.2.35

<sup>3</sup> adapted from a prayer provided by Victor Kim for GA 2024

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.

Assurance of Pardon
Hear the good news...
God the Creator brings you new life,
forgives and redeems you.
Take hold of this forgiveness,
and live your life in the Spirit of Jesus.
Amen.



# Listening to God

\* Children's Time

Does anyone remember what picture we have on our sign? (Burning Bush).

This is a great story about when Moses is out in the middle of nowhere and meets God - in a bush that is burning... but not being burnt - which is pretty weird.

There's a bunch of good things about this story, but if I tell you all those you'll miss Sunday School with Carol. One thing I didn't put in the sermon is Moses' sandals. Are you surprised the Bible mentions Moses' sandals?

When Moses comes close to the Burning Bush God tells Moses to take off his Sandals because this is Holy ground (meaning is special for God, and it's respectful not to wear your sandals there). You know what Moses does? ... covers his face. What do you think God did then? put Moses in a 'time-out' for not following the rules? left to find somebody who would do what they are asked? Nope. God loved Moses and kept on trying to work with him - even when Moses got it wrong.

God's like that with us too. Even if we get something wrong, God still wants to be with us and help us.<sup>4</sup>

prayer
Dear Jesus, help us to notice you,
to respect you,
and to do what you ask.

Amen.



Begging Jesus T Schmalz

For a family worship service you can do at home with kids, check out: worshipingwithchildren.blogspot.com/2020/05/worshiping-at-home-may-17-2020-getting\_11.html

# Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds through the power of your Holy Spirit, so that our faith may grow for the journey you have for us. Amen.

# Intro to the readings

For those that saw my sermon at General Assembly, there's a lot of overlap... but it's also different enough that I don't think you'll fall asleep.

Our first reading will actually be three short pieces from the Gospel According to Matthew. As you hear them, consider whether these are Holy moments.

Our main passage is from Exodus. The story starts a few generations before when Joseph helps Egypt prepare for a long famine, and is also able to help his own people (the Israelites) with a home and food.

The Israelites immigrants got the menial jobs - literally slave work. They were "oppressed so hard they could not stand." However, this didn't stop them from having lots of babies. So much so the Pharaoh was worried they might take over - so he ordered the baby boys killed. Moses was placed by his mother in the waters of life (the Nile) where he was found, and adopted, by an Egyptian princess. After growing up as a prince in the Palace Moses tried to become a prince and saviour to his oppressed people... which went badly. Not only did he kill an Egyptian official, but the Israelites didn't trust him either.

Failing as a prince of Egypt and a saviour of the Israelites, Moses took off. He ended up settling with the Midianites and marrying into the family of their priest.

Our psalm is about this whole story, though we'll only read the

highlights... and some good reminders for us.



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.

Matthew 13: 31-32 Matthew 21: 28-31 Matthew 4: 18-19 Exodus 3: 1-12

Psalm 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b



Sermon: Just an ordinary day

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

There is a lot going on in our short passage from Exodus. I want to start by acknowledging a couple of things that are lurking in the background, but are not what this story is about.

We have God telling Moses that 'I have seen the abuse and heard their cry - indeed, I know their pain and have come to deliver them.' ...did you wonder 'What's taken so long?' I can think of a number of situations that leave me asking a question found in many psalms, "How long, O Lord?" Today's passage though is about

Another theme that may leave you wondering is when God talks of the Israelites moving into a land already populated by various peoples. Here in Canada we are learning more and more about the trauma that colonization brought here... and elsewhere. However, this is also another story.<sup>7</sup>

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

one that happens after the receive the 10 Commandments. I wonder what the world would be like if the Israelites had moved into the Promised Land and followed the commandments, such as 'do not kill', and 'do not covet'.

Today's story is about Moses. Life in Midian is going pretty good. He's married. His father-in-law is important. His life has a routine. He gets up. Takes the sheep out to find some food and water. It's all very ordinary. Today he takes the sheep to the backside of the wilderness - Mount Horeb. I'm assuming he doesn't know the name means 'Parched Mountain', because if so, it's an unlikely place to look for life.

Although, that's what he finds as he's following along. Something catches his eye. There's a bush. Being a parched land, it's probably pretty scrawny - but there's something about it. It might be a trick of the heat, or dehydration, but there seems to be a flickering. He pays attention and notices that it's burning, but not. It seems to be on fire, yet the fire isn't consuming it. He's curious. He puts aside what he should be doing and embraces the moment ...and what a moment it was. Moses encounters the Living God, creator of the Universe, ...in a scrawny bush.



Mount Horeb, Sinai - F Frith

Moses may not have been a good prince of Egypt, or a good saviour of his birth people. He doesn't even seem to be a good shepherd - but here he teaches us two good lessons in how to encounter God.

The first is that this happened on an ordinary day in an ordinary place.

There are times and places where you might expect an encounter with God. Sunday morning in worship would be appropriate. Even just in a worship space. I know some people give a little sigh when remembering the old Sanctuary. They recall how it just felt Holy. And they're right. It's easier to notice God in places where noticing God has been practised.

But God isn't just in those places. God is also in the ordinary. In this case, a scrawny bush on a parched mountain. Later God will be in a human baby who grows up teaching about weeds and idol sons, and what qualifications you need to be accepted by God. It seems God doesn't behave just as we want or expect, as so many stories show.

This is wonderful, and a little unnerving. You can encounter God anytime - anywhere.

Consider this... not as a theory, but where have you encountered God?

. . .

The encounter could be something big that turned your life around, or small...

For example, I remember a simple conversation at a lunch after church once. There were a few things special about this. It was the last service of a congregation. I'd joined them a few months before as their musician. I journeyed with them in the bitterness and grief as closing became inevitable. The conversation was simple. I'd heard the same thing before, but this

time it was different. A wise elder member of the congregation asked me if I'd consider becoming a minister. This time it felt like I was given a puzzle piece that fit my life and made the picture - and I didn't even know I was a puzzle.

I pray you have also noticed smaller encounters. Perhaps singing a hymn, petting a passing pouch,

or stopping to smell the flowers.

I know somebody who worked at a camp and said that she had her best God moments on her knees ...cleaning toilets.

Big or small, it's important to remember these moments - and to share your stories. You'll discover similar experiences - which is affirming, ...and the more unique ones that open our imaginations. This all helps us to be on the lookout for God.

Which is another important part of this story of Moses encountering God in the Burning Bush - and in our own narratives. We need to be on the lookout for God.

How do you pay attention? especially when God can show up anywhere?

. . .

Part of noticing God is to be in the moment.

This is hard.

We're all busy, but I think Moses is actually a good example here when he allows his curiosity to put aside his duties and pay attention.

God might reach out to you through something physical - such as the time I was walking down Godfrey on my way to a visit. While looking for cars at a corner I noticed the amazingly huge and glorious magnolia tree bursting with blooms. The wonder of God's creation and creativity filled me with joy and peace. As I

stood there entranced by God's creation, our local postie stopped and looked up too. As we stared he shared that he walked past the tree every day, but had never noticed it before. Putting aside what my need to get to a visit led both of us to encountering God. This started a relationship which I've intentionally deepened (with God's help) from nods of greeting, to the weather observations, to sharing hopes & disappointments.

But God's spirit isn't limited to physical objec Do people come to your mind for no particular reason? Sometimes when I follow up with a call they're as puzzled as I am about why, but often I find they needed a call - we experience an encounter by God.



But how do you make this happen? Well, you can't make God do anything. However, God does want to be noticed. God wants to do things with us. God went out to find Moses and get his attention. We also believe that God is everywhere, so the trick is more about noticing God. Curiosity helps, as does stopping and paying attention when there might be something going on. Your ability to sense God's presence can be helped with prayer. Talking with others about possible encounters. If you don't know how to start the talk, try using the FaithTalk questions found in our Sunday worship services (PDF available on our website<sup>8</sup>). This is also what we do at Jesus & Java - practice seeing God in our lives. If you would like somebody to talk with, or a new group, please let me know.

There's another part to this story with Moses and the Burning Bush. Encountering God can be wonderful and mysterious - and

kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities

intimidating and scary. Like with Moses, an unexpected time with God can bring radically unexpected changes.

We can tell from this story that Moses was afraid and intimidated. I expect he also felt grief at the loss of this routine life and the security it held. But God has been reminding him that he's not alone.

While he may not have known God before this meeting, God wasn't new at helping. This is the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac,

the God of Calvin,

the God of Bonhoeffer,

the God of Mother Theresa,

the God of ...all those who have come before you, and are sitting beside you.

and then God says, "I am with you."



General Assembly 2024

This is a good story, and not just because it's got a cool burning bush. It reminds us that God isn't just in our buildings, but can be active anywhere. We're reminded that we could just walk past God thinking it's just some trick of the heat or dehydration... or we can make time to wonder at those mysteries that flicker near us. We can be afraid of change, or remember that God has prepared others to help ...and even better - God is with us.

To God be all the glory Amen.



**□** Hymn: I'll love the Lord.....pg 12 (573)

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: Do you have any memories attached to the Burning Bush story?

Values: What does the Burning Bush mean to you?

Wonder: What do you think it says about God that the Almighty Creator of the Universe appeared in a

shrivelled shrub?

Etching: Can you share a time when you felt God was present in an expected way? in an unexpected way?

Values: How do you try to notice God or make room for God?

Actions: As a part of your daily prayer, spend a few minutes just going over your day and looking for God.

Prayer: ...that you will meet God this week.

# 🛊 Spirit Sightings

This week Rose and I were at General Assembly. It started Sunday night and ended Thursday morning. We had meetings morning, afternoon & evening. It may sound like a drag, but in those meetings, the reports, the daily worship, walking the buildings, and eating meals... we saw God at work. I don't think this was like Moses and the Burning Bush. We all expected that God would be at work in what the Presbyterian Church in Canada was up to - not in an arrogant way, simply in a humble and faithful way.

The big theme for me this year was the damage done through colonization. We heard about this on Sunday from the outgoing moderator, Rev. Mary Fountain (Cree from northern Saskatchewan) - not as a lecture, but as an ever-present part of life. We heard about the damage of colonization from the guests associated with Palestine (last year had guests from Israel), and a Canadian Ukrainian priest. The big moment though was accepting and delivering the new apology by the Presbyterian Church in Canada to the Indigenous Peoples. We'll explore this more another time, but this apology was a response to our growing awareness that the Confession given in 1994 wasn't enough.

We saw how the Holy Spirit worked to nurture the church into more love, hope and healing.



General Assembly 2024

# ★ 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.

# **Prayers** of the people

God of presence,

You are with us here in worship

...and with us in our everyday lives too.

May your Spirit help us to see you around us,

in us,

and in others...

O Lord, open our eyes, that we may see the needs of others.

Open our ears, that we may hear their cries.

Open our hearts, that they need not be without help.<sup>9</sup>

We pray for those
who need to meet you...
who need love...
who need hope...
and who need healing...

<sup>9</sup> parts are adapted from a prayer provided by Victor Kim for GA 2024

God of love, God of grace, God of justice, you call your church to enter more fully into your story. Help us to join you in creating your Kin-dom.

In Jesus name.

#### Amen.

☐ Hymn: With the Lord as my (our) Guide.....pg 13 (574)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=adpi8rpMiYQ



General Assembly 2024 Rainbow

# \* Benediction

As we continue our journey
let us remember what we've heard
about paying attention to ordinary things,
because they can become holy,
and looking for faith into those changes,
after all, the fire didn't burn out the bush.

and may we know - in our souls
that God is above us and beneath us
before us and behind us
walking beside us
and living within us.



Amen.

### Rev. Peter Rombeek Kensington Presbyterian Church

# MISSION MOMENT

### Sunday, June 9

Persistent airstrikes in Gaza have caused extensive destruction, resulting in numerous casualties and displacements. Through the ACT Alliance, PWS&D supports the Middle East Council of Churches Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees. Their staff in the south of



Gaza provide psychosocial interventions, psychological first-aid training, hygiene kits, and cash distributions to address trauma, limited water access and financial needs. The Rafah Clinic ensures access to essential health care services, while shelters in churches receive support with food and basic supplies. The overwhelming need for ongoing support remains critical as the conflict continues to inflict damage on lives, infrastructure, and homes, depriving communities of essential resources like water, medical supplies and food.

#### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, June 9** We pray for people facing persecution because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. We give thanks for organizations around the world that advocate for the well-being of LGBTQI+ people and aid those seeking refuge.

**Monday, June 10** We pray for those who work to provide food that strengthens our bodies so that we can love and serve God and one another.

**Tuesday, June 11** We pray for the Kanesatake and Kahnawake First Nations, for their well-being and success in healing initiatives in their communities. Special blessings for the work of the Kahnawake Cultural Centre and their language reclaiming program.

**Wednesday, June 12** We pray for the work of The Sharing Ministry, a regional ministry initiative in the Presbytery of the Northwest, and for its minister, the Rev. Mark Chiang.

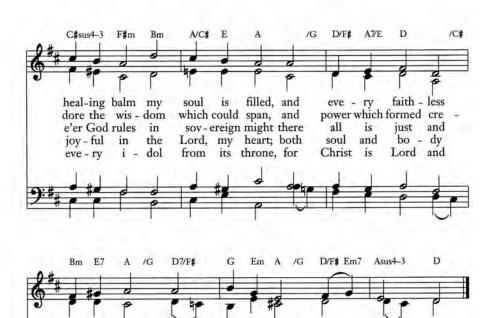
**Thursday, June 13** We pray for presbyteries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, that they have a spirit of cooperation and collegiality as they oversee the work of ministers and congregations.

**Friday, June 14** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery Peace River.

**Saturday, June 15** We give thanks for those who faithfully serve our theological schools, the administrators, building superintendents, librarians, faculty and staff who attend to the details of the success of each one of our students.

# 327 Sing praise to God who reigns above





Words: German, Johann Jakob Schütz (1640–1690), translation, Frances Elizabeth Cox (1812–1897), alt Music: Bohemian Brethren's Kirchengesänge 1566

God all praise

and

glo

Words: this version, copyright @ The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997 Music: public domain

to

mur-mur stilled:

a-tion's plan:

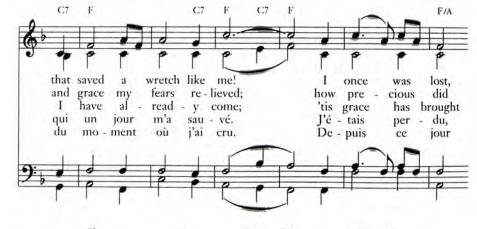
all is right:

bear your part: Christ a - lone:

### 670

# Amazing grace







- 4. The Lord has promised good to me: this word my hope secures; God will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures.
- 5. What thanks I owe you, and what love— 4. Quand nous aurons pendant mille ans a boundless, endless storeshall echo through the realms above when time shall be no more.
- When we've been there ten thousand years. bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.
- 3. Dans mes épreuves et mes labeurs suffisante est sa grâce. Je peux toujours compter sa faveur à chaque heure qui passe.
- célébré ses louanges, nous pourrons comme au commencemen lui offrir nos hommages.

#### Chinese (Mandarin)

1. Qí yì en dián! Hé dèng gan tián! Wó zuì vẻ để shè miản! Qián wỏ shư sàng, jtn bèi xún huí; Xia yan jin dè kàn jiàn.

#### Mohawk

1. Ioh ne ra a kwat ra o ten raht ne se wa ah tsia tah kwen wa ka a tsia a tah ton ha tie es kwe ses ha tsia a tah tsen rion.

#### Cree

1. Mamaskach sakihiwewin Kapimachihiwet Pikwataw nikiwaihon Anoch maka niwap

#### Ojibway

1. Kihcishawencikewin kaapimaaci' ikoyaan Ninkakippiinkwenaapan hsa Nookom itahsh niwaap

Words: John Newton (1725-1807); v.5, William Cowper (1731-1800); v.6, A Collection of Sacred Ballads 1790; Mohawk, Josephine S. (Konwenee) Day (1905-) Music: Columbian Harmony 1829 Words: public domain Music: public domain

### I'll love the Lord

MACDOWELL 11 10 D 14 D with repeats



or use B7/F#



Words: Iona Community (Scotland) Music: Iona Community (Scotland)

Words: copyright © WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), 1987. Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications Inc., exclusive agent. All rights reserved.

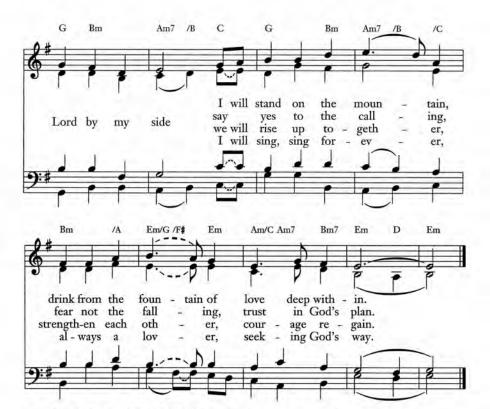
Music: copyright © WGRG The Iona Community (Scotland), 1987. Used by permission of G.I.A. Publications Inc., exclusive agent. All rights reserved.

CCLI #4440603 One License #A-719461

### 574

### With the Lord as my guide





Words: Jim Strathdee (1941–) Music: Jim Strathdee (1941–) CCLI #4440603

Words: copyright © Desert Flower Music, 1977. Used by permission. Music: copyright © Desert Flower Music, 1977. Used by permission.