



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

Road Trip

June 16, 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 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).

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?](https://us04web.zoom.us/j/773730107?pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmphNlUrUT09)

[pwd=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmphNlUrUT09](https://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

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.

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



Road Ahead - Rombeek

Contacts

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Approaching God



Lighting of the Christ Candle

Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.



Call to worship²

In your wisdom, O God, you call us here to worship you.

We gather, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be fully alive with your life abundant,
ready to listen and respond
with heart, soul, strength, and mind.

We listen, alive to the Word of God.

You call us to be always watchful for your Word of wisdom,
sometimes startling and unexpected,
sometimes still and quiet,
but always dwelling among us.

We watch and wait for the Word of God.

♪ Hymn: Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us.....pg 12 (647)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PGsvbqErM2A



Aquamen - Phil Irish



Prayer of Approach³

Dear Lord,

We thank you for your presence in these moments,
through the simplicity of prayer, scripture & song - through
worship

In the words that we will hear, may your Holy Spirit remind us
of your fidelity,

of your faithfulness,

of your trustworthiness.

May the stories remind us of your love

for us,

for our neighbours,

for everything.

Help us to feel you standing beside us
offering words of love, hope & healing.

In Jesus name

Amen.



Listening to God



Children's Time

As many of you heard a couple of weeks ago (but not in the print version), the Sunday School has been learning about Abraham and his family. Abraham is the founding father of the people who became the Jews, and through them, those who became Christian. He was also the father of those who became Muslim. They looked at the origin stories in the Bible, and some of our similarities and differences now. This week they are going to share a bit about what they did, and the song 'Father Abraham'.

prayer

Dear Jesus, help us to look for you in ourselves,
and in others - even if they're different.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Deep in the shadows of the past.....pg 10 (510)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=OfBnZOC8Tj4



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
so that we may see your Spirit in our journey.

Amen.



Intro to the readings

We'll have two readings today. The first is a lovely psalm has an interesting order. Remember how it starts as we get further into it. The last parts of the psalm are the present - but they remember the first part.

The other reading I'll tell you about after.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.
[Psalm 40](#)



Sermon: Road Trip

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

Summer is coming. We've got warm to hot weather. School is out or ending. It's a time when patterns change.

What's that look like for you?

more time in the park, or your backyard?
more activities and get together,
or less as regular groups take a break?
do you take in the JazzFest, ...or another festival?
do you travel?

I'm not sure how your patterns change, but I expect they do. I hope it involves connecting with others, finding some peace, and creating some stories.

A friend of mine likes to travel, take photos, and then tell the stories. This is interesting, but rather long as they don't edit the photos - and with modern technology it's easy to take lots and lots and lots of photos. For those of us who weren't there, it can be hard to connect to places and people we don't know. Would you tune out?

You might have a similar feeling with today's Bible passage. It is the second last chapter in the book of Acts. It's full of people and places that haven't showed up yet in either Luke or its sequel: Acts. There are times when the writer just says Paul spent a year somewhere, or travelled to another place. Here we get the loads of details. If we kept going into the last chapter this trip would go on for 58 verses - about 6% of the book of Acts - and for what? Why include it?

Let's save that question until after we hear it.
For now, the question is if you will pay attention to it all.

The idea for all this comes from the Rev. Mavis Currie, the minister at Knox in St. Thomas Ontario. At General Assembly she divided the room into 7 parts and journeyed between them as she read Paul's travel log. Each location had a line to say when

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

she mentioned it. It'll be easier for the camera if I stay put and we'll divide you in two. The window side will read the yellow, and the piano side the blue. For the most part you can follow along... although some names come back again.

Let's practice...

Adramyttium = off we go!

Sidon = Time for a party!

Myra = Change ahead!

Crete = better late than never!

Phoenix = Paul, you don't know what you are talking about

Clauda = Batten down the hatches!

Adriatic Sea = Don't give up!

Malta = We're not there yet

Now, whenever you hear one of these places, please say the line.



Paul's Cruise to Rome

Acts 27⁵

^{27:1-2} As soon as arrangements were complete for our sailing to Italy, Paul and some other prisoners were placed under the supervision of a centurion named Julius, a member of an elite guard. We boarded a ship from **Adramyttium** (**off we go!**) that was bound for Ephesus and ports west.

³ The next day we put in at **Sidon** (**Time for a party!**). Julius treated Paul most decently—let him get off the ship and enjoy the hospitality of his friends there.

⁴⁸ Out to sea again, we sailed north under the protection of the northeast shore of Cyprus because winds out of the west were against us, and then along the coast westward to the port of **Myra** (**Change ahead!**). There the centurion found an Egyptian ship headed for Italy and transferred us on board.

We ran into bad weather and found it impossible to stay on course. After much difficulty, we finally made it to the southern coast of the island of **Crete** (**better late than never!**) and docked at Good Harbour .

⁹⁻¹⁰ By this time we had lost a lot of time. We had passed the autumn equinox, so it would be stormy weather from now on through the winter, too dangerous for sailing.

Paul warned, “I see only disaster ahead for cargo and ship—to say nothing of our lives!—if we put out to sea now.”

^{12,11} But it was not the best harbour for staying the winter. A few miles on was **Phoenix** (**Paul, you don't know what you are talking about**), which was a more suitable winter harbour (facing southwest and northwest). The centurion set Paul's warning aside and let the ship's pilot and owner talk him into trying for the next harbour.

5 mostly from The Message, with some NRSV mixed in

¹³⁻¹⁵ When a gentle southerly breeze came up, thinking they had obtained just what they wanted, they weighed anchor, and coasted along, hugging the shores. But soon a violent wind, called the northeaster, swept down upon us from the land. We lost all control of the ship. The boat was like a cork in the **storm**.

¹⁶⁻¹⁷ We came under the lee of the small island named **Clauda (Batten down the hatches!)** and managed to get a lifeboat ready and reef the sails. But rocky shoals prevented us from getting close. We only managed to avoid them by throwing out drift anchors.

¹⁸⁻²⁰ Next day, out on the high seas again and badly damaged now by **the storm**, we dumped the cargo overboard.



Jonah and the cave of the earth - Baumgartner

The third day the sailors lightened the ship further by throwing off all the tackle and provisions. It had been many days

since we had seen either sun or stars. Wind and waves were battering us unmercifully, and we lost all hope of rescue.

²¹⁻²² With our appetite for both food and life long gone, when Paul came forward and said, “Friends, you really should have listened to me back in **Crete (Better late than never!)**. We could have avoided all this trouble and trial. But there’s no need to dwell on that. From now on, things are looking up! I can assure you that there’ll not be a single drowning among us, although I can’t say as much for the ship... ²³⁻²⁶ “Last night God’s angel stood at my side, an angel of this God I serve, saying to me, ‘*Don’t give up, Paul. You’re going to stand before Caesar—and everyone sailing with you is also going to make it.*’ So, dear friends, take heart. I believe God will do exactly as I was told. But we’re going to shipwreck on some island or other.”

²⁷⁻²⁹ On the fourteenth night, adrift somewhere on the **Adriatic Sea (Don’t give up!)** at about midnight the sailors sensed that we were approaching land. Taking a sounding, they measured a depth of 120 feet, and shortly after that ninety feet. Afraid that we were about to run aground, they threw out four anchors and prayed for daylight.

³⁰⁻³² Some of the sailors tried to jump ship. They let down the lifeboat, pretending they were going to set out more anchors from the bow. Paul saw through their plan and told the centurion and his soldiers, “If these sailors don’t stay with the ship, we’re all going down.” So the soldiers cut the lines to the lifeboat and let it drift off.

³³⁻³⁴ With dawn about to break, Paul called everyone together and proposed breakfast: “This is the fourteenth day we’ve gone without food. None of us has felt like eating! But I urge you to

eat something now. You'll need strength for the rescue ahead. You're going to come out of this without even a scratch!"

³⁵⁻³⁸ He broke the bread, gave thanks to God, passed it around, and they all ate heartily—276 of us, all told!

³⁹⁻⁴¹ At daybreak, no one recognized the land—but then they did notice a bay with a nice beach. They decided to try to run the ship up on the beach. They cut the anchors, loosed the tiller, raised the sail, and ran before the wind toward the beach.

But we didn't make it. Still far from shore, we hit a reef and the ship began to break up.

⁴²⁻⁴⁴ The soldiers decided to kill the prisoners so none could escape by swimming, but the centurion, determined to save Paul, stopped them. He gave orders for anyone who could swim to dive in and go for it, and for the rest to grab a plank. Everyone made it to shore safely.

Once, we were safely ashore, we found out this island was **Malta**. (We're not there yet).



Beloved - Carolyn C Brown

and it goes on. It takes half of the last chapter for Paul to reach Rome. (and apparently the Three Taverns⁶ near Cisterna is a good place to meet friends.) It feels like an odd amount of travel details for a book about the start of the church. We don't have new converts, or connections with old friends, or power struggles between Jerusalem and missionaries, or debates about who is able to join or how to be a good follower of the Jesus way. Instead we have a detailed travelogue.

Why?

This trip could easily be summarized. Paul was put on a boat to Rome. It was a rough trip, but after being shipwrecked on Malta they made it. No one was even hurt.

Other trips get summarized.

Why spend so much time at the end of Acts to tell this story?

...because this is the story of the church. Not just the early church trying to figure out how to live the Jesus way, but the Christians now.

How many of us have been living with a comfortable predictability to our lives - only to have a gale-force wind come ripping down out of nowhere? Perhaps a little miscommunication that blows up, or a diagnosis, or a death...

How many of us have felt lost at sea, with no sun or stars to guide us?

...and perhaps some saying "I told you so." Not one of Paul's better moments, but whether we like to admit it or not, we know they were right...

How many of us have not felt or heard an angel by their side, ...but have leaned into the faith of someone who has? ...

⁶ according to other records, a highway stop combining restaurant, hotel & blacksmith

This looong story, that is almost the last word in Acts, is more than just page filler or an indulgent travelogue. It's a reminder near the end that God is in our story - with storms we can predict, and those we can't, with times when we're blown completely off course, and moments we have to dump cargo we believe are important elements to our lives. There are times with smart alecs, and times that someone gathers us together - helping us break bread, pray, and receive hope for the journey. Whether we're in **Myra (Change ahead!)**, or **Crete (better late than never!)**, or in the middle of the **Adriatic Sea (Don't give up!)** - remember that God will not abandon us, even if we find ourselves worried on a beach in **Malta (We're not there yet!)**

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding to God

🎵 Hymn Sing: This is a time when we sing several hymn requests.

You can join in on YouTube:

www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w

💬 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: Start by sharing some good vacation stories.

Etching: Share times from your journey that compare with Acts 27. Perhaps an experience with a 'smart Alec' (or as a smart Alec), a time of unexpected change, having to get rid of something precious: an object, or activity, ...

a time of struggling for hope,
or finding it in the storm.

Wonder: How could you become more in tune with the great navigator (God)?

Wonder: Where is God directing your life?

Wonder: Where is God directing Kensington?

Prayer: ...to find or be the person who feels God's presence and can share God's hope.

✧ Spirit Sightings

Last we were running late, so we didn't get to this. But a little over a week ago Rose M 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.



General Assembly 2024

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.

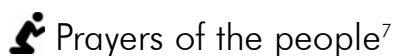


Offering

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 people⁷

O God,
we come before you in humility and with honesty,
confessing that we are afraid,
afraid of many things.

We fear the future, what's coming next?

What's coming next for our world with so much suffering?

What's coming next for our country in such polarized times?

What's coming next for our families with so much pressure?

What's coming next for me?

We fear we won't know the answer,
that we can't know the answer.

We fear the pain of loss,
the loss of the familiar,
the loss of certainty,
the loss of peace.

How do we not be afraid
when so many storms rage around us?

You remind us that even when hope seems distant,
when peace seems but a dream,
you break into our world in unexpected, amazing ways.
The calm of the waters after the storm passes,
the brilliance of the stars on a clear night,
the smile of a stranger,
the sacrifice of love,
the miracle of resurrection.

You remind us
to look for people who can see you in the world
and to listen to them.

We thank you for them,
and for our Christ,
for his actions and for his words—
for love and the promise to be near,
which are our strength and our riches.

These our prayers,
we bring with the word he taught us:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,**

⁷ adapted from a prayer written by the Rev. Victor Kim for our General Assembly worship 2024

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: Will your anchor hold.....pg 11 (744)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=PTfypuXwrMA

General Assembly 2024 Rainbow

✦ Benediction

*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 all.
 Amen.*



Am Salama reflects on her life in Sudan before the outbreak of war. Following a political crisis in 2023, she and her family, once prosperous farmers and restaurant owners, were forced to flee their bustling town in East Darfur due to escalating tensions. The war separated Am Salama from her husband, who stayed behind to care for his blind mother. Facing numerous challenges during their journey to South Sudan, including being robbed of the little money and clothing she had managed to bring with her and frequent illness, Am Salama and her children found refuge at the Wedwil Refugee Camp. The safety and food assistance they received at the camp, supported by PWS&D, played a critical role in their survival.



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, June 16 (National Indigenous Peoples Sunday) We pray for the NIMC (National Indigenous Ministries Council) and the leaders and ministers of the eight Indigenous ministries of the PCC. We pray for blessings and healing of the leaders and communities they serve across Canada.

Monday, June 17 We pray for the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre as they prepare to open their doors with an invitation to view hundreds of artefacts and promote our denomination's heritage.

Tuesday, June 18 We give thanks and ask God's strength, wisdom and joy for the women and men who serve as the Executive of the Atlantic Mission Society.

Wednesday, June 19 We give thanks for Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry as it provides prayer, crisis counselling, nourishment, clothing and a weekly worship Circle to people on the margins of society.

Thursday, June 20 (World Refugee Day) We pray for peace everywhere and remember in prayer families forced from their homes because of war and persecution. We ask God to encourage the hearts of refugees on their journey to find stability and peace.

Friday, June 21 (National Indigenous Peoples Day) We give thanks for Indigenous leaders who nurture and strengthen their communities and the whole nation, and pray for their well-being.

Saturday, June 22 As warmer days appear and as the end of June brings holiday time and respite for people, may they, with guidance from God, find the meaningful and restful time they are seeking.

Deep in the shadows of the past

KINGSFOLD 8 6 8 6 D CMD

Em /D C D/C G/B Em D G/B D7/A G Am C

1. Deep in the shadows of the past, far out from settled
2. While others bowed to change-less gods, they met a mys - ter -
3. From Ex - o - dus to Pen - te - cost the prom - ise changed and
4. For all the writ - ings that sur - vived, for lead - ers long a -

Dsus4- 3 G/B Csus2- 1 /B Am7 D G/B Em6 D (/C G/B Am6)

lands, some no - mads trav - eled with their God a -
y, in - vis - i - ble, with - out a name, "I
grew, while some, re - mem - ber - ing the past, re -
go, who sift - ed, cop - ied and pre - served the

G /B C6 Am6 Em Bm Em D7/F# G C6 D G

cross the des - ert sands. The dawn - ing hope of hu - man - kind
AM WHAT I WILL BE"; and by their tents, a - round their fires,
cord - ed what they knew, or with their let - ters and la - ments,
Bi - ble that we know, give thanks, and find its sto - ry yet

G Am G/B C Dsus4-3 G/B Csus2 /B Am

by them was sensed and shown: a prom - ise call - ing
in sto - ry, song and law, they praised, re - mem - bered,
their proph - e - cy and praise, re - cov - ered, kin - dled
our prom - ise, strength and call, the mod - el of e -

G /F# Em7-6 D (/C G/B D7/A) G /B C6 Am6 Em

them a - head, a fu - ture yet un - known.
hand - ed on a past that prom - ised more.
and ex - pressed new hope for chang - ing days.
merg - ing faith, a - live with hope for all.

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936-) Music: English traditional; arranged by Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) CCLI #4440603

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Will your anchor hold

WILL YOUR ANCHOR HOLD 10 9 10 9 with refrain

F Bb 6 F/C C F

1. Will your an - chor hold in the storms of life, when the
2. Will your an - chor hold in the straits of fear, when the
3. Will your eyes be - hold through the morn - ing light the

C (F6) C/G G7 C C7/E F C

clouds un - fold their wings of strife? When the strong tides lift and the
break - ers roar and the reef is near? While the sur - ges rave and the
cit - y of gold and the har - bour bright? Will you an - chor safe by the

7 F F7 Bb F/C C7 F

ca - bles strain, will your an - chor drift or firm re - main?
wild winds blow, shall the an - gry waves then your bark o'er - flow?
heaven - ly shore, when life's storms are past for - ev - er - more?

Refrain F Bb/F F

We have an an - chor that keeps the soul

F/A F C F /Eb

stead - fast and sure while the bil - lows roll, fast - ened to the rock which

Bb/D F/C Bb (F) Bb F/C C7 F

can - not move, ground - ed firm and deep in the Sav - iour's love!

Words: Priscilla Jane Owens (1829–1907) Music: William James Kirkpatrick (1838–1921);
harmony, Francis B. Westbrook (1903–1975)

Words: public domain Music: harmony, copyright © Oxford University Press

647 Lead us, heavenly Father, lead us

MANNHEIM 878787



1. Lead us, heaven-ly Fath-er, lead us o'er the world's tem - pest-uous sea;
2. Sav-iour, breathe for-give-ness o'er us, all our weak-ness thou dost know;
3. Spir-it of our God de-scend-ing, fill our hearts with heaven-ly joy,



guard us, guide us, keep us, feed us, for we have no help but thee,
thou didst tread this earth be - fore us, thou didst feel its keen - est woe;
love with eve - ry pas-sion blend-ing, pleas-ure that can nev - er cloy;



yet pos-sess-ing eve - ry bless-ing if our God our guide shall be.
lone and drea-ry, faint and wea - ry through the des-ert thou didst go.
thus pro-vid-ed, par-doned, guid-ed noth-ing can our peace de-stroy.



yet pos-sess-ing eve - ry bless-ing if our God our guide shall be.
lone and drea-ry, faint and wea - ry through the des-ert thou didst go.
thus pro-vid-ed, par-doned, guid-ed noth-ing can our peace de-stroy.



Words: James Edmeston (1791–1867) Music: Friedrich Filitz (1804–1876)

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Wind Blows Wherever - Phil Irish

Wise Men - R Cunningham

