

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love since 1786

Do this ...

August 4, 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. 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=eUo2M09YMEw5dkZvdm9uQmpHNlUrUT09

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

Summer Film Series: Fridays 6:30 pizza, 7 movie (please RSVP) Aug 9: Gattaca returning in the fall.

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.



To God Be the Glory - Soichi Watanabe

Contacts

Church Office: 514-486-4559info@Kensingtonchurch.ca Rev. Peter Rombeek (pastor)......Peter@Kensingtonchurch.ca 514-773-4620

Zoé Dupont-Foisy (music director) zoedupontfoisy@hotmail.com

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
We meet in the name of God,
Creator of the universe,
source of true humanity,
mother and father of all.

Amen.

We meet in the name of Jesus, Word made flesh, saviour of fallen humanity, lover of all.

Amen.

We meet in the name of the Holy Spirit, Lord and giver of life, midwife of new humanity, inspirer of all.

Amen.

Come the, eternal God Be present here, befriend us here, renew us here.²

F Prayer of Approach

God of grace,
you have given us minds to know you,
hearts to love you,
and voices to sing your praise.

Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and in truth through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.³



Breakfast on the Beach - Peter Koenig

² A Wee Worship Book, Wild Goose. 4th ed.



Listening to God

☐ Hymn: Light of the minds that know himpg 13 (355) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fizx1BNaxNE https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TOGp5sgBcH4 (familiar tune)

♣ Prayer for Illumination Lord,

> open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may know you more deeply.

Amen.

Intro to the readings

We just have two passages this week, and neither is a psalm. I had a good one and you can ask me about it later.

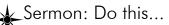
The passage from Luke will be familiar. I encourage you to listen to what is said - by Jesus and the others.

Then there's a passage from Paul's letter to the church in Corinth. Remember he had stayed with them for over a year and was responding to news that he'd heard about how they were acting. He is coming down on them hard. Why? What's going on... or should be?

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

Luke 22: 7-30a

1 Corinthians 11: 20-26



Dear Lord, please bless these words and the meditations of our hearts.⁵ Amen.

The celebration of the Lord's Supper has been a central part of the church and Christian worship since... well, since before the gospels were written. As we heard, Paul talks about it in his letter to the Corinthians, which was written before the gospels.

Why do we do it? Perhaps initially because Jesus told us to, but I think it continued because people found it had meaning beyond that of simply grabbing a bite to eat. Think of the Emmaus story with the two disciples sharing their journey with Jesus, and after recognizing him in the breaking of the bread.

Trying to understand what exactly it is that is going on, and how it should be done, has been the source of disagreement since... at least since Paul wrote to the Corinthians. Disagreements include...

- should it be a part of a full meal?
- should the bread be leavened (risen) or unleavened (flat)? ...I use flat bread because it's what we usually have at home.
- should people come to the table or be served?
- should there be one cup or individual cups?
- to dip the bread in the cup or have it separate
- does there need to be bread and wine?
- does there need to be wine, or can it be juice or water?
- how is Christ present? does the bread and wine actually change into the body and blood of Christ at the blessing? just inside you? or is Christ present in a spiritual way?

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

Psalm 19:14

- who is qualified to participate? (Some churches still have fences around the table. Once upon a time you were grilled by the Elders to see if you were good enough.)
- does any of this matter? (Some denominations more recent than Presbyterian don't have any sacraments.)

That's a long list of disagreements, and sometimes they have been quite bitter. There's even three commonly used names: The Lord's Supper, Holy Communion, and The Eucharist. The reason behind the differences and divisions is that people are trying to figure out what's going on. Or, to adapt the question that shapes the Passover meal, 'Why is this action different from all others?'

This is an important question to consider every so often. If not, celebrating Communion may stop being a celebration and just be actions you go through. Thinking about what makes the Lord's Supper special may also provide the Holy Spirit a way to open your soul to a deeper relationship with God, or just bring you some nourishment to sustain you. Let's consider what might be going on in the Lord's Supper/Holy Communion/The Eucharist.



One aspect is remembering. This links into calling it The Lord's Supper - reminding us of several things.

There's the reminder of The Last Supper and its link to the Passover. Originally this was when the Jews remembered and celebrated that God brought them from oppression to liberation. Then Jesus tweaked it and added the remembering of what he was doing - bringing them from a different form of oppression into a different idea of liberation.

This time instead of the blood of a lamb being placed on the door-post, it is the blood of Jesus on the post/cross. This time God visibly and tangibly suffers. I remember a time when this is what I focused on at communion - Jesus suffering and bleeding on the cross. It reminded me of how small my sacrifices had been. But we are to remember that it doesn't stop there, Jesus frees us from the fear of death and lives on to prepare the feast (and kingdom) to come. We are to remember hope.

I'd also like to encourage you to remember that much of this was shocking. The Jews, and many others, objected to cannibalism. One of their food laws also said that they shouldn't eat blood - and so animals were drained of blood. At dinner Jesus lifts the bread and the cup and says, 'This is my body... this is my blood.' I know a minister whose congregation is mostly a constant flow of university students - and they are often confused by this call to cannibalism. ...and this is only part of what was shocking.

It also looked like God was a failure. On the celebration of God saving the Israelites the Messiah is humiliated and killed now God can't even save one single person. Of course that changes, along with the understanding of God... but remember the shock when the day after this meal Jesus dies - and then there's the shock of God's new way of doing things: sacrifice. Jesus had talked about service, but this is taking it to a new extreme. The Lord's Supper brings back these memories of God's

way.

and we remember the people involved. There's the Romans and the Priests... but more shocking are the disciples. Jesus shares this precious last supper with Judas, who becomes one of the most remembered disciples for betraying Jesus. Just after our passage from Luke ended Jesus reveals that Peter will betray him. And those aren't the only two. While Jesus thanks them all for sticking with them, we know none of them will. When he tells them one will betray him, none of them are humble enough to think it might be them, they all assume it's one of the others. (Curiously, Judas isn't singled out as a likely candidate.) They also quickly shift the conversation from who might fail Jesus to which of them will be the greatest... forgetting those dinner conversations we heard a couple of weeks ago about humility.



Last Supper - Murphy

5/16

Still, Jesus includes them - and Jesus includes us. We also have times when we focus more on ourselves than on Jesus. We avoid uncomfortable conversations or decisions. Jesus doesn't, and all are invited to the Lord's Supper.

Paul picks up on an aspect of this and has some harsh words for the church in Corinth. Christians gathering for a meal was normal and good, but Paul hears that they've started having meals like everyone else. The norm when gathering for a meal is that the host would try and show off, and also to honour somebody - who would then own them. It's obvious who is honoured because others are shamed with not getting much. This, Paul says, forgets that everyone is equal at The Lord's table. This was also shocking, and unifying. Christians gained a reputation for being weird. That sharing the same table would be rich and poor, men and women, slave & free. At the Lord's Supper God formed a new community - a Holy Communion. In this celebration we are all united and equal, regardless of our differences. (and are encouraged to consider who is not at the table, and why. What can we do to extend Christ's welcome?)

We are also united with people who have gathered at the Table in other buildings, around the world, ...and through the history of the Christianity. There are times when this is what hits home for me while joining Communion.

And, of course, in Communion we are united with Jesus. Jesus is one of those historic people who participated in this. He also told people to do this to. ...which is what makes something a sacrament for Presbyterians. Jesus did it, and tells us to do it too. More importantly, Communion unites us with God.

More than that, we are told about these elements being the body and blood of Christ - and we are invited to take them in; to make them a part of ourselves. This is really becoming united with God.⁶ Some groups of Christians believe there is a physical change that happens. Others believe there is a change, but not until you take the elements in. Presbyterians officially believe that there isn't a physical change, but that there is something special going on that we can't explain.

While we can't explain it, we are grateful - which in ancient Greek is Eucharist... the third name for what is going on.

You might be grateful for Christ dying for you, or for coming back from death with the promise of the wonderful feast beyond. You might be grateful that Jesus invites such flawed people as the disciples, and us, to The Table. You might be grateful that in Christ we can become free of sins, free of barriers with God and everyone else. You might be grateful for something you can't put into words. That's okay, because depending on where you're at there are a lot of things that go on in the Lord's Supper/Communion/The Eucharist. Which is part of what makes this activity so different from all others.

The other, of course, is God.

To God be all the glory Amen.



Last Supper -Murphy

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).

Values: Do you value The Lord's Supper/Communion/Eucharist? While you may not be able to, can you share why?

Etching: Share a meaningful experience sharing the Lord's Table

Memories: What do you think about and/or feel during Communion? How has it changed?

Wonder: Consider what Jesus might have been thinking with the way this sacrament was started.

Wonder: Reflect on Jesus using daily items to bless. What does this suggest about God? the world? relationships?

Prayer: ...that we might grow closer to God.

\star Spirit Sighting

Every July, youth from Asia, Europe, and North America spread out across the island of Taiwan. All are part of the "I Love Taiwan" mission. In 2023, supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Justin and Neo Wu (now of St. Giles, Ottawa, but previously at TRC on Regent) participated in the program. Alongside youth from The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, they led summer programs for children.

Working ecumenically in a cross-cultural and multi-religious context, youth experienced God's grace and love, learned to live

⁶ I wonder if they had the saying, 'you are what you eat'?

out their faith, and were challenged to devote their lives to God through participation in mission.

* 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.

All donations are gratefully received and support God's work in our local and extended community.



Communion

☐ Hymn: Here is bread: here is wine......pg 13 (546)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=GgysV3EZKas

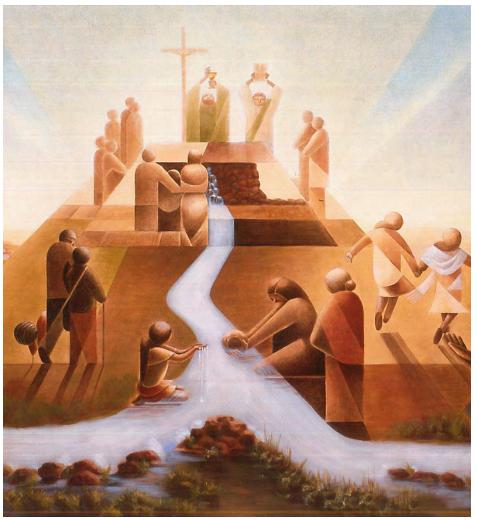
☀ Children's Time

We're about to celebrate communion, the Lord's Supper, and The Eucharist - all names for the same actions. It is a mystery about what happens, and different people feel it differently. The roots go back to a meal that Jesus had with his disciples where he took things that people ate every day and made them special - and that is something to remember about God.

God works in everyday things.

prayer

Dear Jesus, Thank you that your Holy Spirit can make common everyday things special. Amen.



Eucharist, Source & Summit - Garcia

Invitation to the table
Jesus was a guest at so many tables:
friends like Peter & Martha,
the grateful like Levi and Zacchaeus,
and those honourable in society.

And wherever Jesus went he drew all sorts and welcomed them all. Upsetting the way the world worked.

Here at this table, Jesus is not a guest. Jesus is the host.

Those who wish to serve him
must first be served by him.
Those who want to follow him
must first be fed by him.
Those who would wash his feet
must first let him make them clean.

For this is the table where God intends us to be nourished; this time is when Christ can make us new.

So come, you who hunger and thirst for a deeper faith, for a better life, for a fairer world.

Jesus the Christ,
who has sat at our tables,
now invites us to be guests at his.⁷

C'est la volonté de Dieu que tous ceux qui veulent connaître Jésus partager ce repas.

As we come together to share this taste of Lord's Supper,

we are united with Christians of many types, around the world and through the centuries. Let us also join with them in a common confession of our faith.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended to heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

8/16

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving
The Lord be with you.

and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

⁷ adapted from Iona Wee Worship Book 4th ed

It is indeed right that we should praise you, for you made us.

And before us, the universe.

Everything that is spectacular, and everything that is common, have their origin in you.

Everything that is lovely, and all who are loving, point to you.

And more than all that, we praise you for coming to earth and entering time in Jesus.

Now we join with the whole creation to lift our hearts in joyful praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is the One who comes
in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We celebrate that Jesus welcomed the good people and the bad, the experts and the ignorant, ...everyone is welcome to join him.

Though we need to remember that this isn't without challenges. To enjoy the banquet, we need to let you be the host...

We need to set our wisdom and our words aside.

We need to empty our hearts and our hands, to accept the love, hope and healing that you alone offer.

. . .

What you bring may be shocking; it may even seem like cannibalism, or a humiliating death like that on a cross.

Your ways can be a mystery.

...Together, we proclaim the mystery of the faith.

Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

We thank you God that while we wait you have not abandoned us.

We pray for your Holy Spirit to be felt the world over, and in these situations...

- those who are struggling with basics:
 a comforting home...
 food...
 people to care and support them...
 mental and physical health...
- for those suffering from the power of nature, whether fires or floods or heat
- for leaders to need to make decisions as to what is best...
 may they choose ways that help everyone and not just their

favourites or themselves.

As we pray these and other prayers, let us also pray the prayer Jesus teaches...

Cur 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
now and forever.

As we gather at your table,
we remember other stories of you serving food.

Taking the bread & fish, or the wine, that were prepared by human hands,

Blessing what is given
multiplying them
and giving them back to nourish all who gather.

Lord God, as we gather at your table, May your Holy Spirit settle on the bread and cups, and fill them with the fullness of Jesus.

And let the same Spirit rest on us, converting us
from the patterns of this passing world
into the body of the one who now shares this table.

Amen.



Lord's Supper - Jesus MAFA

Words of Institution

On the night before he met with death, Jesus took bread, and after giving thanks to God he broke the bread and shared it, saying "This is my body; it is broken for you." "Ceci est mon corps, qui est rompu pour yous"

[take and eat]

In the same way, he took the cup of wine after dinner and said, "This is the new relationship with God, sealed in my blood
Take this, all of you, in remembrance of me."

"Cette coupe est la nouvelle alliance en mon sang;
faites ceci en mémoire de moi"

Take and drink.

[take and drink]

Prayer after Communion
Loving God,
We thank you for this time with you,
uniting us with Christ,
and with each other.
Let us go out, filled with the power of your Spirit,
sharing your faith, hope & love with our world.
In Jesus name,
Amen.

☐ Hymn: With the Lord as my (our) Guide.....pg 16 (574)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=adpi8rpMiYQ

** Benediction (2 Corinthians 13:13)

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,

the love of God,

and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with all of you.

Amen.



MISSION MOMENT

Sunday, August 4

Every July, youth from Asia, Europe, and North America spread out across the island of Taiwan. All are part of the "I Love Taiwan" mission. In 2023, supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Justin and Neo Wu (St. Giles, Ottawa) participated in the



program. Alongside youth from The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, they led summer programs for children. Working ecumenically in a cross-cultural and multi-religious context, youth experienced God's grace and love, learned to live out their faith, and were challenged to devote their lives to God through participation in mission.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, August 4 We pray for the Leading with Care committees in congregations and presbyteries as they work to ensure that churches are safe and welcoming places.

Monday, August 5 We pray for the members of the International Affairs Committee that work to draw the church's attention to places in the world in need of support and justice.

Tuesday, August 6 (Anniversary: 1945 Bombing of Hiroshima)

We remember the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan, and we pray for a world without nuclear weapons.

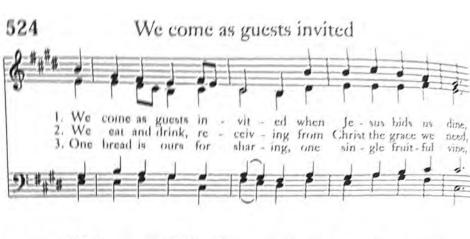
Wednesday, August 7 We give thanks for students who are spending their summer cutting lawns, chopping firewood and doing farm chores at Crieff Hills.

Thursday, August 8 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Hamilton.

Friday, August 9 (International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples)

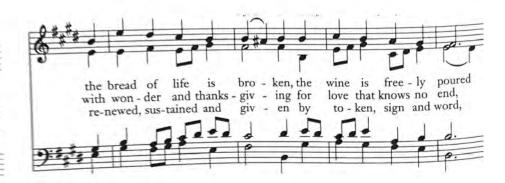
We pray that the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples is upheld in all places so that all Indigenous peoples around the world may thrive.

Saturday, August 10 We pray for people who are angry and whose lives are shaped by bitterness, resentment and frustration that makes it difficult to give and receive grace.





Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-) Music: Finnish hymn melody; arrangement, David Evans (1874-1948)





© 1984 by Hope Publishing Co. Music arrangement, copyright © Oxford University Press from The Revised Church

MEIRIONYDD 7676D



Words: Timothy Dudley-Smith (1926-) from a prayer of Augustine of Hippo (354-430) Music: W. Lloyd (1785-1852); arrangement as in Caniadau Seion 1840

R Words: copyright @ 1984 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: public domain for Kensington Fresbyterian Church

Here is bread: here is wine

HERE IS BREAD 6865 with refrain







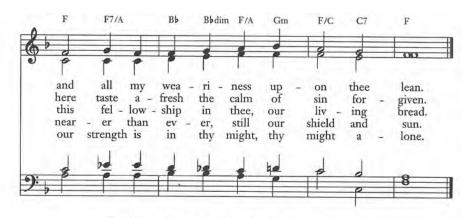
Words: Graham Kendrick (1950-) Music: Graham Kendrick (1950-)

Words: copyright @ Make Way Music, 1992. Administered in North and South America by Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP. c/o Integrity Music, Inc., P.O. Box 851622. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission. Music: copyright @ Make Way Music, 1992. Administered in North and South America by Integrity's Hosanna! Music/ASCAP. All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

546







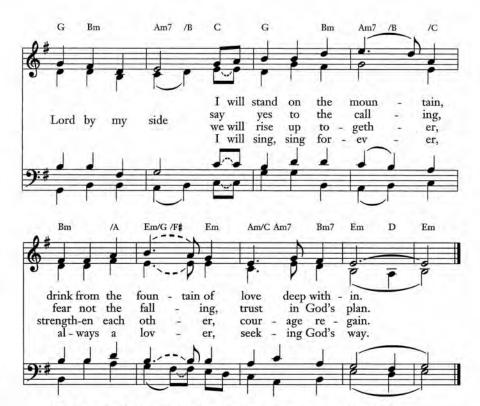
- Mine is the sin, but thine the righteousness; mine is the guilt, but thine the cleansing blood. Here is my robe, my refuge and my peace, thy blood, thy righteousness, O Lord, my God.
- 7. Feast after feast thus comes and passes by, yet, passing, points to that glad feast above, giving sweet foretaste of the festal joy, the Lamb's great bridal feast of bliss and love.

Words: Horatius Bonar (1808–1889), alt Music: James Langran (1835–1909) Words: public domain Music: public domain

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.