

Kensington Presbyterian Church

Growing in Faith and sharing God's Love since 1786

Baptism is... September 1, 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

'Film' Series: Will be starting on Sept 20th with pizza & board games

New Hope Fundraising Dinner: Sept 20th

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.



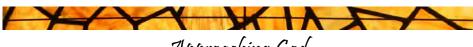
Baptism - V Manansala

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

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



Approaching God

A

Lighting of the Christ Candle Jésus Christ est la lumière du monde. Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

Call to worship²

Let us worship the eternal God, the source of love and life, who creates us.

Let us worship Jesus Christ, the risen one, who lives among us.

Let us worship the Spirit, the holy fire, who renews us.

To the one true God be praise in all times and places, through the grace of Jesus Christ.

Let us worship God

☐ Hymn: Praise my soul the King of Heaven.....pg 13 (407)
 www.youtube.com/watch?v=sx1eMwIDFb8

\$ Prayer of Approach³

Loving God, we have gathered to meet you.

We have come to listen to you, to seek you, to worship you.

You are the beginning of all things, the life of all things; you knew us before we were born.

In you we become; in you we live.

Loving God, you are here and everywhere, around us and within us; you know our inmost thoughts.

In you we hope;

in you we live.

You are the source of serenity, giving peace that is beyond our understanding.

In you we are still;

in you we live.

Loving God, we live in you; we worship you. Loving God, you live in us; we worship you.

Amen.



Awake to wonder - Lisle Gwynn Gerrity

² Wqorship Sourcebook 1.2.26

³ Wgorship Sourcebook 1.4.16

Listening to God

☐ Hymn: Spirit of the living God......pg 13 (400)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=jrwRS1h-rmY

Prayer for Illumination

Lord,

open our hearts and minds by the power of your Holy Spirit, that we may see you more clearly.

Amen.

☀ Intro to the readings

Our next reading takes place after Jesus' ministry. The disciples are sharing the Good News with other Jews. Peter has responded to a strange invitation. His upbringing would have taught him to avoid this opportunity, but saying "No" to the source wasn't an option.

Near the beginning of Peter's speech he talks about "anyone who fears God". The Biblical use of 'fear' is different from common usage. While driving across Ontario we listened to some Narnia books. The great lion Aslan, who is how Christ comes in Narnia, is described as 'not safe, but he is good. He's not a tame lion.' Fear of God is like being near a giant lion that isn't safe, but is good. It could easily kill you, but it's good.

Our Psalm links into the passage themes of God knowing us thoroughly - and explores a bit of what that is like.

All of them tie into our sacraments.

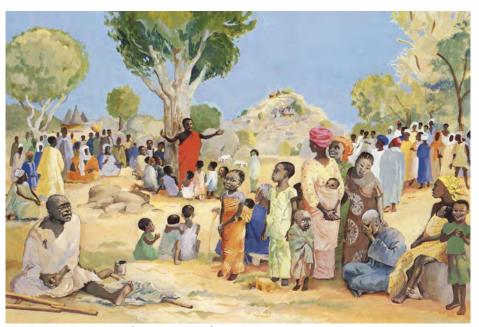


Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible,⁴ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

Acts 10: 34-48

Psalm 139: 1-14 (although it's all good)



Sermon on the mount - Jesus MAFA

Sermon: Do this...

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

Today we will celebrate two sacraments - which are all of them for Presbyterians. If you remember back a month when we focused on the Eucharist/Lord's Supper/Communion,⁶ a

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

⁶ Check out the text of video from August 4th kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities/ (scroll down until you find it)

Sacrament is something that Jesus did and told us to do. A Sacrament is also something that represents more - a sign that something significant is happening. They are gifts from God to nurture our faith.

The Lord's Supper isn't actually an amazing feast, but it does remind us of the great feast to come and brings us into communion with others, and Christ, in a way that is more than it logically should be.

The same is true with Baptism. Jesus tells the early followers to "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" That's the directive, but what's it a sign of? What's going on?

The first thing is that the Holy Spirit is present. When Jesus was baptized we're told that, "just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him." But it happens to ordinary people too, such as the household of Cornelius that we heard about today. They weren't even Jews. They wanted to know God better, and God responded. So Peter followed up with some water and baptized them.

The use of water is interesting and helpful. It's been used for baptisms since before John the Baptizer, and can remind us of the Holy Spirit. Both are transparent (clear if you like), but can change the way we see the world. Both water and the Holy Spirit are incredibly powerful. I've never experienced a monsoon, but I've witnessed the after effects of a heavy storm. Both water and the Holy Spirit can also be gentle and life giving. In fact, they are necessary for life - and both are combined when Jesus meets the

woman at the well and offers her 'living water'. 10

Water is visible, though clear.

Baptism is a visible sign of the invisible gift of the Holy Spirit.



Sermon on the mount - Jesus MAFA

This gift is through grace; we don't earn it. God chooses to be in a relationship with us - with you. And God doesn't have any naive hopes about it. As the psalm reminds us, God knows what we're made of; God knows where you came from and where you're going to choose to go. God knows it all, loves you, and chooses to give the Holy Spirit.¹¹

www.youtube.com/watch?v=qEbeBile8QU

⁷ Matthew 28:19

⁸ Mark I: 10

⁹ bible.oremus.org/?passage=Acts+10

¹⁰ John 4

II one of the reasons we often baptize babies

Receiving this gift can come through a sudden experience, or gestate in you until the revelation is born... either way brings you into a new life. (You might say it's like being born again.)¹² The waters of baptism don't bring the Holy Spirit into a person like the waters of birth bring a new person into the world. It does recognize the development of God's presence.

The Holy Spirit is more than a nice gift to put on a shelf; she is life changing. Accepting the presence of the Holy Spirit is a new beginning. Like when God had Moses part the waters so the enslaved Israelites could be led to a new life (more water imagery).

Which brings in the theme of salvation. Baptism is also a sign that God is working to free us from what ties us down - to wash us clean of sin. When we baptize people water is placed on their head (and sometimes their whole body). This symbolizes the washing away of sin. Another reminder is that the water is placed on those baptized in the sign of the cross... reminding us of Jesus joining us in suffering and death... and rising again from the depths of death. After being baptized we will experience joy and suffering. We will even continue to sin, but baptism recognizes that we are God's children - and, better than any parent, God will be present with us through it all.

As you can imagine after a couple of thousand years of baptizing, there's more going on than this. I just want to touch on one more aspect. Paul reminds the Christians in Rome that "For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, 'Abba!* Father!' it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God." Anyone

who follows the Spirit of God is a child of God. The people around you are your family. In fact, so are all Christians around the world. Family comes with obligations, but it also brings familiarity and support for those who nurture the relationship.



Jesus blesses children - Annie Vallotton

And a celebration of relationship is what is going on in baptism.

We are celebrating, through a tactile experience that flows back centuries, our relationship to Jesus. We are celebrating that the people baptized are God's children - part of a global family. And we are celebrating that God's Holy Spirit has been present guiding and loving us since the beginning - leading us into new life.

To God be all the glory Amen.

5/15

¹² John 3

¹³ Romans 8:14-16



Responding to God

🛊 Spirit Sighting: Baptism

Baptism is not of our doing or deserving.

It is a gift from God.

Remember the words of Peter on the day of Pentecost: "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, for the promise is to you and your children

and to all that are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls" [Acts 2:38-39].

Hear the words of the risen Christ:

"All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." [Matthew 28:18-25]

Obeying the command of Jesus Christ and believing in God's promises, the church baptizes those whom the Lord, our God calls.

This sacrament is not so much something we do, as it is a celebration of what God (in Christ), has done for us.

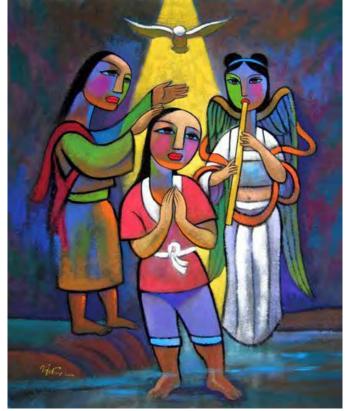
God acts for us in baptism as God has acted for our salvation from the beginning of time. God is not dependent upon us

and the truth of God's promises does not depend upon age and understanding.

God comes to us through God's gracious choice.

Let us move forward

trusting in the faithfulness of God,
secure in the love made known in Jesus Christ &
confident that the Holy Spirit is acting now
to free us from sin and death
and to lead us to a new life of love and service
in union with Jesus Christ.



Baptism of Jesus III - He Qi

*Who comes to receive the gift of Baptism?

On behalf of the session, I (Elizabeth) present <u>Soham Rej</u> & <u>Neeti Sasi</u> to receive the sacrament of baptism.

*Neeti Sasi & Soham Rej, do you desire to be baptized? (We do)

(Questions for the candidates)

While this is part of the journey, not the end, there are some questions to show your understanding of what's going on:

- 1. Trusting in the gracious mercy of God, do you turn from the ways of sin and renounce evil and its power in the world? (I do)
- 2. Do you confess your faith in God as your heavenly creator, in Jesus Christ as your Saviour and Lord, and in the Holy Spirit as your teacher and guide? (I do)
- 3. Do you desire, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to grow in the knowledge and love of God and to participate with Christ's life and mission in the world?

 (I do)

(Question to Congregation)

While baptism is something that is personal, it is also important that it is done in a community. To help people grow in Christ the Holy Spirit pulls together the church.

Rarely is somebody baptized in a congregation, and they stay

in that community their whole life. Soham and Neeti didn't grow up in Kensington, but they have experienced a growing and wonder-filled relationship with Jesus. In between their travels they have found Kensington to be a welcoming community for them and their faith. Their journey of faith will become a physical journey later this month as they move to Kerala, India, to continue their spiritual journey and learn from the Syrian Orthodox tradition. As they don't know what awaits them, they wanted to be baptized with us before this next stage in their journey.

As a congregation, we represent the church. Not just the Presbyterian Church in Canada, but the Church of Jesus Christ... all of it. And the church is important in providing support for people in their journey. While we won't personally have a large role in their lives, we answer the following question on behalf of Christians everywhere.

Do you, on behalf of the Church of Jesus Christ, promise to support Soham and Neeti by example and counsel, with love and in prayer, encouraging them to follow the way of Christ and to be faithful members of God's church? (We do).

Prayer

Almighty and loving God,
we pray that you will never destroy us
in our sin as with the flood,
but save us as you saved believing Noah and his family,
and spare us as you spared the Israelites
who walked safely through the sea.

We pray that Christ,
who was born in the waters of the womb
who went down into the Jordan
and came up to receive the Spirit,
who sank deep into death and was raised up Lord of life,
will always keep us in the grip of his hand.

We pray that your Spirit will separate us from sin and openly mark us with a faith that can stand the light of day and endure the dark of night.¹⁴

Loving God, by the sign of this water, we recognize that Neeti & Sohan are grafted into Christ's body. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon them so that they may have power to do your will and continue forever as servants of Jesus Christ, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit be all honour and glory, now and forever.





¹⁴ adapted from Worship Sourcebook 6.3.2

Acts of Baptism

Neeti Sasi

I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Soham Rej

I baptize you in the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

□ Aaronic Blessing.....pg 14 (619)

 $\underline{www.youtube.com/watch?v{=}VclhmSeBzlw}$

Sharing Namaste

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: How would you describe baptism to a curious

friend?

Memories: What memories do you have of baptisms.

Memories: As a baptism is a recognition of a stage along a

journey,

take some time to reflect on your journey with God.

Wonder: How do you find the baptism promises challenging?

What are some ways you have done well?

Actions: Brainstorm ways you could continue your journey

more deeply with God.

Prayer: ...that we may soak up God's promise

 ★ 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

Invitation to the table

God has not just blessed us with Baptism,
but also with The Lord's Supper
so that all who want to know Jesus better
may share in communion

with our Lord, and each other.

So come,

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

God's Holy Spirit has brought you to this table, and Jesus the Christ, invites you to be fed with love, peace & healing.

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



Carvalhos Triptych - Barredo Maximino Cerezo

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 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.

and born of the virgin Mary.

Amen.

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.

We praise you God for this world.

For the eagles and chickadees,
lobsters and the great whales,
even for raccoons and monkeys.

We praise you for people,

those who came before us
and shared their experiences with you
and those around us

with their own stories and experiences
We praise you that experiences and stories
continue to reveal your presence behind us,
before us,
and in us.

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.

Hosanna Lord,

we celebrate the wonder that you are a God who is both almighty and 'down to earth'.

That you came in Jesus and walked the dusty roads of life, reaching down to help people into a new life, a life enabling them to experience your love, hope & healing.

We celebrate that even when life was hard, or people would let you down you still invited them to share your table, you still love us.

Please forgive us when we turn away or betray you. . .

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

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

We thank you that even when we kill Jesus and the ways he wants us to live, You still send your Holy Spirit to work within us, so that we can live out your love.

Knowing that you are in and around us, we share with you situations that are on our hearts:

- we pray for Carol & John as they continue after Laura's death
- we pray for Pansy and her family as one of her daughters continues with dialysis
- we pray for those who are stuck at home with COVID or other issues that isolate them
- we share with you other concerns. . .

May your Holy Spirit be seen and felt in all our prayers.

May we also be shaped by the prayer that Jesus taught us to say:

Lord's Prayer (feel free to use another version/translation)

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 now and forever.

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.



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 vous" [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,
bringing love, hope & healing to the world.

In Jesus name,
Amen.

☐ Hymn: Lord of all hopefulness......pg 15 (748)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=9-D aT8CXyc



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.



MISSION MOMENT Sunday, September 1

In an Indigenous community in Guatemala, Mercedes Coronado (36), a teacher and mother of eight, shares her transformative journey as the vice president of the agroecological group Los Arbolitos. The community women once faced challenges, including violence and a lack of decision-making power within their households. With



the support of PWS&D's local partner, the Maya-Mam Indigenous Association for Development, Mercedes and the women are experiencing positive change through education and training programs, enabling them to advocate for themselves and future generations. Mercedes is grateful for her husband's strong support in her career pursuits, emphasizing the importance of gender equality in fostering harmonious relationships and eliminating discrimination.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 1 We pray for presbyteries as they gather after a summer respite to continue caring for the congregations and ministers within their boundaries. We also pray for their clerks and moderators as they prepare to offer leadership within their courts.

Monday, September 2 We pray for members of the Canadian Council of Churches' Faith and Life Sciences Reference Group, and the Rev. Dr. Catherine Chalin Clark who represents the PCC on that group. The reference group monitors developments in biotechnology and life sciences and discerns the theological and ethical implications of its use in the world.

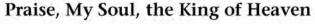
Tuesday, September 3 We pray for students and teachers who are returning to school and for Sunday schools and church groups as they resume after a summer break, that they might joyfully return to fellowship and study.

Wednesday, September 4 Calling God, we pray for students who begin their studies or return to them this month at VST. Ignite your gifts in them through teaching that they may serve you and the world with compassion.

Thursday, September 5 We pray for the Committee on History's PCC 150 Ad Hoc Team in their work to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Church and highlight where the denomination has been, where it stands, and where it is going.

Friday, September 6 We pray for the farm and kitchen staff at Crieff Hills who are working hard to harvest and preserve the summer's bounty.

Saturday, September 7 We pray for the Committee on Church Doctrine as they meet in person. May their work help the church think about contemporary issues from a Christ-centered perspective.



571

400

Spirit of the living God



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Glo-rious in his

al - le - lu - ia! Wide - ly

4 Frail as summer's flower we flourish, blows the wind and it is gone; but while mortals rise and perish God endures unchanging on. Alleluia, alleluia!

Praise the High, Eternal One.

Al - le - lu - ia.

5 Angels, help us to adore him; you behold him face to face. Sun and moon, bow down before him, dwellers all in time and space. Alleluia, alleluia! Praise with us the God of grace!

yet his

faith-ful-ness!

mer - cy flows!



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Jesus, friend so kind and gentle

ROUSSEAU 878787



Aaronic Blessing



The Lord bless you and keep you: the Lord make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you: the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.

Numbers 6: 24

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SUSSEX CAROL 888888 Unison Bb/D F/C C/Bb F/A Bb6 /D 1. O ho - ly Fath-er, God most dear, be - hold us round thine O Christ, who at the sup per board took bread and wine 3. O Ho - ly Spir - it, be thou nigh this bread and cup to C C F C7/G F/A F Bb/D C/E tar here; ac - cept for sac - ri - fice, we pray, the the word, and, in that sol - emn pas chal meal, gave sanc - ti - fy, that, eat - ing of the food un-priced, we F/A Dm Bb6 C F C Gm6/Bb Gm7 Am dis - play. com - mon food here For bread set forth, flesh and blood our wound to heal, for us re-deemed, for form one bo Re-deemed, re-stored dy, one in Christ. Bbmai7 C Bb6 F/A ВЬ C Bb/D F/C Bb6 F wine out-poured, bless thee, all - cre - at - ing Lord. bless thee, all - cre - at - ing Word. re - stored. Ho - ly Trin - i - ty. u - ni - ty, we bless thee,

Words: G.A. Tomlinson (1906-) Music: English traditional;

harmony, Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

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748 Lord of all hopefulness



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