



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

Don't pass over celebrations

September 29, 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 9:30.

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

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

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

Jesus & Java: Join us as we share the joys and questions of faith.

Thursday, 3:30 pm at Beetz, 5914 Sherbrooke @ Clifton

Fabulous Film Fridays: pizza at 6:30 with film to follow

Oct: *The Chosen*

Drop Box: Food donations are welcome for the local Food Pantry, diapers for young mothers through Head & Hands.

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

Rev. Peter Rombeek
 Kensington Presbyterian Church



OMF Missions Night: Oct 4th at 7pm, Snowdon Baptist 5272 Earnscliffe
 This is the group Rijke Rombeek is in Japan with. They will be having missionaries from Thailand visit. rplatt2009@gmail.com 438-825-8509

Climate Change, Theology, and Church Thursdays Oct 3-31st 7-8:30pm
 This five-week study will focus on theological and practical responses to climate change from a Christian perspective.

www.presbyteriancollege.ca/2024/08/28/climate-change-theology-and-church

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 worship

The Spirit of God passes over

bringing changes - terrible and wondrous.

The Spirit of God comes,

and those who love the LORD are saved.

The Spirit of God calls us here to worship,

We come,

with faith and uncertainty.

We come to worship.



Hymn: God of mercy, God of grace.....pg 10 (39)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=60gxtlo2-i4



Prayer of Approach

We come before you O God,

remembering that you are the one who created us,

or remembering that you love us,

but forgetting that you are so much more.

You are God,

above all others.

The King of kings,

the Pharaoh of pharaohs

the supreme.

You have the power to anything,

both beautiful and painful,

and will do so

to lead us out of slavery

or being slavers.

Jesus,

Forgive us when we sacrifice future generations

for our life-style. . .

Forgive us for keeping (enslaving) people

from reaching their potential in you. . .

May your Holy Spirit continue to work in us

individually and collectively

to work through our mistakes,

our stubbornness

our blindness

so that we may see your Kingdom come.

As we prepare, let us be shaped by the prayer you teach 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

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...

Christ died for us while we were still sinners;
which proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Amen.



Listening to God

✧ Children's Time.....with flip chart

What do we celebrate?

What are our communal experiences?

Some probable answers would include:

Birthdays, Christmas, Easter, Good Friday, Pancake Tuesday
(though not Ash Wednesday at Kensington), Thanksgiving,
Remembrance Day, Fete National, Canada Day, Earth Day is
fading, but Truth & Reconciliation Day is growing in
awareness, ...porchfest, see a movie, saying the Lord's prayer

Celebrations are important times that bring communities
together - and shape society, and individuals. Pick a few off the
list and consider what they say about us
...and how they shape us.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, please shape us to be like you.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: When Israel was in Egypt's land.....pg 10 (708²)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=SP5EfwBWgg0 (Louis Armstrong)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=w3OjHlhLCDs (Paul Robeson)



Haggadah Of Passover - Shlomo Katz

🧘 Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds
through the power of your Holy Spirit,
that we remember where we come from.

Amen.

2 This Spiritual came out of the Southern United States before the Civil War (where slavery was common) and originally had 24 verses.

✧ Intro to the readings

Last week we heard about how the family God chosen to be a demonstration to the world was very dysfunctional. Yet, despite how badly they treated each other, God was able to use Joseph and his family to save many lives.

After that the Israelites continued to live in Egypt and be blessed with many children... however they fell from status. Despite Joseph being the one who saved the Egyptians from starvation the following generations of Israelites become slaves to the Egyptians. They lost their freedom and were, apparently, treated brutally.

Again God was able to work in the midst of people being horrible. The Pharaoh was afraid of the growing slave population and ordered the baby boys killed. Baby Moses was hidden on the river, which not only brought life, but brought him to a life in the Pharaoh's palace. As a young man he discovered he was an Israelite and tried to help (without God), and had to go on the run. He ended up living with a new family in the wilderness.

In the meantime the Israelites remembered God and finally asked The King of kings for help.

While keeping a flock alive in the wilderness Moses met God in the Burning Bush and was sent back to Egypt as a messenger. A pattern emerged in which Moses & Aaron would ask the Pharaoh to release the slaves or something dramatic & unpleasant would happen. By the time we get to the story Stewart is about to read this has happened nine times. (When you had a boss or parent ask you to do something, did you get that many chances?)

Our psalm adds some feelings and interpretation of this story.

Story of Joseph - John Swanson



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own

Bible,³ or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Exodus 12](#): 1-13

[Exodus 13](#): 1-8

[Psalm 149](#)



Sermon: Don't pass over celebrations

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

Today's passage from Exodus is quite the passage. It's important in setting up the Passover Festival; it's curious in the level of details that are included; and it's horrifying in the death & suffering.

What can we learn from it?

Let's start with the details.

The first thing that struck me is that several times the passage talks about the whole community or congregation doing ceremonial remembrance at the same time - and that it takes place in the home. It is important that everyone participates - and that this is done within families.

I don't know if you've ever participated in a Seder meal, the central meal of the Passover festival, but it is still celebrated by families in a home. This makes it very different from a festival centred around the temple/synagogue/church (especially if you consider that traditionally families would have been separated). Having it at home emphasizes the passing on of traditions and stories in the place where you live. There are parts of the liturgy

³ If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963
or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV

where the children ask why this night is different than other nights. They are intentionally taught through story, song, food and games about God bringing them out of slavery in Egypt. This is so important that the whole community does it. This is so important that the family remembers together.

Another detail that stood out for me is that the lamb is to be divided according to the number of people there. This shows equality before God. It doesn't matter if you can buy a flock of lambs, or none. It doesn't matter if you're important or not. Every household receives a lamb or goat. Everyone gets the same portion. Before God, they are all equal.

The lamb details are also interesting. One is that it should be unblemished. Perfection is a pretty hard target, but when offering something to God it's important to do your best. Ages ago a church musician and I had difficulty understanding each other. He strongly emphasized the need for the worship service to be perfect, while I emphasized participation. It's a tension that would be here too. Creation isn't perfect. Neither are people. Yet this is an occasion for family participation... while trying to be your best. Thankfully, even in our imperfections God can work.

And what's with the cooking instructions? Lamb stew is good and helps stretch the food along, but here they are to roast it (which is also good, and perhaps better if you're about to go on a trip). The bazaar bit is the instructions to cook it with the inner organs. I asked the chief at *New Hope* about this and she pointed out the intestines would still contain... poo. Thankfully the details allow for not eating everything. The only reason I could think of to include everything is that we are to bring everything to God. I don't imagine it was for taste.

Another detail that stood out was the clothing to wear. This

isn't about wearing formal or casual wear - as most people wouldn't have a choice. Instead have "*your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand, and you shall eat it hurriedly*". What's this mean? The evacuation alert has been given, so be ready to leave at any moment. In remembering God's coming they also remember they had to be ready to leave their old way without any more warnings. Change is hard, but they had realized that it was better than not changing. Do you remember having a choice like that?

This also comes into the use of unleavened bread. It reinforces the memory of having to leave in a hurry. There was no time to let the bread rise. One person I read suggested the unleavened bread was also supposed to represent suffering. Apparently it's not as pleasant to eat as risen bread. (Personally I don't mind eating flatbread.) While I think this is a stretch, suffering is a part of this story. Though we didn't hear about it today, there's the suffering of the Israelite slaves - and the loss of the firstborn.

I can't think of any positive spin on this. We're told that God went around and killed "*every firstborn in the land of Egypt, from human to animal, and on all the gods of Egypt I will exact judgments.*"

What do we do with this nasty business?

We can remember that it didn't happen without a warning - and that there were nice opportunities before it that also demonstrated God's power. Pharaoh had the knowledge and power to avoid destruction. It would have been hard on the economy and lifestyle that the Egyptians were used to, but was it worth the sacrifice?

With Friday's climate march I wonder if we're sacrificing our children for our economy and lifestyle. Our actions are different than Pharaoh the slave master - but are we making similar

choices? Will we face similar consequences?



The Israelites are eating the Passover Lamb - Marc Chagall

I was also reminded this week that as a white Canadian I'm more comparable to the Egyptians than the Israelites. I've experienced power and privileges that many indigenous people and those with darker skin have not. Do I, and perhaps you,

listen to God's opportunities to make the relationships right?⁴ or not? I hope we can do this without sacrificing any children.

There's a couple of details that aren't in the children's books that I think tie into the killing of the firstborn. One is the lamb. Did you notice that every Israelite household was to acquire a lamb or kid (young goat) on the 10th of the month - and keep it for four days before slaughtering it. How do you feel when you see a lamb? pet a lamb? How do you think you'd feel after looking after a lamb for four days? and then having to kill it? ...perhaps a little like God felt at killing the Egyptian firstborn humans and animals. Perhaps it's not only important for the Israelites to remember that God saved them, but that suffering hurts.

The other is that the Israelites also lose their firstborn to God. They aren't killed, but they are dedicated to serving God. For all those who thought that their firstborn was going to lead the family in the next generation... this experience with God brought unexpected changes. This isn't the same horror as having their firstborn die, but their dreams are still gone.

There is also the foreshadowing of trouble to come. God reminds the Israelites that he will bring them to a land flowing with milk and honey - "*the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites*". We know that when new people move into an area, especially a large group of them, the change brings conflict. If you know the stories to come, you know there will be war and death. This is hard. It's not the topic of this passage, but I still wonder about it. I know that between leaving slavery and arriving in the Promised Land they are given the 10 Commandments. I know they include the instructions not to kill,

⁴ latter in Exodus 12 there's talk of paying reparation

and not to want what somebody else has. I wonder what life would have been like if they had entered the Promised Land trusting God instead of killing and taking what they wanted from others.⁵

But that is later in the story. Today's story is about remembering the Passover. Remembering that everyone suffered (Israelites more before and Egyptians more after), but God did come and get the Israelites out of the house of slavery. This experience is remembered and referred to throughout the rest of the Bible. They are often reminded that they had been slaves, and that God had brought them out. Practising these memories in your home helps form your identity ...and it is still practised today.

This is the point of today's passage, and it raises the question: What do we celebrate? What are our communal experiences?

Let's look back at the flip chart. When we celebrate, what identity do we form? Who are we?

Do we use celebration to try and root ourselves in nostalgia, or remember God's action through change. Do we include the pain and sorrow, or just focus on making ourselves happy.⁶ Do we remember how God acts to bring about change that will bring love, hope & healing?

What are the details of our celebrations? or our identity?

*To God be all the glory
Amen.*

5 Yes, the Bible has God telling them to kill... but they don't always do it, and this is okay.... at least some of the time. Perhaps it would have been all the time.

6 This is a major theme that is dealt with unexpectedly well in last Friday's movie 'Inside Out 2' from Pixar



Responding to God

♪ Hymn: Tell me the old, old story.....pg 11 (499)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XqSIMQaeAds>



FaithTalk: These are some questions for you to discuss with somebody... or many somebodies.

Do what you feel safe (and practice stretching a little).

Etching: What's your favourite annual occasion/celebration?

Values: Pick a few annual celebrations. Consider how they are celebrated, and what is done (or not done).
What does this say about us? How does it shape us?

Wonder: How could we better shape ourselves collectively? intergenerationally?

Actions: Think about this when planning your next celebration.

Memories: Share a time when you had no choice but to change. Can you remember how it felt before, during, and after?

Prayer: ...that we will always include you (God) in everything we do



Spirit Sightings

The boys had a friend over for a sleep over after the movie. At breakfast we talked about why the juice jug had condensation part way up the side. We started with the science of cool air holding less moisture, so it



came out where the jug was cool. But we also thought to add that since we believe in God we see this as a way God helps look after plants outside... as it's cooler at night the dew forms, providing them with a little water every morning. Thinking in a way that sees God in the world is a sign of the Spirit working.

Another was getting over 35 people out to Friday's pizza and movie night. I don't expect that will be regular, but we made some good new connections in the community. Now please pray that we will find the leaders to support this ministry as we look to start a children's and adult's program for some of the evenings.



Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website:** kensingtonchurch.ca. Just click the '**Donate Now**' button, and then the pretty button. It gives you various options that are easy to follow.

You can also donate through **interac e-transfer**. Our name is Kensington Presbyterian Church and the e-mail address is info@kensingtonchurch.ca.

Mailing a cheque or signing up for Pre-Authorized Remittance (**PAR**) are also good options.

Prayers of the people

Almighty God,
source of life and love,
we come to you with prayers for our community.
As we think about the story of the Passover,
we think about similar problems that still plague the world.

We pray for those who know human slavery today:
for young women trafficked across borders
and sold into the sex industry,
for children forced into marriage,
for people working as bonded labourers,
for those forced to become migrant workers.

Healing Spirit,
hear our prayer

We pray for countries and peoples in conflict:
Israel, Iran & the Middle East...
Ukraine
Haiti
and others

Healing Spirit,
hear our prayer

We pray for refugees who have had to give up their homes
because of conflict, or famine, or disasters, or economics.
May they feel your Spirit with them,
and may your Spirit move the world to help them
so that they may find meaningful lives
that allows them to grow in love, hope and healing.

Healing Spirit,
hear our prayer

We pray of indigenous peoples
who have suffered deep trauma from colonists
...from us and our ways.
Today we realized we do not understand all there is about you.

Help us to remember that we do know all there is about others
May your Spirit help us to continue to listen and learn
so that we may understand
and continue the world towards reconciliation.

Healing Spirit,
hear our prayer

We pray for the environment,
that we will not sacrifice future children
for our way of life.
Help us to make the changes to our economic, society,
and personal lives before it is too late.

Healing Spirit,
hear our prayer

Loving and faithful God,
we also recognize the beauty and hope in the world.
We thank you for
the changing of the leaves,
the arrival of fresh apples,
opportunities to gather with others,
the promise of upcoming celebrations like thanksgiving
May your Spirit help us to remember you
and to grow in our faith and love.

Healing Spirit,
hear our prayer

In Jesus name.
Amen.

♪ Hymn: Praise to the Lord, the Almighty.....pg 12 (321)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=rCnQNwQG5GI

✦ 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.



We Gather Together

1. We gath - er to - geth - er to ask the Lord's bless - ing;
 2. Be - side us to guide us, our God with us join - ing,
 3. We all do ex - tol Thee, Thou lead - er tri - um - phant,

He chas - tens and has - tens His will to make known;
 or - dain - ing, main - tain - ing His king - dom di - vine;
 and pray that Thou still our de - fend - er wilt be.

the wick - ed op - press - ing now cease from dis - tress - ing.
 so from the be - gin - ning the fight we were win - ning;
 Let Thy con - gre - ga - tion es - cape trib - u - la - tion;

Sing prais - es to His name; He for - gets not His own.
 the Lord was at our side: all glo - ry be Thine!
 Thy name be ev - er praised! O Lord, make us free!

TEXT: Adrianus Valerius, 1626; trans. Theodore Baker, 1894
 MUSIC: Neder-landtsch Gedenck-Clank, 1626; harm. Eduard Kremser, 1877

KREMSER
 12.11.12.11

708

When Israel was in Egypt's land

WHEN ISRAEL WAS 8 5 8 5 with refrain (4 7 4 5)

(Fm) C7 Fm

1. When Is - rael was in E - gypt's land,
 2. The Lord told Mo - ses what to do:
 3. As Is - rael stood by the wa - ter - side let my peo - ple go!
 4. When they had reached the oth - er shore
 5. Lord, help us all from bond - age flee,

C7 Fm

op - pressed so hard they could not stand,
 to lead the He - brew peo - ple through,
 at God's com - mand it did div - ide, let my peo - ple go!
 they let the song of tri - umph soar,
 and let us all in Christ be free,

Refrain Fm /Eb Bbm Fm C7/G Fm/Ab C7/G Fm

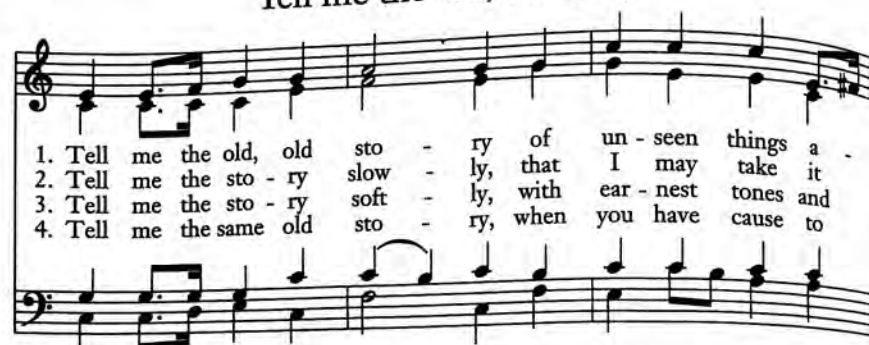
Go down, Mo - ses, Mo - ses, way down in E - gypt's land;
 Go down, go down, Mo - ses,

(Fm) C7 Fm

tell old Phar - oah let my peo - ple go!

Words: African-American spiritual Music: African-American spiritual

Tell me the old, old story



1. Tell me the old, old sto - ry of un - seen things a
 2. Tell me the sto - ry slow - ly, that I may take it
 3. Tell me the sto - ry soft - ly, with ear - nest tones and
 4. Tell me the same old sto - ry, when you have cause to



bove, of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of
 in, that won - der - ful re - demp - tion, God's
 grave; re - mem - ber I'm the sin - ner whom
 fear that this world's emp - ty glo - ry is



Je - sus and his love. Tell me the sto - ry
 rem - e - dy for sin. Tell me the sto - ry
 Je - sus came to save. Tell me the sto - ry
 cost - ing me too dear. Yes, and when that world's

Words: Katherine Hankey (1834-1911) Music: William H. Doane (1832-1916)

Words: public domain Music: public domain



sim - ply, as to a lit - tle child, for
 of - ten, for I for - get so soon; the
 al - ways, if you would real - ly be, in
 glo - ry is dawn - ing on my soul, tell



I am weak and wea - ry, and help - less and de - filed.
 ear - ly dew of morn - ing has passed a - way at noon.
 an - y time of trou - ble, a com - fort - er to me.
 me the old, old sto - ry: Christ Je - sus makes thee whole.

Refrain



Tell me the old, old sto - ry; tell me the old, old sto - ry;



tell me the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

1. Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, who rules all cre -
 2. Praise to the Lord, who in all things so won - drous - ly
 3. Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work, who de -
 4. Praise to the Lord, and with all that is in me a -

a - tion: my soul, praise God who a - lone is your
 reign - ing hides you with shel - ter - ing wings, ev - er
 fends - you; sure - ly God's mer - ci - ful good-ness here
 dor - ing, all who have life and breath, come with glad

health and sal - va - tion. Come, all who hear, sis - ters and
 gen - tly sus - tain - ing. Have you not seen how your heart's
 dai - ly at - tends you; pon - der a - new what the Al -
 prais - es out - pour - ing! Let the a - men sound from God's

bro - thers draw near, join - ing in glad a - dor - a - tion.
 wish - es have been grant - ed through God's kind or - dain - ing?
 migh - ty can do, when in great love God be - friends - you.
 peo - ple a - gain, now and for - e - ver a - dor - ing!

Words: German, Joachim Neander (1650–1680); translation, Catherine Winkworth (1827–1878); alt
 Music: Stralsund Gesangbuch 1665; Words: this version, copyright © The Presbyterian Church in Canada, 1997

MISSION MOMENT Sunday, September 29

Today is Presbyterians Sharing Sunday—a day to celebrate the mission and ministry we do together in Canada and around the world. Through gifts to



Presbyterians Sharing, we build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love. Together, we provide hospitality for people who are homeless and help those involved in the sex trade reclaim their lives. We help congregations discover new and unique ways of renewing their ministry and provide many resources for congregations to use in worship and study. We help translate the Bible into Indigenous languages in Taiwan and bring hope and love to prisoners in Malawi. And so much more! When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, September 29 (Presbyterians Sharing Sunday) We pray for the mission and ministry supported through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and give thanks for congregations and individuals who support the work of the PCC through their generous gifts.

Monday, September 30 (Orange Shirt Day) We honour Survivors of residential schools, children who died and members of their families. Having rejected the Doctrine of Discovery, we commit to walk in ways that will end anti-Indigenous racism.

Tuesday, October 1 We pray for theological students who graduate this winter and are beginning the process of seeking a call.

Wednesday, October 2 In this harvest season we give thanks for the abundance of produce on the Crieff Hills farm—honey, maple syrup, eggs, vegetables, herbs, fruit and flowers.

Thursday, October 3 We pray for the Church Doctrine Committee as they develop a pastoral response to persons who have chosen Medical Assistance in Dying.

Friday, October 4 (Sisters in Spirit Vigils) We pray for Indigenous girls and women who have faced terrible levels of violence and for the families and friends of murdered and missing Indigenous women and girls seeking justice.

Saturday, October 5 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario.