



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

## Family 'fun'

September 22, 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.<sup>1</sup> 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

Sept 29: *Inside Out 2*

Oct: *The Chosen*

<sup>1</sup> note: that the footnotes are not as thorough as an academic paper.



Joseph at the Well - in Bakewell, UK

**OMF Missions Night:** Oct 4<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:rplatt2009@gmail.com) 438-825-8509

**Climate Change, Theology, and Church** Thursdays Oct 3-31<sup>st</sup> 7-8:30pm  
Join us for 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](http://www.presbyteriancollege.ca/2024/08/28/climate-change-theology-and-church)

### Contacts

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



## 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<sup>2</sup>

God of wonder and love,  
God of dreams and visions,  
God of hope and forgiveness,  
here we are.

**We come.**

**We dream.**

**We hope.**

**We worship.**

♪ Hymn: God of mercy, God of grace.....pg 9 (39)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=60gxtlo2-i4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=60gxtlo2-i4)



Angels Unawares - Timothy Schmalz

2 from *Spill the Beans* #20

Rev. Peter Rombeek  
Kensington Presbyterian Church



### Prayer of Approach

O Lord,

you are more than our creator.

You are our Mother and Father,

loving us unconditionally

and always

looking ahead to prepare us for what's coming.

with your arms on either side

in case we lose our balance.

And you aren't our only family.

You placed us in one

that is sometimes good, and sometimes hard.

and you also placed us in a church family,

that can also be good, and sometimes hard.

because as much as we have in common,

we are also all unique creations

with our special ways and priorities.

We know you want us to live together,

but sometimes it's hard.

...and sometimes we make it hard.

Dear Father,

Dear Mother

Please forgive

when we are jealous,


when we are selfish,

when we are rude,


when we are worse

...when we are not who you created us to be.

Please help us to be open to your Holy Spirit,  
so that our relationship with you  
and with our families  
can be reformed into healthy ones  
that bring growth and love.  
Help us to embrace our differences,  
enjoy each other,  
and help each other to live out the prayer you teach your  
disciples.

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



## *Listening to God*

🎵 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](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC_EPsf2FuWoeen7j1iGcz_w)

 Prayer for Illumination  
Lord, open our hearts and minds  
through the power of your Holy Spirit,  
that we allow ourselves to be reformed into your image.  
Amen.

 Intro to the readings  
The story so far...

We heard in the second<sup>3</sup> creation story that God created humans to look after the world. Unfortunately the humans didn't trust God's wisdom and broke the relationship. Thankfully God showed mercy, forgiveness, and continued to work with humans for better relationships.

Last week we heard about God choosing a family to be an example of what it's like to live with God. This seemed to be a ridiculous idea, but we can see how God used this family to change the world (and include us).<sup>4</sup> While this family was able to show how God loves people and helps people towards a better life... there's also repeated stories of humans breaking relationships.

Abram eventually has two children - and sends the older one away due to jealousy in the family. His son Isaac continues the

<sup>3</sup> though it is also the older one

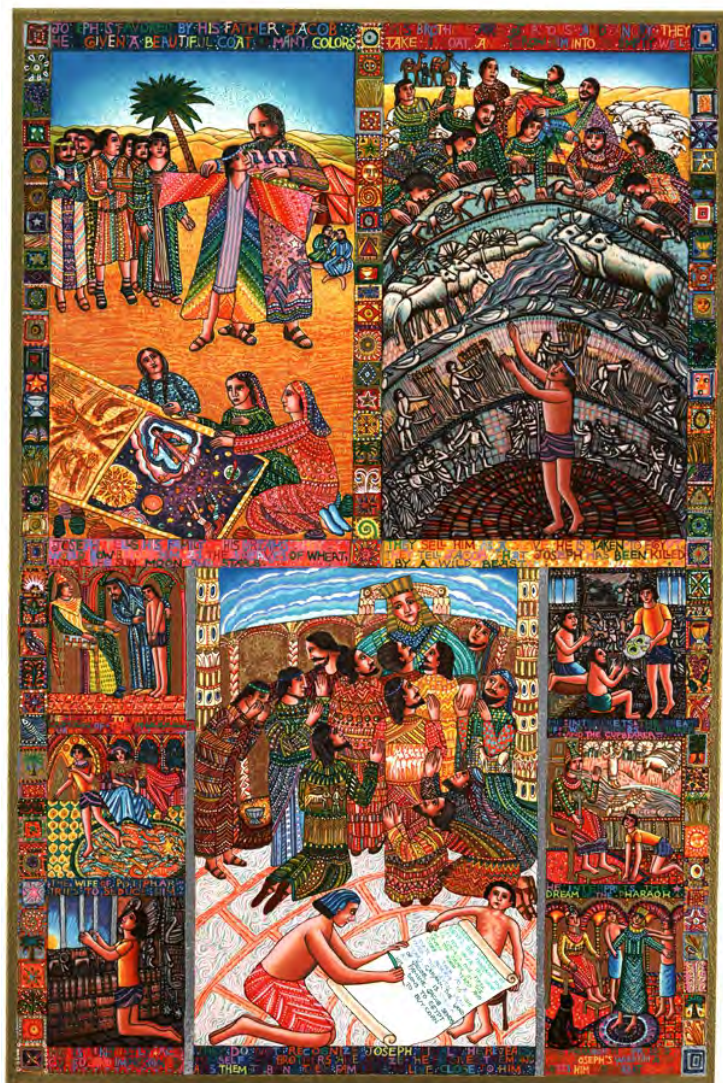
<sup>4</sup> You can revisit these two worship services in PDF or YouTube: [kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities/](https://kensingtonchurch.ca/covid-opportunities/)



family with twins: Esau and Jacob. We don't know a lot about Esau, but Jacob (with his mom's help) manipulated Esau out of his inheritance, and his dad out of his brother's blessing.

God also blessed Jacob and renamed him Israel.

Today's story is about Jacob's sons... and, of course, God.



Story of Joseph - John Swanson



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>5</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[Genesis 37](#): 3-8, 13, 17-22, 26-34<sup>6</sup>

[Genesis 50](#): 15-21

[Psalm 103](#): 1-13



Sermon: Family 'fun'

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

One of my Bible Profs commented that families have the worst arguments. He was thinking of early Christians and Pharisees, but it's true all the way back to Genesis... and now. Families can treat each other horribly.

I know some of you can relate.

It seems a little odd as families have so much in common. There's the nature side with their shared DNA, and the nurture side that shapes values. Even those that join a family through marriage have a lot in common, or they would never have joined up. You'd think families would always be understanding with each other... but we've all heard or experienced family causing suffering.

...though hopefully not as bad as Joseph's brothers. They didn't just say, "Oh, I wish he were dead," they actually planned to kill him. Reuben (the oldest) talked them down so that they only beat him up, flung him down a cistern for a while, and then sold him into slavery. (I really hope nobody looks this up for Biblical family values.)

<sup>5</sup> If you'd like a new Bible with helpful notes, I recommend the 'Life with God Bible' NRSV from Renovaré. ISBN 0061834963

or for the more academically inclined, The New Oxford Study Bible NRSV  
<sup>6</sup> You could read the whole chapter... or the whole Joseph section from chapter 27 to the end of 50 (about 1/4 of the book)

Joseph's brothers were bad, but his dad wasn't a great example either. Even if we forget about how he treated his brother when he was a young man, he blatantly loves Joseph more than the rest - which causes problems in the family. For a family that is supposed to be living an example of Godly living... this isn't what God would want. God doesn't have favourites.

And then there's Joseph. Sometimes in the children's stories he comes across all innocent and picked on by his brothers, but that's not in the text. I wish I'd extended the lectionary back a verse. That's where Joseph is introduced as working with his brothers and "*bringing a bad report of them to their father.*" There's no details as to whether this was justified or tattling. Either way it didn't help the relationship.



Verse two also tells us he's 17. Perhaps this is the reason he's not so socially unaware. We know that getting your brothers in trouble is probably not going to make you popular with them, but then to start telling your hard working older brothers that you're going to be the boss and they will bow down to you. Well, it's not surprising they get annoyed. Despite being an adult, in their culture, at 17 Joseph's brain is still developing the part that foresees consequences. Whatever the reasons, Joseph is also a

source of problems and pain in the relationship.

All together, they made a big mess of the relationships God had placed them in. Their actions lead to a lot of suffering. Jacob/Israel suffers deep grief thinking that his favourite son has been torn to pieces. The brothers suffer guilt, even after they've made up with Joseph. (The section we heard about them making up is not the first time it's happened, and it seems likely they made up the bit about father asking Joseph to forgive them.) Joseph suffers being torn from daddy, being a slave, and then forgotten in prison for years.

Sometimes people are beaten down so much they just fade into nothing, but often we ask why. When the brothers give themselves over to Joseph in Chapter 50, he has had time to think. This is about 20 years later. Not only is his frontal lobe fully developed, but he's been humbled by time as a slave and in prison. This older, wiser and successful Joseph replies to them, "*Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good*".

Does this explain why people can be so hurtful to each other? why families break each other's hearts? Is the pain we experience part of God's great plan?

It does tie into the idea that God is the King of kings and Lord of lords... but it is also so simplistic it's damaging.

To continue the human analogy of kings - they *can* decide anything inside their kingdom... but they *don't* decide everything in the kingdom. Whether they like it or not, many decisions happen without them. God is above everyone - and God could decide everything for everyone... but doesn't. This isn't the plan. We were created in God's image. We were created to participate in making decisions. God chooses to respect that and us by allowing us to make choices. God gives us freedom, room to grow, ...and make mistakes.



Joseph is wrong.  
God did not intend the horrible things the brothers did for good. This is not consistent with what we know of how our Lord works. The psalm reminds us that our Lord works justice, mercy & is abounding in steadfast love. The tales of Jesus show us how God will suffer with us to make our relationship right again.

But what about the suffering in the world?  
As a friend told me recently, 'It rains on everyone - good and bad.' Sometimes the suffering is from nature, such as the flooding in Europe. Sometimes it is through change... which might be encouraged by the Holy Spirit. Sometimes the pain is from other people. They may be annoying like Joseph, or cause division like Israel, or lash out like the brothers.

What do we do with Joseph's suggestion that, *"Even though you intended to do harm to me, God intended it for good"*?

Joseph's not completely wrong. A necessary part is forgiveness - of those who did you harm. Without that you will be stuck in the time they hurt you and not able to grow. And accepting forgiveness (from yourself and the people you have hurt), or you will be like the brothers who have been forgiven, but still continue to live in fear and grief. Forgiveness is part of going on from hurtful relationships.

Another part Joseph also grasped is that God is with us. As the psalms repeatedly sing, *"the steadfast love of the LORD lasts forever."* This means God will stick with us - like with Jacob, Joseph, and the brothers. God will stick with you - and the people you really don't like... possibly for very good reasons. So remember that God doesn't approve of everything they do - or everything you do

either, but know that the God's Spirit is with us.

The last part Joseph also got right - and this is the best bit. God was able to reform the damage that was done. God didn't plan or arrange for these people to treat each other horribly, but God was able to change them to bring healing. When we trust in God's ways, lives will be reformed to bring love, hope & healing. In Joseph's story this included him, his brothers, dad, and the Egyptians.

Let us also be open to being reformed into better versions of ourselves - ones that God will use to share blessings.

*To God be all the glory*

*Amen.*





## Responding to God

♪ Hymn: When love is found.....pg 9 (600)

[www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXFKQwq8cWg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WXFKQwq8cWg)



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

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

Memories: Do you have, or know, an experience with God reforming a relationship that you can share?

Etching: In Genesis 37 everybody's heart is torn - from Joseph to his brothers to his father. If your trust is high enough, share about a time when your heart was torn.

Wonder: Is it possible that instead of reliving it you can allow God to reform it?

Wonder: Is there a way God might want to 'reform' you to be a better family member?

Actions: What do you need to forgive and let go of this week to move forward in your life more positively?

Prayer: ...for relationship(s) that you are currently having difficulty with.



### Spirit Sightings

This week I saw the Holy Spirit bringing people together. One example was on Wednesday when I had the chance to join the kids at the park after school - and other parents. We could have sat there on our phones, but God stirred us to open our lives to one another - meeting more of the family of God.

I'm sorry to say that the next day I missed an opportunity. I fell off my bike and somebody came to see if I needed help. This was a great opportunity to meet somebody who already shares at

least one value - helping others. Sadly, I was more focused on getting to church than sharing church.



### Offering

Financially, we have set up a donation option on our **website**: [kensingtonchurch.ca](https://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](mailto:info@kensingtonchurch.ca).

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



### Prayers of the people

Lord Jesus,

You have formed so many types of families:

- one parent, two, ...more
- blended families
- some even more complicated than Joseph's

You grew up in a family,  
with brothers and sisters.  
and you formed a family,  
out of your disciples - and us.  
Through you we all have siblings.

Jesus, we pray for families we are born into,  
and those we find ourselves in.  
We thank you for families that can share laughter, and tears  
that challenge us to be better...  
and support us when things are hard...  
and we pray for families that can't share their struggles...  
that don't respect and listen to each other...  
that hurt each other...

Holy Spirit,  
**Please reform lives into blessings.**

We thank you for the way your church supports us,  
and the way we can support your church.  
Please accept our offerings of time, money and prayers  
and use them to bless the world...  
We pray for the family you are forming here at Kensington,  
on Sunday mornings...  
on Friday nights...  
and other ways...

Holy Spirit,  
**Please reform lives into blessings.**

We pray for those who are struggling with money... or power...  
who are suffering from a lack of food...

or a stable place to live...

Holy Spirit,  
**Please reform lives into blessings.**

We pray for those in need of healing:  
physically...  
mentally...  
spiritually...

Holy Spirit,  
**Please reform lives into blessings.**

Lord of lords,  
we are not second in power to Pharaoh  
like Joseph was.  
Help us to trust in your power  
to watch over us  
with mercy and love  
forming our lives into blessings.

In Jesus name.  
**Amen.**

♪ Hymn: At the dawning of salvation.....pg 10 (248)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=p15RloxR7JI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p15RloxR7JI)

✦ Benediction  
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.





## God of mercy, God of grace

G D/F# G C/E D7/F# G C D/C G/B C

1. God of mer - cy, God of grace, show the bright-ness  
 2. Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; be by all that  
 3. Let the peo - ple praise you, Lord; earth shall then its

G/D D G Em Am/C G/B Am 6 Bsus4 - 3

of your face. Shine up - on us, Sav - iour, shine;  
 live a - dored. Let the na - tions shout and sing  
 fruits af - ford. Un - to us your bless - ing give;

Cmaj7 D/C G/B Am7 G/B (/A /G) Dsus4 - 3 G D/F# G

fill your world with light di - vine, and your sav - ing  
 glo - ry to their gra - cious King; at your feet their  
 we to you de - vot - ed live, all be - low and

D/F# D G C D/C G/B C/E G/D D 7 G

health ex - tend un - to earth's re - mot - est end.  
 trib - ute pay, and your ho - ly will o - bey.  
 all a - bove, one in joy and light and love.

Words: Psalm 66; paraphrase, Henry Francis Lyte (1793–1847), alt Music: Conrad Kocher (1786–1872); arrangement, William Henry Monk (1823–1889)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

Renowned 1850/1850/1850/1850

## When love is found

O WALY WALY 8 8 8 8 LM

Unison (D11) G C/G Am7 Bm7 (G/B) Em7

1. When love is found and hope comes home, sing and be  
 2. When love has flowered in trust and care, build both each  
 3. When love is tried as loved-ones change, hold still to  
 4. When love is torn and trust be - trayed, pray strength to  
 5. Praise God for love; praise God for life, in age or

G/D Cmaj7 D7/G /F# C6/E G/D Baug/D#

glad that two are one. When love ex - plodes and fills the  
 day, that love may dare to reach be - yond home's warmth and  
 hope though all seems strange, till ease re - turns and love grows  
 love till tor - ments fade, till lov - ers keep no score of  
 youth, in calm or strife. Lift up your hearts! Let love be

Em Am7 Bm7 Csus2/E D6 (7) G

sky, praise God and share our Mak - er's joy.  
 light, to serve and strive for truth and right.  
 wise through lis - tening ears and o - pened eyes.  
 wrong, but hear through pain love's East - er song.  
 fed through death and life in bro - ken bread.

See Also: O Waly Waly 25 224

Words: Brian A. Wren (1936–) Music: English traditional; arrangement, Noël Tredinnick (1949–)

Words: copyright © 1983 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: arrangement, copyright © 1982 by Hope Publishing Co. CCLI #4440603

## At the dawning of salvation

NETTLETON 8 7 8 7 D Iambic

1. At the dawn - ing of sal - va - tion, in the  
 2. He is ris - en in the morn - ing; he is  
 3. For the glo - ry of sal - va - tion in the

morn - ing of the world, Christ is raised, a liv - ing  
 ris - en from the dead; he is laugh - ter af - ter  
 dawn of Eas - ter day we will praise you, lov - ing

ban - ner by the love of God un - furled.  
 sad - ness; he is light when night has fled.  
 Fa - ther; we re - joice to sing and pray

Words: Jock Curle Music: American folk melody; harmony, John W. Wilson (1905–1992)

Through the day - light, through the dark - ness, Christ leads  
 He has suf - fered; he has tri - umphed; life is  
 with the Son and with the Spir - it. Lead us

on his great ar - ray: all the saints and all the  
 his a - lone to give: as he gave it once, he  
 on, your great ar - ray, saints and sin - ners cel - e -

sin - ners he has gath - ered on his way.  
 gives it ev - er - more, that we may live.  
 brat - ing your tri - um - phant love to - day.

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 Music: harmony, copyright © 1983 by Hope Publishing Co.



## MISSION MOMENT Sunday, September 22

PWS&D's annual Journey for Hope encourages supporters to gear up and walk, run, ride, roll or do another activity they love to raise money for the food security work PWS&D does around the world. Food security is an essential human right, yet a significant portion of



the global population is food insecure, without access to enough food of acceptable quantity and quality. Your participation in and support for Journey for Hope enables PWS&D to actively respond to hunger needs through food security projects that improve agricultural production in places like Haiti, Guatemala and Malawi. Funds also help provide emergency food assistance in countries that are extremely vulnerable, including Afghanistan, Yemen, Syria, Somalia, South Sudan and Ethiopia. Thank you for participating and making a difference!

### DAILY PRAYERS

**Sunday, September 22** We pray for the Rev. Dr. Ross Lockhart, Dean of St. Andrew's Hall in Vancouver.

**Monday, September 23** We give thanks for the contributions of temporary migrant agricultural workers in Canada. We pray that decision makers will enact policies that better protect the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families and develop fair pathways to Canadian citizenship.

**Tuesday, September 24** We pray for the members and work of the Gender, Sexuality and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

**Wednesday, September 25** We pray for newly ordained Ruling Elders, that God will give them wisdom and compassion as they serve on their sessions.

**Thursday, September 26** We pray for the work of the Leadership Centre at The Presbyterian College, Montreal and its director, Dr. Adrian Langdon. May the centre's ministry enrich and energize the church.

**Friday, September 27** We remember the clerks of synods who will be working on preparations for the various meetings and gatherings of synods during October.

**Saturday, September 28** We pray for those participating in Journey for Hope on September 28 in support of PWS&D's food security programs.

Kensington Presbyterian Church

