



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

## *Giving & Thanks*

*October 13, 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*

**Therese Tollette:** passed away Friday. Her funeral will be in November  
**Choir:** Sunday mornings at 9:45.

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

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

**Bible Study:** pizza at 6:30, episode of *The Chosen* & discussion

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

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



Liturgical Table - Jan Richardson

### *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

We come before the Lord

**Thankfully we come, remembering and rejoicing**

Remembering the past

**the blessings God gave, and continues to give**

Let us give God thanks and praise



Hymn: What gift can we bring.....pg 9 (798)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qmto2rsq5qA>



### Prayer of Approach

Father of light,

you are amazing

and we give you thanks for all that you are.

We praise you for the changing of seasons

and the reminder that the world is always in change.

We praise you for the details

that we are still discovering.

We praise you for all you created,

but even more for all that you are:

a love that is stronger than anything

and refuses to give up on us

because that is what we deserve sometimes,

to be let go...

Please forgive us for the way we can hoard your blessings,

and pretend that this is all you will give,  
feeling that you will not look after us.  
Please forgive us for not trusting you to look after us,  
and not trusting you with all that we have,  
and all that we are.

We are sorry. . .



Grandmother and I - Gunnarsdóttir

Help us to be open to your Spirit,  
to shape us as we pray 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

Help us to accept the good news...

All who turn from sin in sorrow,

All who turn to God in hope,

this is God's word of grace:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Amen.



## *Listening to God*



Children's Time.....with flip chart

What are your favourite foods? meals?



Prayer:

*Dear Jesus,  
thank you for food, and all the diverse kinds and ways to prepare it.  
Please help those who don't have enough,  
and help us to share our blessings.*

Amen.

♪ Hymn: Take time to be holy.....pg 9 (638)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rFApbg-wcmE> or

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lexo0rUhBNc>



Prayer for Illumination

Lord, open our hearts and minds

through the power of your Holy Spirit,

so that we will see the world in relation to you.

Amen.



Intro to the readings

Last week we heard about a challenge in following God as the Israelites focus shifts from God to themselves. They forget who God is, and who they can be.

Between then and today's passage the Israelites journeyed through the wilderness learning to trust God for their needs (again). They arrived at the Promised Land and took it over. They've continued to be a somewhat dysfunctional family, but in times of need (usually a neighbour attacking) a leader emerges to provide leadership (ex. Sampson). They were called Judges. While they were helpful, many of them also had flaws.

Also coming out of this time is the story of Ruth, a woman from Moab who supports her Israelite mother-in-law and returns to Israel with her (becoming the great-grandmother of King David, and great relative of Jesus).

We also have today's story. It comes from the end of the period of judges and the start of the period of kings.



Reading: Please look up the passages in your own Bible,<sup>2</sup> or click on the name to be taken to an online version.

[1 Samuel 1: 4-20](#) & [1 Samuel 2: 1-10](#)

<sup>2</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

✧ Sermon: Giving & Thanks

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

I've always liked the story of Hannah, and that this week I saw new aspects to the story.

A classic element that has stood out for me is that the priest, the expert in all things God, misunderstands what's going on at first. It's a great reminder that ordinary people (like you) can be who God is working through.

This week that idea grew, probably because of the stories we've been hearing through the narrative lectionary.

This story continues the formation of the nation of Israel - and God's relationship with them. We are entering a new chapter with baby Samuel. He will go on to anoint the first two kings of Israel, and under David the 12 tribes will actually unite as one nation ...for a while.

If you had to imagine the start of a great nation, what would come to mind? Perhaps something like the United States or France with a revolution followed by a defining document? Or maybe something more like the legends of King Arthur? These involve powerful people, and having powerful people seems like a good idea when trying to start something big.

God thinks differently. Our LORD went to the bottom. Over the last month we've heard about God choosing a dysfunctional family to model living with God (Abram and his descendants). God later chose Moses, a murderer with a stutter, to go speak with the mighty Pharaoh about releasing the Israelite slaves. While we didn't hear the story this season, God chose Ruth to help this family. As an outsider and a woman she didn't count in Israelite society - except her love changed things. Now God is

working with another woman, one who is considered a failure for not having children.



Story of Joseph - John Swanson

Now, changing the world is not what Hannah had in mind. Her focus at the beginning of the story is on her troubles. It's understandable. When we've experienced misfortune, especially when people around us (in this case family) make our suffering worse... we can drown in our pain. Some people get bitter and build walls. Hannah wilts. Though accepts some hope and prays for her suffering to be reversed. She prays, and change happens.

This is the power of prayer. It can change reality. In talking to God, Hannah becomes closer to God. She lets it all go. She allows herself to be shaped by God. She changes. It's not a complete reversal. That wouldn't respect her. Instead, her focus changes. Hannah goes from wanting a child for her honour to offering the child to God.

This is the sort of thing that God is looking for. Being powerful has its advantages, but what God wants are people who are willing to reach out in faith. This is seen here in Hannah being willing to give her deepest desire to God. She comes to realize that God needs to come first, and learns that when that happens the rest takes care of itself. Hannah's prayer shifts from her to God. The child she so desperately wanted she offers back to God.



...and her wish is granted.  
and she becomes part of something big.

In celebration, she sings a song. It has similarities with the song King David sings at the end of the books of Samuel - and is very similar to what Mary sings in anticipation of Jesus' coming.

There are aspects that are very human - such as the part about laughing at her rivals. There are also parts that combine her experience of God who God is. She praises God and sings of reversals in society. The mighty are shattered & the feeble wrapped in strength. The rich go hungry while the hungry are filled.

...should you be worried?  
Are you somebody who doesn't worry about having food to eat?  
who might be considered privileged? Is this song saying that God will throw you down into the dung heap?

Well, if that's your focus, than you might be right. This song is celebrating that God will watch the feet of the faithful ones. It's

not about God objecting to those who have food etc, but those are focused on themselves. This narcissism/arrogance/pride is what leads to hardship. Thinking that what you have was because of you and is for you misses the point. Our blessings come from God, and are to be used for God's purposes.

There are various ways to summarize God's purposes. Here at Kensington we describe it as "*growing in faith and sharing God's gifts of love, hope, and healing.*"<sup>3</sup> And based on this Bible story, and many others, it only takes a few people (who probably feel insignificant) to have faith in God to make big changes.

One example comes out of the Oxford Group. This wasn't a group of consultants, but a movement that formed groups of people to support each other in following God. While it was started by a Lutheran, they didn't bother with denominations. They would hold meetings in which people would share their experiences trying to live honest, unselfish & loving lives. It's changed with the times, but still exists.

Back in the 1930s Bill W attended meetings. He shared his struggles with alcohol, and with the support of the group he became sober. A short while later he met Dr. Bob, a surgeon who also attended Oxford Group meetings and was an Alcoholic. Having an environment that allowed honest sharing with somebody who could relate helped Dr. Bill to become sober. This led to them setting up groups specifically for alcoholics - and led to Alcoholics Anonymous or AA. There are now more than 100 000 groups, and it has inspired others - such as NA.

Out of a desire to focus more on God a small group of people have had a huge impact in bringing God's love, hope & healing to the world.

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3 Mission statement: [kensingtonchurch.ca/about/mission-statement](https://kensingtonchurch.ca/about/mission-statement)





So, I encourage you to share your hopes and struggles - with each other, and to turn your them over to God. Much of the Bible is about how this is a hard thing to do - hence the importance of it being a group effort.

So pray.

Pray and allow God to shape you, rather than trying to shape God. And turn everything over to God: your weaknesses and fears, your hopes & blessings - and with that, reality will change.

*To God be all the glory  
Amen.*



## *Responding to God*

♪ Hymn: Here I am Lord.....pg 10 (592)  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgLwH5RdtPk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mgLwH5RdtPk)

☞ 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: What are your deepest longings?

Wonder: Since God created you, and your longings are coming out of you, they can't be all wrong. How could they be used to help people '*grow in faith, and share God's love, hope & healing*'?

Values: How do you struggle with focusing on God?

Prayer: ...that you will be able to follow God more closely.

## ✦ Spirit Sightings

Two things to bring you this week. I had a chat with Joseph Ragbir. Those of you who have been around a while will remember him as a kid. He's currently in Vancouver studying to be a minister. He mentioned that he's really enjoying Greek. His Christology prof is indigenous and Joe appreciates how that shapes the teaching. Joe has also become a PWS&D champion (basically a local advocate).

Which leads us into our thanksgiving appeal: to support the Presbyterian World Service and Development 'where it's needed most' fund. Our denomination isn't big, but together we do have a big impact. You can see some of the states from 2023 on page 12, and in the video found here:

[drive.google.com/file/d/1d6hRvDiry65QofcONwN1Ex2TIjqRTpM/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1d6hRvDiry65QofcONwN1Ex2TIjqRTpM/view)

## ☞ 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.

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



### Prayers of the people

Lord God,

Creator of all our blessings.

We thank you for the time we have,  
our skills and insight,  
and our resources.

We thank you that your gifts can help us grow in faith,  
and help us to share your love, hope & healing.

For your love and blessings,

**we give you thanks, O LORD.**

We ask your blessing on the offering that is given to support your  
ministry through Kensington  
and the special appeal for the Presbyterian World Service &  
Development Fund.

May you multiply these donations like the loaves and fishes  
so that they may bless an impossible amount of people.

For your love and blessings,

**we give you thanks, O LORD.**

Thanksgiving weekend brings with it thoughts of families.  
and, whether we like them or not,  
we thank you for them  
and pray for our families. . .  
help us to bless them,  
and be blessed by them. . .

Jesus, we also thank you  
for inviting us to be part of your family  
- one of your brothers and sisters...  
We pray that all people  
may become a family that gets along.

For your love and blessings,  
**we give you thanks, O LORD.**

As people across Canada will gather this weekend around a meal.  
We thank you for the different foods you have blessed us with  
and the diversity of ways to eat them...  
We ask your blessings on those that grow the food,  
and transport it,  
and help to our table...

For your love and blessings,  
**we give you thanks, O LORD.**

As we think of farmers and Thanksgiving,  
we also remember your beautiful creation,  
Especially at the beautiful colours  
revealed in this season of change.

For your love and blessings,  
**we give you thanks, O LORD.**

In Jesus name.  
**Amen.**

♪ Hymn: Hallelujah, your love is amazing.....pg. 11  
[www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLkDWtGpETs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MLkDWtGpETs)

✦ **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, October 13**

November 26, 2023, was a day of great joy and celebration for the Pinuyumayan Church District, one of the Indigenous groups of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan. They gave thanks for 65 years of mission history and the publication of their very first New Testament translated into the language of their heart. It was the fruit of labour for the Pinuyumayan Bible translation team and the Rev. Dr. Paul McLean who worked on the project for eight years. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, Paul works with 12 Bible translation teams preserving endangered Indigenous languages, promoting literacy, and when the Bible is read, proclaiming the Gospel.



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### DAILY PRAYERS

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**Sunday, October 13 (Harvest Sunday)** We give thanks to God for the earth and all its beauty and diversity and pray for a more just care of the earth and its resources.

**Monday, October 14 (Thanksgiving Day)** We pray for all the dedicated members of the Women's Missionary Society whose commitment was renewed at the 110th Anniversary celebrations of the Society in May 2024.

**Tuesday, October 15** We give thanks for the ministry of 2SLGBTQIA+ leaders in the church.

**Wednesday, October 16 (World Food Day)** We give thanks for bountiful harvests that nourish and sustain life. We pray for those who lack access to sufficient nutritious food and for PWS&D's partners who strive to end hunger.

**Thursday, October 17 (International Day for the Eradication of Poverty)** We pray for people who do not have enough healthy food, safe, adequate homes, or communities of support. We pray for people who are working toward long-term solutions to end poverty and inequality.

**Friday, October 18** We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Eastern Han-Ca.

**Saturday, October 19** We pray for congregations who have made the difficult but courageous decision to close, that along with their grief they may also celebrate their years of faithful witness to Christ and their legacy of lives shaped by the presence of the living God in Jesus Christ.



## What gift can we bring

ANNIVERSARY SONG 11 11 11 11

Unison

D G6/B D/F# Bm G Em A F#m Bm

1. What gift can we bring, what pres - ent, what to - ken?  
 2. Give thanks for the past, for those who had vi - sion,  
 3. Give thanks for to - mor - row, ful of sur - pris - es,  
 4. This gift we now bring, this pres - ent, this to - ken,

Em D A/C# D A7sus/E D/F# G Em /G /Asus2 - 1

What words can con - vey it, the joy of this day?  
 who plant - ed and wa - tered so dreams could come true.  
 for know - ing what - ev - er to - mor - row may bring,  
 these words can con - vey it, the joy of this day!

D G6/B D/F# Bm G /F# Em F#7 E/G#

When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,  
 Give thanks for the now, for stud - y, for wor - ship,  
 the word is our prom - ise al - ways, for - ev - er;  
 When grate - ful we come, re - mem - bering, re - joic - ing,

F#7/A# Bm /A G D/F# A7/E D7 G Em7 A7 D

what song can we of - fer in hon - our and praise?  
 for mis - sion that bids us turn prayer in - to deed.  
 we rest in God's keep - ing and live in God's love.  
 this song we now of - fer in hon - our and praise!

Words: Jane Marshall (1924-) Music: Jane Marshall (1924-)

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

## Take time to be holy

TAKE TIME TO BE HOLY 11 11 11 11

F Bb/F F /C C7 F

1. Take time to be ho - ly; speak oft with thy Lord.  
 2. Take time to be ho - ly; the world rush - es on;  
 3. Take time to be ho - ly; let him be thy guide,  
 4. Take time to be ho - ly; be calm in thy soul,

F Bb/F F C/G G 6 - 7 C

A - bide in him al - ways, and feed on his word.  
 spend much time in se - cret with Je - sus a - lone.  
 and run not be - fore him, what - ev - er be - tide.  
 each thought and each mo - tive be - neath his con - trol.

C7 F /A C7 (Dm7 C/E) F

Make friends of God's chil - dren; help those who are weak,  
 By look - ing to Je - sus, like him thou shalt be;  
 In joy or in sor - row, still fol - low thy Lord,  
 Thus led by his Spir - it to foun - tains of love,

F/A (C7/GF7) Bb F/C C7 F

for - get - ting in noth - ing his bless - ing to seek.  
 thy friends in thy con - duct his like - ness shall see.  
 and, look - ing to Je - sus, still trust in his word.  
 thou soon shalt be fit - ted for serv - ice a - bove.

Words: W. D. Longstaff (1822-1894) Music: George C. Stebbins (1846-1945)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

## I, the Lord of sea and sky

HERE I AM, LORD 14 11 14 11 with refrain (8 9 8 9)

G Am G C/G G D/F#

\* 1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.  
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.  
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

G Em Am7 /B C /B Am F#m/G D D/C

All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
 I have wept for love of them: they turn a - way.  
 I will set a feast for them; my hand will save.

G Am/G G C/G G D/F#

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

G Em7 Am7/B Am/C/B Am G/B Am7/C Dsus4-3

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?  
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?  
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Refrain /F# G Gsus G /B (Am7) G C/E /D G

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have

Cmaj7/G Am G/B Am/C Dsus /F# D7

heard you call-ing in the night; I will

G Gsus G C/E /D G

go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

C/G G Am7 C/D D G C/G D.C. G Fine

hold your peo - ple in my heart.

\* Verses may be sung by a soloist

Words: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-) Music: Daniel L. Schutte (1947-);  
harmony, Michael Pope, John WeissrockWords: copyright © Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music, 1981. All rights reserved. Used with permission.  
Music: copyright © Daniel L. Schutte and New Dawn Music, 1983. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

720

# Hallelujah

Words and Music by  
Brenton Brown and Brian Doerksen

$\text{♩} = 96$  C2 G/B

1, 3. Your love is a - maz (2.) - ing, stead - y and un - chang -  
ing, I can feel it ris -

2 C2 Dsus

- ing, Your love is a moun - tain, firm be - neath my feet -  
ing, all the joy that's grow - ing deep in - side of me -

4 C2 G/B

- Your love is a mys - t'ry, how You gent - ly lift -  
Ev - 'ry time I see You all Your good - ness shines

6 C2 Dsus

- me. When I am sur - round - ed Your love car - ries me.  
through. I can feel this God song ris - ing up in me.

8 C2 G Dsus Em7

Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah,

12 C2 G Dsus

Your love makes me sing. Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

CCLI Song #3081812  
©2000 Vineyard Songs (UK/Eire)

## Hallelujah - 2

- jah, Your love makes me sing. 2 Your love is sur - pris -  
3 Your love is a - maz -

Yes, You make me sing. Lord, You make me

- sing, sing, sing. How You make me sing. Hal - le - lu -

- jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah,

Your love makes me sing. Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu - jah, Hal - le - lu -

- jah, Your love makes me sing. Hal - le - lu - Your love makes me sing.

Lord, You make me sing  
How You make me sing



In 2023, PWS&D and our partners undertook

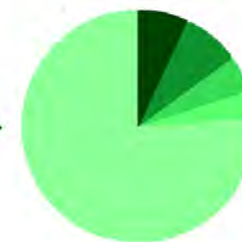
**58** projects in **27** countries.

**35** projects in **9** countries were implemented with partners who receive direct funding from PWS&D



For every dollar PWS&D spent in 2023\*

- 93% Development and relief programs (see following chart)
- 3% Education and fundraising
- 4% Administration



Program funds were spent on:

- Food security 7%
- Health 8%
- Human rights 5%
- Livelihoods 4%
- Relief 76%

\*This chart represents the full value of PWS&D programming in 2023—including Government of Canada matching funds through Canadian Foodgrains Bank and KAJIROS—which are not reflected in the financial statements.

**35,221** people in **Afghanistan** received food assistance

**1,070** Indigenous Maya-Mam women and girls in **Guatemala** learned about their rights

**2,175** people affected by the war in **Gaza** received food and emergency support

**29,183** people, over 86% women and girls, participated in sexual and reproductive health programs in **Malawi**

**8,728** earthquake-affected people in **Syria** received essential humanitarian aid

