



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

Good intentions

October 20, 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 9:45.

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.

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



King David playing the harp - Gerrit van Honthorst

Funerals

Elisabeth Seignette: Nov 2nd, here at 1:30pm and over zoom

Therese Tollette: November 16th, more details to follow.

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

Here we are, in God's house.

We come to celebrate

the steadfast love of our LORD.

Sing to the LORD a new song;

sing to the LORD, all the earth.

♪ Hymn: O God, our help in ages past.....pg 9 (330)

www.youtube.com/watch?v=wNS-ZSUMCb8



Prayer of Approach

Jesus,

we come to you because you are the light of the world,
and you help us to see it the way it really is.

We celebrate the beauty and complexity you put into creation.

The wonder of the leaves changing,
plants that look like they are dying,

but we know they will live again in the spring.

We celebrate ecosystems

and the way that differences are needed
to bring health and life.

We celebrate people,

through whom you work.

But we recognize that we can also not work with you.

We can not embrace differences or each other.

Please forgive us for the ways we segregate people
based on race, or religion, or nation.

For the ways we allow this to be part of the way our society works,
the way our world works...

and please forgive us when we segregate you,

when we try to put you in a box

instead of letting you roam free through our lives...



Church of Light cross - Ibaraki Kasugaoka

May your Holy Spirit help us to know when we're wrong,
to recognize when we could be better,
and to accept your loving forgiveness.

To help us remember your vision,

we sing together the pray you teach your students:



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.**



Listening to God

✦ Children's Time

Yesterday the boys had some word fun. One announced they had built a green house (a house that was green), and the other playfully disagreed because it wasn't a glass house for plants.

I've got a question along those lines. (Adults may remember it, so I'm going to give the younger ones a chance to answer first.)

What's black and white and read/red all over?

- a book or newspaper
- a sunburned skunk
- an embarrassed zebra

There are many answers because there's two words that sound the same (read and red) and the joke plays with those words. There's word play like that in the Bible too, but we often don't notice since it was written in a different language and the joke doesn't work in English.

But there's one in today's Bible reading. There's a word that is used 15 times (in Hebrew) that means palace, home, temple, church, having a strong family that continues (dynasty). In the passage its meaning shifts between all those things, and connects them all - and would bring a smile to people's lips.

It's an example of humour in the Bible.

Prayer:

Dear Jesus. Thank you that people in the Bible could write about serious things, and have fun. May your Spirit help us to talk about serious things, and also to laugh together.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: [I am the church.....pg 10 \(475\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=50kEqdXz3ao)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=50kEqdXz3ao



Church in Yuquot (Indian Church) - Emily Carr

🧘 Prayer for Illumination


Lord, open our hearts and minds
 through the power of your Holy Spirit,
 so that we will know better what you want Amen.

✧ Intro to the readings

Last week we heard about the birth of Samuel - whose mother gave her desires to God and was blessed. Samuel became the lead prophet. The one the people went to when they needed God to change the way their society was working. They didn't feel that having leaders raised up just for a specific need was very stable. They wanted a king like everyone else. God, through Samuel, pointed out that leaders are never perfect, but with a king you're stuck with them. They pushed God for one anyway.

So God sent Samuel to anoint Saul, and he became King. This was good for a while, but then he became paranoid. God decided that David would be the next king - and Samuel anointed him. Saul didn't take this well and David had to go on the run. Faithfully, he refused to take Saul's life and rush the transition.

On Saul's death David was made king of the southern kingdom of Judah. A few years later he was invited to be king of the Northern kingdom of Israel. To help unite the two kingdoms he made Jerusalem the capital. There were some fights with the transition and with neighbours, but everything is now stable. Everything under ~~David~~, sorry, under God is good.

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

[2 Samuel 7](#): 1-17

[Psalm 89](#): 1-4, 19-37, 52

✧ Sermon: Good intentions

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

² 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

Today's tale is one of good intentions - which aren't always good.

I'm sure you can think of examples where people, even you, have done something that you thought would be helpful, but instead it made everything worse. Sometimes it's without thinking, like when I grabbed the side of the camp stove this summer because it was falling over ...and burned myself. Good intention and painful result.

On Friday nights we've been watching a TV show about Jesus' disciples called *The Chosen*. It makes up a lot of back stories, but it's mostly very good at showing the context of what Jesus is doing. In the last season there are some characters that don't share their problems because they don't want to be a burden - and instead of helping relationships this hurts them. This is good TV because the feelings echo many of our lives. Their actions may seem more thought out than my grabbing the stove, but I think the thoughts are still based on a gut response. In the TV show someone is grieving a tragedy by herself. She had suffered an early miscarriage while everyone else was out of town. Others could tell there was something not quite right, but not what. Not only could they not provide comfort, they felt like they weren't trusted or wanted. Instead of helping to carry a burden, they felt like a burden. In real lives I've seen this same good intention of not being a burden leave people isolated and bitter.

Good intentions - not always good.

Today's Bible story is one of good intentions that miss the mark.

Nathan is the court prophet. He's one of the King's advisors and speaks for God. This is his first appearance in the Bible. It's quite possible it's early in his career as a prophet. When King

David shares the idea of building God a temple/house Nathan agrees. After all, it's obvious from David's life story that God has blessed him - so David's ideas must be good ones. Plus, this is about honouring God - so it must be a good idea... right? What could be wrong with these good intentions?

David is enjoying the stability and comfort of having his own home (palace). He assumes God would appreciate the same thing. Plus, it seems more appropriate that God would live in a palace/temple than in a tent. Even nice tents aren't that impressive. What could be wrong with these good intentions?³



David the King - Hellenic Art

³ There are people who think David was just trying to manipulate the situation to further secure his grip on power - but that doesn't seem to be a part of this story.

This first problem isn't David's. He gets it right, but his expert doesn't. Don't do anything without consulting God first. Nathan seems caught up in events and David's obvious success. He sees the pattern and assumes David can do no wrong... only to be clearly told differently that night. While we often don't get clear messages like what Nathan received, we still need to remember the lesson of asking God first what God wants. This prayer should be the beginning of everything.

The rest of the issues are tied into David's good intentions of building a home for God.

One aspect is that of glory & honour. David wants to honour God, but in a way that God doesn't want. Sometimes we honour somebody with some recognition when they would really rather not be the focus of attention; this is good for the community ...and possibly them. It's a moment. David wants to build a permanent tribute to God's glory. A difficulty with this is that it can easily become about what David builds rather than about God.⁴ Take stained glass windows for example. They can create a beautiful space that celebrates God. They can remind us of important stories about God. They can also become points of pride. I remember a minister telling me about a stained glass window he'd managed to get the congregation to put in. While I'm sure it started out with the best of intentions, I was left wondering if it had become about him rather than God. The same thing can happen with our worship services and music, or our attempts to help people. We can start by focusing on God or others, but become focused on us. This really misses the point, which is God.

Another problem with building a temple for God is that it can limit God - which is always bad. There's a couple of ways this can

⁴ It's nice to see that when [David hears God's words](#) from Nathan he says, "Who am I, O Lord God, and what is my house, that you have brought me thus far?" and thinks about the people.

happen.

Whether intentional or not, housing God in a building can institutionalize God. Institutions have expected ways to do things. Have you ever heard the phrase in church, or where you work, “That’s not how we do things”? That’s institutional talk. It can become an attempt to tame or house-train the LORD Almighty. (Have you ever tried to house-train a dog? Imagine trying to house-train God?) Another minister, Richard Topping, told me once about preaching a sermon on baptism. After the service somebody was so excited they wanted to be baptized on the spot. He was left wondering how much trouble he’d be in with the Session for not following procedure, and about putting limits on the Holy Spirit. God is good, but wild. When attempts to honour God try to limit what God should do, or how God should work, or where God should be... these intentions aren’t good.

Of course following God would be easier if God nicely followed the rules we make - stayed in the constructs we build. But lives are messy and don’t fit in them, and neither does God. By having a building, like a church, as God’s house we can start to think that’s the only place God lives - which is silly. We all live in a house and go out in the world. But as easy as it is to feel God’s presence in a space we always use for worship, it’s also easy to forget that God isn’t limited to this space.

It’s an advantage the early Christians have over us. Synagogues were for their Jewish practices. To discuss Christ they met in people’s homes and outside. When you worship and talk about God in the places you made dinner, work, play & have arguments... it’s easier to remember God is there too. I actually know a church that uses this model (Two Rivers Presbyterian in Guelph). Their main meeting is in several houses around dinner tables. There they share food, pray, read scripture and discuss God. Out of this they are active in their communities. Once a

month they all gather together to celebrate God, but the focus is on God outside a church and in our lives. This is important. A building can help share God’s love, hope & healing in many ways. It can provide a safe place to nurture people’s faith. We can also leave God in it - putting limits on God despite the best of intentions.



Liturgical Table - Jan Richardson

And so God tells David, ‘A home? No thanks. I’ve already got one. I created the world. But I’m going to give you a home. Not a building, but the stability of a family. I’m going to provide the people with stability that one of your descendants will honour me and rule forever.

(There’s a small catch as we know the kingdom will split under David’s son. Later it’ll be conquered by the Babylonians. Curiously, Jews apparently interpret this passage the same way Christians do. It refers to the coming Messiah. We just think he’s already come in Jesus - which is a story we’ll get to in December.)

What’s important for us to remember about this passage is that good intentions are good... but we need to be careful. They can slide of course.

Start by checking with God what the plan is.

Make sure it stays focused on God and God's plan, and doesn't shift to be about you.

Remember that God isn't static or stagnant, but goes anywhere to help people grow in faith and experience the gifts of love, hope and healing.

*and to God be all the glory
Amen.*



Responding 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

💬 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: Share a time when you saw good intentions go wrong (perhaps by you). Perhaps they lose their focus, or miss the mark?

Values: How is Kensington doing well?
How could we do better?

Values: How do you try and honour God? Check with your conversation partner to see how they think you're doing.

Actions: Take time to say a short prayer and think about God in every part of your house (God is in all of them).
Perhaps 5 minutes in a new space every day.

Wonder: Thinking of a shepherd boy becoming the king, do you see someone as a leader (even if they don't)?
Could you be a leader? ...and what is a good leader?

Prayer: ...pray that we can remember God always and everywhere.

✦ Spirit Sightings

As violence continues to escalate in Lebanon, civilian lives are in continuing danger. Hundreds of people have lost their lives, thousands have been injured and an estimated 1.2 million people have been forcibly displaced in Lebanon.

As the situation in Lebanon deteriorates, immediate assistance is needed to address the unfolding humanitarian crisis. Presbyterian World Service & Development (PWS&D) are responding with our international and local partners to provide life-saving essentials including food, water and sanitation, shelter, and mental health support.

All donations made until November 3, 2024, are eligible to be matched by the Government of Canada (up to \$3 million).⁵

💬 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.

⁵ presbyterian.ca/pwsd/lebanon-crisis-appeal/



Prayers of the people

Lord God,

you are the King of kings and Lord of lords
the leader that's above them all.

In thinking about King David today
and his well intentioned attempts to follow you.
we pray for leaders now.

- for global leaders (political and those with business interests), that they work to bring peace to areas of conflict - from those in Ukraine and around Israel that we hear about, to others, such as Sudan and Haiti, that often go unspoken.
- for local leaders:
that our provincial and city leaders will put serving all the people who live here first - with both goals for the next election, and for the next generation.
- for our leaders here at Kensington:
that they may continue to help people grow in faith and know God's love, hope & healing.
- and we thank you for Jesus
who you have made the King of kings.
One who shows that leadership is about serving,
and not fighting or oppressing,
even if it means dying.

Thank you that we live in a place that is quite safe,
and where we can celebrate you.

We also pray for those who are suffering from health issues
Whether it's physical or mental ...or both. such as it can be with
aging, or addiction. We thank you for the AA and NA groups
that meet in this building, and pray for their continued work.

We also pray for those suffering from grief. Help them to feel
your Spirit and your healing as they journey through this
difficult time. Jesus, please bring companions to them to help.

As we all try to live with the best of intentions,
help us to remember you and follow your way.

In Jesus name.

Amen.

♪ Hymn: The love of God comes close.....pg. 11 (474)
www.youtube.com/watch?v=VyZZFS1njGo



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 20

In Malawi, Rose and her family moved into her brother's house in 2023 when Cyclone Freddy destroyed their home. Struggling to make ends meet, their main concern was the lack of income opportunities, often leaving them hungry. However, their situation changed when Rose received cash assistance to buy food, as well as agricultural items like fertilizer, maize and vegetable seeds, and sweet potato vines.



This was part of the Cyclone Freddy Resilience and Recovery project, introduced by PWS&D's local partner. This aid not only provided food security but also significantly improved her family's health within three months. Rose and her family are deeply grateful for the support that has made a substantial difference in their lives.

DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, October 20 (Students and Colleges Sunday) We pray for all those who are sensing a call to ministry. May they find spaces and wise mentors to support them in their discernment.

Monday, October 21 We pray for the congregation of Beaches Presbyterian Church in Toronto, ON as they work through the PCC's New Beginnings Renewal Program to discern their next steps in ministry.

Tuesday, October 22 We give thanks for Atlantic Mission Society members who go the extra mile! This year, an extra \$40,000 was given to support local, national and international ministries.

Wednesday, October 23 We pray for all those who serve on committees that oversee the important heritage, records, and artefact collections relating to the history of the PCC.

Thursday, October 24 We pray for those who are worried—about their family, work, a good friend, or how they will make it through the next few days. Turn our hearts to you, O Lord, so that every worry becomes a prayer and we may find solace in your grace.

Friday, October 25 We pray for congregational cohorts participating in the Missional Certificate Program at St. Andrew's Hall this fall, led by the Rev. Dr. Tim Dickau and the Centre for Missional Leadership.

Saturday, October 26 (Intersex Awareness Day) We give thanks for the work of intersex people advocating for a more just and accountable health care system.

330

O God, our help in ages past

ST. ANNE 8 6 8 6 CM

C F C/E Am Dm7/F G C Am Em Am/C D G

1. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
 2. Un - der the sha-dow of thy throne thy saints have dwelt se - cure;
 3. Be - fore the hills in or - der stood, or earth re - ceived her frame,
 4. A thou-sand a - ges in thy sight are like an eve - ning gone,
 5. Time, like an ev - er - roll - ing stream, bears all our years a - way.
 6. O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,

G C F Dm G C Dm/F E C/E Dm C Dm/F G C

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home.
 suf - fi - cient is thine arm a - lone, and our de - fence is sure.
 from ev - er - last - ing thou art God, to end - less years the same.
 short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.
 They fly for - got - ten, as a dream dies at the open - ing day.
 still be our guard while trou - bles last, and our e - ter - nal home.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674–1748), alt Music: William Croft (1678–1727)

Words: public domain Music: public domain

The Church

475

I am the church! You are the church!

PORT JERVIS 7 7 8 6 with refrain

Refrain

G Em7

I am the church! You are the church! We are the church to -

C/D D7 G Em

geth - er! All who fol - low Je - sus,

Am D Bm Em C/G G Fine

all a-round the world! Yes, we're the church to - geth - er!

Verses

G C C6

1. The church is not a build-ing; the church is not a stee-ple;
 2. We're man - y kinds of peo - ple, with man - y kinds of fac - es,
 3. Some-times the church is march-ing; some-times it's brave - ly burn-ing;
 4. And when the peo - ple gath - er, there's sing - ing and there's pray-ing;
 5. At Pen - te - cost some peo - ple re - ceived the Ho - ly Spir - it

D G C6 D D.C

the church is not a rest - ing place; the church is a peo - ple.
 all col - ours and all a - ges, too, from all times and plac - es.
 some-times it's rid - ing, some-times hid - ing; al - ways it's learn-ing.
 there's laugh-ing and there's cry - ing some-times, all of it say-ing;
 and told the Good News through the world to all who would hear it.

Words: Richard Avery (1934-), and Donald Marsh (1923-) Music: Richard Avery (1934-), Donald Marsh (1923-)

Words: copyright © 1972 by Hope Publishing Co. Music: copyright © 1972 by Hope Publishing Co.

474 The love of God comes close

1. The love of God comes close where stands an o - pen door,
 2. The peace of God comes close to those caught in the storm,
 3. The joy of God comes close where faith en - coun - ters fears,
 4. The grace of God comes close to those whose grace is spent,
 5. The Son of God comes close where peo - ple praise his name,

to let the stran - ger in, to min - gle rich and poor.
 for - go - ing lives of ease to ease the lives for - lorn.
 where heights and depths of life are found through smiles and tears.
 when hearts are tired or sore and hope is bruised and bent.
 where bread and wine are blest and shared as when he came.

The love
 The peace
 The joy of God is here to stay, em - brac - ing those who
 The grace
 The Son

walk the Way; the love
 peace of God is here to stay.
 joy
 grace
 Son



King David - Marc Chagall